

Jan '08

# THE NEW LIFE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

## FIRST PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 11, HANGDONG, CHIANGMAI, 50230, THAILAND [www.firstprioritydevelopment.org](http://www.firstprioritydevelopment.org)

### Transformation of BAAN BUAK

My village celebrated Christmas with a baptismal service! The whole community has now decided to follow Jesus Christ!



**Nu, tell us what your life was like before?**

"My life revolved around appeasing the evil spirits. Misfortune, sickness and death meant that the spirits were angry. The witchdoctors acted as mediums between the spirits and the people and kept us informed of the never-ending demands of the spirit world. There was always someone in the village offering animal blood sacrifices to make recompense to the

evil spirits. This practice ensured extreme poverty for all of us. When my mother became very sick, we had to sacrifice all our animals. Upon her death, even our house with all its contents had to be burned down."

**How did the great transformation we witness today take place?**

"One day, visitors came, who were not put off by our hostility towards them. They had time to listen to us and they also showed us the way out of the utter hopelessness we were locked in. With their lives they showed us what their Jesus was like! My family was one of the first to follow Him. My life was completely changed! I could sleep through the nights without fear. Hope filled my life! Today I am so happy! My whole village has turned to the Living God! The villagers now gather together to worship God, who has also empowered us to take healing and hope to others!"

**Tell us, what are you doing these days?**

"I am married to my beautiful wife, Nid. We have two sons, Caleb and Joshua, and a daughter, Namthip. We are part of the New Life Development Team, which is based in Hangdong. I am involved in co-ordinating and empowering the communities to renovate and build safe housing for the destitute. Our lives are bridges for people to find a future in God!"

### Celebrating in HANGDONG

Up to 700 community people came to celebrate Christmas with us at the local hotel grounds we rented for the occasion. With some help from the community leaders, the team ran activity stations, which provided fun and non-threatening ways to convey the true message of Christmas. There was face painting, balloon blowing, information gathering competitions, and other activities. We also had our jumping castle erected for the younger ones to burn off some excess energy! After the stations, the crowd gathered to watch various items presented by the kids and youth involved in our various clubs. Afterwards, dinner was



Hangdong Christmas

served and the crowd mingled. Many teachers and other influential people from the community attended and some also helped in running the program. The venue was fantastic and confirmed to us the need for larger and more flexible premises!

The team was well received at the offices of

the various community leaders. The Lord organized a divine appointment at the Lord Mayor's office. At the function organized by the local hospital for the intellectually handicapped, the Christians were given most platform time!

### Building .....lives, families, homes

The focus of our work is on connecting with communities to help them break out from the cycle of poverty and hopelessness. Our dream is to empower and facilitate the transformation of these communities to live and exist for the glory of the Living God... that these communities " *will be a delight and its people a joy...*", that " *they will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the Lord, they and their descendants with them.*" (Is 65)

We continually seek God for creative ways to reach people. We connect with the communities through activities, such as **Kid's Clubs, English Courses and Camps, Music and sports activities, Handicrafts, Home Visitation, AIDS Support, Mentally**

**Handicapped Support and Family Sponsorship and Training.** We

seek to EMPOWER the communities to identify their felt needs and to discover and implement sustainable solutions. We help and encourage the local leaders to be a voice for the disadvantaged at the decision-making levels of the society. The communities learn how to take care of their own members. For example, **the renovation and building projects** are a joint effort between us, the leaders and the members of the communities. The aim is to bring justice and dignity to the disadvantaged, such as families of the AIDS victims. With **micro-enterprise projects**, we aim to break the cycle of poverty.



I am loved!



Fun at Kid's Camp

## The New life Development Team



Missing from the picture:

Kraiwut's wife, Kung. Chan and Phon in Nan. Bunya and Ratraphi in Mae Sariang. Praphan and Sathaphon in Baan Mai.



### Please pray for the work in:

- Chiangrai: Chiangkong, Phaen, Viangchai, Borklua
- Chiangmai: Hangdong City, NongKhiou revival
- Mae Hongson: Baan Buak, Baan Den, Baan Mai, Baan Kilopaet, Baan Kilosii, Huei Hia, Oversight of Thungprao Church in Maesariang, networking with Omkoi revival
- Nan: Napu, Namkhae, Bangkob, Kokuang, Hueikhaab
- Phetchabun: Na Sa Ong, Baan Man Khao
- Ongoing training and support provided by the Training arm of the Team for Surin: RattanaBuri; "Creative access" countries; Indonesia and Papua New Guinea

### Please pray for:

- God's wisdom, divine eyesight, divine appointments, open doors, unity and protection for the Team
- God's protection and growth for the new believers
- More Thai and Tribal laborers for the Harvest
- Strongholds to be broken
- REVIVAL for this region!!

**THAILAND** – about 63 million people  
 > 95% Buddhist/Animists  
 > 4% Other religions  
 > > 1% Christian

