

# Thailand Special Report



Touching Lives Building Futures



## Village Impacted by Success of Childrens Outreach

### Thailand

- Population 64,265,276
- Population below poverty line: 12.5% (8,033,160)
- Estimated adults and children with HIV/AIDS: 670,000
- Population aged 6-24 years not attending school: 44%
- Over 5 million children involved in child labor
- Northeast country side is populated with 20,000 villages
- Main products produced: rice, tapioca, salt farms and weavers
- Buddhism embraces 90% of population
- Estimated that 20% of Thai girls between 11-17 years old are involved in prostitution (Many kidnapped or sold into because of poverty)
- Over 35,000 homeless on the street
- Land mass is about the size of Texas
- Leading cause of death is HIV/AIDS (1 in every 100 are infected)

(Sources: CIA World Factbook; U.S. Dept of State; UNDP)



Children are the foundation to build for a better tomorrow

# Thailand Photo Journal



With all in anticipation, almost sixty children are here for the day of activities, food and teaching. These are the boys and girls that you through SOW reach out to and sponsor weekly.



Here upon arrival we spend some time meeting with the leaders of the village outreach. They introduce us to the new boys and we begin to get acquainted and they share some of the backgrounds and conditions which led them to us.



We got to meet some of the new boys we are helping, so to start our journey Gwen immediately got their attention by pulling out a chocolate bar she had gotten. The boys that gathered around stopped playing ping-pong at our village center and instead enjoyed a treat!



Here in this rural village we have a great team from the area that come each week to give of themselves and their time to make sure these children are provided for and become apart of an extended family that loves and cares for each one in a special way. Cooking up a good balanced meal to feed the children and all the workers, Let's Eat!



One of the volunteers leads the way and teaches them before lunch begins. In a village like this one, education is a key factor and a foundation to build bright futures on. So we take this opportunity to teach them hands on rather than out of books. Most schools only go up to the 6th grade and then schooling becomes a luxury they can not afford, as it then costs money to go. For a rice farmer and his family that is not possible.



Looks to me like you better wave as the day ends and the music stops. The children want to thank you for your part in their day of excitement. Which you helped bring to their village each month.

"Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others."

-Barbara Bush

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