

## **Judy's Jottings – November 2011**

In September I spoke of the floods here in Chiang Mai – ours were small compared to the ongoing deep flooding around Bangkok – there have been over 500 deaths from drowning/ electrocution/ snake bites and other related causes. Thousands are in evacuation centres, whilst others choose to live in an upstairs room or on the roof rather than leave home and sit surrounded by chest deep water. This situation looks set to stay for many more weeks- the huge amount of water has nowhere to go. Pray for the people of Thailand, for wisdom for the government and related authorities, and for patience amongst the local communities. Praise God for the overwhelming support from the national church though in terms of financial help but more importantly physical help with those affected by the floods.

Last month I had the pleasure of attending the Thailand Baptist Missionary fellowship Retreat in Chiang Rai/ Mae Sai. It was a lovely relaxing time and good fellowship, and excellent speakers too. I returned feeling like I had had a good holiday.

Work at CAM continues to be quite extensive just now, November and December are our busy times. Brett and I are still trying to get our heads around a new data base system-we have a long way to go! Brett is also getting a video made for the 20 year celebration and this is proving to be a bit stressful-more so as the time in which to get it done gets shorter. I am also due to attend meetings with a new donor of ours, due to be held in Bangkok initially but the venue has changed to Chiang Mai now. This is 3 days of meetings at the end of the month, but a good chance to network with others, and learn more about this new donor and how they like to work in partnership. Despite the busyness just now there is a wonderful spirit of teamwork and fun at the office.

Foster care group support continues, though another child leaves this week for adoption, so our actual numbers of children are dwindling. Chiang Mai is hosting meetings looking at methods of long term foster care by national families, rather than international – the programme looks fascinating, and even has a focus in disabled children. It is wonderful that the local government social services department is the one making the initiative in this, and has requested to learn from a system working well in neighbouring countries. Also we are holding an open house/ fun activity day/ yard sale on the 19<sup>th</sup> November- as a foster care community event. Hope Home staff are busily preparing homemade crafts to sell at the event.

Hope Home is going well. We still love our new house heaps. We are now working on getting the vegetable garden going- lots of soil delivered and moved into the right places-my back is telling me that that is enough for a little while. We have another load of soil being delivered today, then when that is distributed will top soil and begin to plant! The fish pool is now full of leaves slowly composting we hope. The children are mostly well. Phil has been measured up for new mobility equipment which we hope to fetch from McKean hospital next week. Don has recurrent ear infections and very smelly ears too, and the doctors have decided they need to operate on his non-ear at some

point. Natalie needs to go and get glasses fitted- not sure if she will tolerate wearing them. Joy, Lamb Chop and Bumrot doing fine on the whole. We are still waiting on our new child – we are ready for her but the paperwork chain seems to have got stuck somewhere. We are also looking forward to our good friends Paul, Jeannie and Heather to visit from Australia and stay with us for a few weeks. We have a list of DIY jobs for Paul. One of the days they are here, all the HH staff are taking off to Mae Sai for time out and shopping- we will look after the gang at Hope Home. Respite care from Hope Home continues, with Yim, a 2 year old girl attending regularly, more so now that her mum ahs just had a new baby too. It is a pleasure to be able to help families in this way. So –that is about the news from here I think – I cannot promise to get a jotting out in December but I will try. In case it doesn't materialize I wish you and your family a very happy Christmas, and memorable times of celebration. May you be very aware of God's great gift of love as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With love and thanks for all your support

Judy





Joy and Lambchop, Joy with her birthday cake , Phil practicing sitting unaided!

