

The mouth of the River!



A quarterly publication for The River Training and Convention Centre, Hangdong, Thailand - October 2009



Being led by His voice

The River Team has been stretched to the full in the last few months! It has been a significant season of change with growth experienced in all facets of the ministry including schools, mountain ministry, community outreach and the expansion of the training and convention centre facilities. In addition, the team has been significantly challenged to go to a new level in our relationship with God, with other team members and the community. We are

learning more and more what it is to truly love each other in Christ, with recently a number of team members experiencing significant health issues.

A recent focus of our team's devotions has been on hearing the voice of Truth, walking in obedience to His voice and then waiting in expectation for REVIVAL! Our desire is for God's heartbeat to become the heartbeat of The River and for all our actions to be led by Him!

A 'Starbucks' in the mountains!

When River Team member, Brother Yingwhit, began his evening coffee ministry in the tribal community of Huie Hia, he had no idea of the doors this ministry would open! Serving Thailand's famous 3 in 1 coffee, many people from Huie Hia and surrounding villages have been flocking to visit Yingwhit's mountain 'Starbucks' to relax and enjoy a coffee with Yingwhit. The ministry has opened up many doors for Yingwhit, providing the opportunity to encourage and share the gospel message with many. Yingwhit recently has been invited to visit over 10 surrounding villages, many of which are completely unreached. This has led to new churches being established all over the mountains. God is good! Please pray for favour over Yingwhit as he visits these new villages and for opportunities to share Christ with the communities.

'Drug-free' school concerts a hit!

In response to the needs of schools in the Hangdong area, The River Team hosted a series of 'Drug-free' concerts during July, using materials from Kids Quest USA. The concerts were a great success, reaching out to 10 schools (over 1000 kids!). The River Team, which includes both long-term team members and new trainees, performed the concerts using games, dance, clowning and illusions to communicate the anti-drug message. Positive feedback was received from students, teachers and principals with further concerts planned for next year.





Fun and games at Kids Club!

Kids and Youth Clubs step up!

The last four months have been significant in the life of The River Team's ministry to kids and youth. The Saturday morning ministry to children has been progressively building with over 120 children and 30 youth consistently attending the weekend program. Highlights of the programs have included a fun carnival complete with jumping castles and face painting, swimming and water games throughout the summer, and bible stories through puppetry and drama. Along with the fun activities, Kids Club has also begun to focus on worship and prayer with children encouraged to nominate prayer points each week.

In the Youth Club, the young people have been working hard to raise money to minister to their own communities, and are currently looking at busking in local markets to raise funds.

'You are so beautiful' 2009

The annual 'You are so beautiful' 2009 conference was held in late August with over 70 women in attendance. This year, women travelled from as far as Laos and the mountainous region of Nasa Ong to attend the conference. The conference was hosted by a team from Brisbane in partnership with The River Centre, with the theme of the conference being 'Jewels of the Kingdom'. Each session reinforced a different characteristic of jewels and related it to our lives as women in God's Kingdom. The conference was extremely impacting with the Holy Spirit moving in a powerful way. Afternoon electives gave the women the opportunity to explore their creative sides, with painting, make-up and singing electives enjoyed by all!



Teams, Teams, Teams!

The River Team has been busy hosting visiting teams to The River Centre over the last 5 months. Teams have come from Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Cairns, Morewell and Tasmania, becoming involved in many ways including kids ministry, practical training in health, hospitality and agriculture, ministry in mountain villages, community home visitations, running school English camps and completing hotel renovations. Teams are always welcome at The River and provide an opportunity to get a glimpse of the heart of The River Team for Thailand while ministering directly to the community.

Renovation Rescue!

The hotel at The River Centre has recently received a much-needed facelift, with four rooms in the hotel now completely renovated. The River Team stripped existing rooms to a bare shell, allowing a team of 16 people from a church in Brisbane, Australia, to complete tiling, carpentry and painting work. The rooms will be rented out as 'Superior' rooms within the hotel, assisting The River Centre in its goal to become self-supporting.

From this...



Mothers Day at The River

Mothers Day was celebrated in style at The River with over 100 community mums and children attending an event to honour mums. The event was hosted by The River team in partnership with local youth and children from the community who provided the evening's musical entertainment. The night began with a delicious meal followed by a concert. Every mum was honoured at the event with a small gift.

to this ... !!!



Goodbye Prani

The River Team sadly farewelled Prani, a beloved friend of the team, who went to be with the Lord in August after a battle with cancer. Prani's testimony through this difficult time has been powerful, with God visiting her in a real and supernatural way. The River team wishes to thank all those who prayed for Prani and have stood by the team during this sad time.



New logo launched

The River Centre now has a new logo! The logo was designed by Chris Grech from Winepress Church in Melbourne. A new website will also be launched in the near future.



Prayer points

- For ongoing favour with local communities and community leaders.
- To accurately hear the voice of God, understand His truth, and walk in His wisdom.
- Provision of finances for the growing work
- Harvest of SOULS!

Community visitations continue

The team continues to walk with the local community, supporting many local families in Hangdong with regular home visitations to provide prayer, support and practical assistance. Over 50 home visitations have been completed in the last four months, many as a result of partnerships with the local hospital and schools. Home visitations provide a fantastic opportunity to build relationships with the local community and to minister to people where they are at. The team has a vision of increasing this ministry over the coming months, with a passion to meet the needs of the local community!



'The Lord has been good to me!'

The River Team recently visited the home of three new Christians, sharing a simple meal together in their little home. After the meal, some of the Thai team members began sharing about the life of Jesus and how much Jesus loves them. One of the men started to laugh with his face full of joy. He said 'The Lord has been so good to me! Now I only want to serve the Lord!'



Volunteer news!

The River recently welcomed a new long-term family to the team with Hanny and Elizabeth Surjantini and their two children, Glory (17 years) and Holy (13 years), arriving in September. Hanny and Elizabeth will be focusing on the pastoral care of The River Team families as well as supporting community home visitations.

One of The River's volunteer couples, Ray and Ann Perry, recently returned home to New Zealand after 11 months as part of the Hangdong team. Ray and Ann will be spending time with their daughter who has recently had twins before returning to The River in August next year.

The River Centre's volunteer base continues to grow with over 10 short-term volunteers (ie. 3-12 months) volunteering at The River in the past 4 months. The River thanks all the volunteers for their valuable contribution to The River Centre's work!

Want more information?
Contact The River Team at info@theriver-hd.org

THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US IN THE HARVEST!

Erik & Mariaana Klar, Yua Bumrunkere, Kraiwut Buanak, Rudy & Lara Rudresh, Tim & Bronwyn Perry, Ray & Ann Perry, Rob & Daeng Garnsey, Hanny and Elizabeth Surjantini, and the rest of 'The River' team!