

2023 | 2ND QUARTER

HARVEST NEWS



KHON KAEN, THAILAND

FROM THE HARVEST FIELD...

Together, We Grow

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This month we celebrated the end of the academic school year at Harvest Learning Center. In 2016, we were a small group with eight children huddled together in a slum community. Today, we are an alternative education center fully registered under the Thai Ministry of Education, certified to receive children from kindergarten to the Secondary 6 level.



While growth is natural and not a miracle, we know that we could not have done it without God's divine help as well as all the good will and support that we receive from all of you.

Our hearts are full as we watch our students growing more resilient each day, overcoming growing pains and the various obstacles in their young lives, obstacles including abandonment, rejection, and poverty. We press on because we know that every nurturing act of kindness and compassion helps to rewrite their life stories. As we shepherd the hearts of these children, we know they will grow and flourish.



The same goes for the vegetation around us. In these days, when food security and sustainability is the talk of the global community, to plant a garden is to prepare for tomorrow. Seeds grow when given the right conditions of soil, sunlight, and water. The summer months were hot, but the harvest we enjoyed included soursop, mangoes, corn, long beans, pumpkins, cucumbers, Thai gourds, watermelons, Thai sweet melons, kale, kangkong, spring onions, and lettuce.



On May 1 to celebrate Labor Day, we honored our hardworking farming neighbors with a basket of household goodies and 1,500 Baht.





Then on June 9, we again hosted our neighbors for a chemical-free farming day, where they learnt about the danger of using chemicals on their crops. Aj. Meesak taught our neighbors, along with our students, how to make chemical-free fertilizers. Every farmer went home with a crate full of chemical-free fertilizer as a start-up.

Children must grow, and plants must grow ... so must our relationships! We conducted a small workshop for six couples who wanted to grow their marriages. Life is dynamic and we are aware that for anything to grow, we must take intentional steps to create the conditions necessary for growth. Together, we must join hands ... parents and children, parents and teachers, schools and communities. We need to reach out to each other and help each other grow. Together we grow. As we join hands and unite, the world will not overcome us or snuff us out, but instead we will change the world and empower others to do the same. Thank you for joining hands with us in this effort to empower world changers.

“As it is written: “They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever. Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.”

1 Cor. 9:9-10

For the Harvest,

Dorothy Jason

President

World Harvest Foundation

HLC Update

By Mike Jason, Principal

Thanks for taking a few minutes to read this update. I want to tell you about two of the fun events that made the end of this school year special here at Harvest Learning Center.

Mr. Dam, a special friend of HLC, is the technician who takes care of all of our air-conditioners, making sure that they are up and running as efficiently as possible. He is also quite well known locally as a successful long-distance runner. On 12 June he and his wife brought all of their special running gear to the Learning Center and conducted a special training for the students, answering all of their questions about marathons, emphasizing the importance of finishing the race. Two days later, he set up a special 1.8-kilometer mini marathon racecourse, simulating a real marathon with three rest and snack stations along the way. To make the event even more special, Mr. Dam awarded medals to each student who finished the race. Each medal was unique, because the medals he awarded to our students were medals he had earned during his own running career.





On 23 June, over two hundred guests attended Harvest Learning Center’s annual student awards banquet. The event was billed as “A Night to Remember.” True to its name, it was a very memorable night for all in attendance.

After the delicious eight-course dinner was served, the program was filled with entertainment provided by our kindergarteners, our primary students, our older students, and even by our lady team members. During the course of the evening three of our kindergarten students graduated from kindergarten wearing cap and gown. Other students received bags of goodies, certificates, medals, and trophies for outstanding character development, Bible memorization, academic achievement, and leadership skills. No one went home empty-handed.





As always, I want to express a big heartfelt thank you for everything you do to make our work possible. I am proud of our students and our team here at Harvest Learning Center. But I am so appreciative of each one of our friends and supporters who give to make our work possible.

Please remember to pray for us that God will grant us inspiration and wisdom as we steward the resources He places into our hands.

An Eye-Opening Experience

By Kris Dollisen, Vice-Principal

Twenty-six students of our students from lower primary to secondary had a very interesting outreach activity this past term. They visited the Khon Kaen School for the Blind, where they had the opportunity to observe and interact with the blind students as they studied in their classrooms and to learn a little about how to write and read braille.

The HLC students were divided into two groups. While one group was observing the blind students in their normal daily classes, the other group was taken to a room with study tools for basic to advanced learners. In the room with the study tools, they met a very knowledgeable instructor who was also blind. Some of our students got to write their names in braille using the slate and the stylus. The instructor had to show them the equivalent code for every letter of their name. It was like a whole new world of writing the letters of alphabet. The students were also amazed when they were shown the computer laboratory. The blind students are able to surf the internet with braille keyboards. They learn information by hearing using headphones attached to their computers.





During break time, all the students met in the hall. Our delegation was surprised by a musical performance prepared by the student from the school. They all had amazing voices that touched our hearts. In response, our students also sang an encouraging song for them. Then our students distributed snacks to the blind children by holding their hands and placing the snacks in their open palms.

Our group observed life from a different perspective. The blind children we met did not have physical vision, but they were very purposeful and determined to learn in their unique ways. It was an eye-opening experience for all of us. We felt challenged to do our best with all the senses available to us. The visually impaired students taught us to be more mindful of things which our physical eyes cannot see, important things like compassion, determination, contentment, and most of all, LOVE.

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