

August 13, 2007



Dear Family member,

I would love for you to be able to meet Soum.

You'd fall in love with her! She's a sweet little 10 year old girl. She's got a beaming smile, a wonderful tender heart and a quiet nature. In fact she's a joy to have around. She might remind you of your daughter or granddaughter...

You would think that Soum would have grown up enjoying her childhood, playing with the other kids and looking forward to getting married, having a family. All the things that little girls dream about.

But things are not as they seem because not long ago, Soum was in grave danger.

Had we not found her, she could have been SOLD! Sold into a life of prostitution, abuse, sexual disease and yes, potentially even an early death.

You see her parents both died of AIDS and her closest family didn't want her - and so it is at this time that a deal can be struck for girls such as Soum.

For as little as \$400 - a girl can be sold into a life that would shock and terrify any of us...

You don't have to take my word for it. This is what our US State Department says:

"The lives of child prostitutes are almost too appalling to confront. Studies indicate that child prostitutes serve between two and thirty clients per week, leading to a shocking estimated base of anywhere between 100 to 1500 clients per year, per child. Younger children, many below the age of 10, have been increasingly drawn into serving tourists."

It just does not seem possible does it? How in today's world can such treatment of children be taking place?

Sadly though, it is all too common. We know that in major cities prostitution is not hidden and in fact advertisements are displayed offering to PAY \$5,000 US dollars for a virgin!

The amounts of money involved are HUGE! This price offered for a young girl is as much as a rice farmer would be able to make in 10 years. Faced with hunger, illness or a family death, oftentimes the decision to



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sell a child is made so as to provide for, protect and feed other children - or because they simply can not feed another mouth...

Yet it is horrible to even think someone would do such a thing to his or her daughter!

It is as a result of all of this that we established our Child Rescue Program... Through this outreach, we provide a place of refuge where the children of broken families can find safety; a place where abandoned kids can find a home...

In a message sent from my son Joshua at the *Good Life Home* in Thailand this week, where he and his wife oversee our Child Rescue Program, he said very excitedly, "Dad we had over 75 children come to our Saturday outreach."

The following morning our Director also emailed me very thrilled informing me how the outreach had grown with so many children from the ages of 6 to 18 coming, bringing their friends and getting involved!

These weekly outreaches are located in the poorest areas - the places that are known centers of exploitation in Northeast Thailand.

But in our home, these children receive meals, education and a message of hope: building their self-esteem and providing each one with a sense of belonging as we show them we love and care for them.



In receiving the pictures of the events each week, I love to see the faces of these precious children. I see the joy and excitement as they are able to attend the *Good Life Home* program.

But I also notice how many young girls are attending, this is wonderful and yet it hits me with an URGENCY I have to express to you this month...

I know that for these children their tomorrow is uncertain as the demand for young girls brings a number of sexual predators to these areas and while their families face hardships this is a reality and an everyday threat.

Soum is one of the girls that the *Good Life Home* was able to help and rescue. It's thrilling to now see her smile returning as she begins acting like a child and relax in safety.

But there are hundreds of others just like her who need our help, hundreds of others that today we can not rescue...

The sad facts are that these children have no champion, no protection.

The Justice Department continued in it's report:

In Thailand the, police have been known to guard brothels and even procure children for prostitution. Some police in destination countries directly

exploit children themselves. Child prostitutes live in constant fear; they live in fear of sadistic acts by clients, fear of being beaten by pimps, and fear of being apprehended by the police. Victims often suffer from depression, low self-esteem, and feelings of hopelessness, physical ailments they rarely receive medical treatment until they are seriously or terminally ill.

So perhaps now - you see WHY I feel the urgency and pressure I do when I see the photos. Each face I see (and countless others) cry out for a response.

The simple question I have for you today is this: Will you help us to rescue more little girls like Soum?

Maybe you have the ability to sponsor a *Good Life Home* for a week or month.

Perhaps you can give to provide the cost of a child living there who has been rescued, like Soum, or just help us reach out to other children each week.



Every day, in fact every minute, another child is sexually exploited. We have the room to expand the number of children in our home, but we lack the resources to do more - which is why I ask you to be involved.

Your gift today makes you a part of a team who rescues children each week!

Your gift TODAY matters, it saves lives!

Through your support, you will be personally involved in giving these children a new path and building a future. Your funds will be used for food, clothing and hygiene, health care or for the support of a good school while surrounding them with family values and love that these children normally would never have.

Please respond as quickly as possible. We urgently need your help to enable us provide for more children. We have the room but now, we need you!

Thank you in advance for you gift of love.

Together for the lives of others,

Michael Thomforde

P.S. Please do what you can as soon as possible. Every gift large or small will be used carefully for the purpose shown.

Please see the enclosed reply form to see the impact of YOUR gift.