

October 25, 2004

Dear Family member:

This month I would like you to journey with me on my recent trip to Asia. Past the crowded city sidewalks and busy streets of developing cities, where bumper meets bumper and scooters fill in the cracks between cars, trucks and anything else that is moving down the street.

Here we will head out to a rural village in Northeast Thailand where rice fields flow one into another and simple stilt homes dot the landscape. This is where **Serving Our World** is caring for orphan and abandoned children, in villages such as these.

You, along with the national leaders we work with are providing weekly hot meals, children's activities and much needed supplies. Normally there is little or nothing for these children to do. But because of your involvement with **Serving Our World**, even the village leaders are saying, "We can see the change in our children, they are happier and waiting for the next outreach to come."



These are children whose parents have either died of Aids or left them at a young age for a better life elsewhere. It is here that **Serving Our World** is securing homes for the "Good Life Center" until a permanent building is built. A place they will be able to call home. Providing them with more education and giving them the opportunity to learn a trade in a loving environment. Our project started with 30 children attending and has now increased to about 200 children in two locations.



On my recent trip we planned an outing for the children of this village. What a day, two buses loaded with excited children ready to go. After a picnic lunch, singing, games and fun we hit the beach! We rented inner tubes and life jackets. Some even grabbed a jacket too small for them but jumped into the lake anyway laughing all the way.

I might not yet speak Thai but no communication was necessary for either the children or us as we swam, climbed on tubes and played tag. We had a wonderful time that none of us will soon forget. On the way back to the village as you can see no one had much energy left. But it was an event that will not be forgotten. And with your help the first of many!



It is in this Buddhist village as they see love in action are asking us, “What can we do for you?” The chief over 13 villages, a Buddhist himself said to us, “From the time you have been coming you are always giving, when the Buddhists come they are always taking.”

In a country where children accept the tragedies that come their way, we will show compassion on a whole new level. We can change that cycle and show love to a people who don't really understand, but will respond when their needs are met. And the effects will carry on to future generations that will be influenced by your generous participation.

And as the season quickly approaches we are planning an international Christmas in both of our targeted countries. And you can be a part by giving today for this event and make it possible.



P.S. More good reports from Northeast Thailand and exciting news from East Timor next month. See what you and **Serving Our World** are doing for the children in the dumps of East Timor. Also keep watching the **Serving Our World** web site coming soon!

Little turns into much.
So plant a lifetime gift in a child today!

Michael Thomforde
Founder/President