

March 25, 2005

Dear Family member:

As we traveled to the coast of Thailand we saw the miles of endless destruction the Tsunami had left in just moments. For many a lifetime of hard work and struggle vanished with just three waves from the recent earthquake.

We visited a temporary government shelter where 97 families have had to call home, in barrack style housing. Every devastated family member tries to refocus and gather articles of clothing or belongings that may have been buried in the sand. Hoping to rebuild seems to be months away for them. But for now it is a few acres to share, a ten by twelve cubical to call home while trying to forget what it was all like.



Change is coming for some. **Serving Our World** is helping and I want you that have been supporting and those reading to know that families are getting involved and stepping in to fill the immediate void!

I want to share the story of Kousoun, who lived in the Tsunami Coast, and how a whole new future has already started because we all got involved.

On December 26th Kousoun was down by the ocean, his wife and little girl were in their simple home only about 100 meters away. He told me that the first wave came so suddenly and as the water rose to his knees all he could think to do was climb the tree that was close by and yell to his wife.

Kousoun could not see what had taken place with his family and continued to yell warnings to them as the second wave hit the beach. He watched as it shattered the whole block where his home was. He watched his home disappear into the waves.

All he could think of was that he had not only lost his home, his belongings but he thought that now his loving wife and little girl were also gone. Then the third wave hit and with no obstacles in its path it cleared the land of everything, taking all back out to sea.

The emptiness and void he felt stunned and shocked him. After clinging to the tree until the water receded he made his way down to look for anything remaining and start the search for his family.

As he continued to sort through the rubble of his home he heard the cry of his beloved wife as she ran back to look for him. What a reunion to find his family! She told us that all the money they had was hidden in their bedroom and it was all gone along with their clothes and everything that they valued, leaving them with nothing.



This is the part I like best because it is here that **Serving Our World**, and that means you, stepped in. Our local friends immediately, after the Tsunami was over, went to the areas with the most damage and began to rebuild. Developing relationships with families and sharing the hope of tomorrow with the commitment of

helping them start over and rebuild for a new future.

It wasn't long before we heard of the opportunity to show His love in action by doing something in the physical. With the generous help of our local church and the **Serving Our World** family, I can tell you that not only are the first homes finished, but the families that we started with now have a new relationship with local, loving believers. They have new lives and New Hope for each day and the fear is gone!

Yes, together we can help to fill the void by getting involved each day. **Serving Our World** is going to not only continue to build homes but also to care for children in the area that have no one else.

What a joy to be able to help the poor, lonely and the lost! As you give, I guarantee it will go into those lives and make a difference forever!

Today fill the void and feel the Joy!

*Michael Thomforde*  
Michael Thomforde  
Founder/President

Look for  
the East Timor  
update next  
month!