

November 25, 2004

Dear Family member:

Our trip to Thailand was an exciting adventure for the children as they traveled out of their village and met some new friends. As we walked in the park it was not unusual to have the children grabbing for your hand while hiking until something would catch their eye and then off they would run. As soon as they were gone someone else would take their place.

It is such a joy to be around these little ones and show them we care and want to be involved in their lives. Then to see them respond with their smiles and laughter brings us joy to know that together we are making a difference.

In continuing on our journey to East Timor we were delighted as we pulled up to our little village of thatched roofed huts, where one toilet and shower have been shared amongst the whole village. The children now recognize us and are excited to see us come.

They are crowded around the car waiting for us to get out and play with them. In this poor village where shoes or a shirt are a luxury we began our day. This part of the trip was overwhelming to my son Joshua as we journeyed into the village. Here you see him playing a game of tag with the village children.



How fast could this tall, long legged boy run? They are all excited and running, laughing and waiting for the fun they know Joshua can bring! All that could be seen was a cloud of dust as they began running about. What fun can be had with so little resources, just taking the time to get involved!



In this village we now help to provide eight pre-school programs in two locations within the area. Craft time is a new experience for the children as they are learning to use scissors, glue, glitter and colored markers. It has become an exciting time for the whole village to come and watch!

The clinic is growing every day with near by village's beginning to come. They are learning the importance of proper hygiene. More toilets are being added throughout the

dotted landscape surrounding the huts. So much to do and this is just the start as many villages in the area have similar conditions.

Back in Dili, where one of our good friends, who we have been fortunate to know and work with, informed us of a need with street children in the dump area. This is where small boys and girls have to dig through the dump for items to be recycled. They will then turn the items in and get pennies for their very hard and dirty job.

Why in a small capital city of Dili, where the population is maybe 50,000 nationals do pre-school and elementary children have to crawl over a pile of garbage to survive? We say we want to be involved and we want to step up and take an active part in providing for them. We did provide, I am happy to say, the funds to purchase food supplies as you see in the orange bags.



There is much to do and each day and month if you get involved you will continue to **Serve Our World** in areas such as these and help children such as this. With Christmas around the corner, here is where you can and will make a huge impact with your giving by getting involved with the International Children's Christmas projects:

1. Daily food and shelter in Thailand, the 'Good Life Home'.
2. Gifts for the children's Christmas parties in Thailand and East Timor. Which will include toys, needed clothing and supplies.
3. Provide a center in East Timor for the children living around the dump area to receive the care and love they need.

So many great opportunities to get your family and friends together to raise funds and give to those in need this Christmas. We would be happy to provide you with the materials and information, just give us a call. In doing so you can have a new sense of purpose for the holiday season.

So plant a lifetime gift in a child today!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Thomforde". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael Thomforde
Founder/President