

Mother of Perpetual Help Center

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"Welcome Br. Bernd"

"Welcome back Bernd, we are happy that you've been re-assigned to Thailand after spending a year and a half in Germany preparing for your final vows. While in Germany you spent your time looking after many of our SVD retired priests and Brothers at our house in St. Wendels as a nurse".



Br. Bernd spent almost two years with Mother of Perpetual Help Center during his "Overseas Training Program" 2010-2011. He will continue his work as a professional nurse giving care to our HIV patients at Villa Marie Hospice, he will continue helping with our teenagers at Ban Mae Marie and helping with all of the activities of the Center.

Special Guests --

Towards the end November 2012 our teenagers at Ban Mae Marie welcomed special guests from America, **Gary and Barbara Grendys**—those responsible for giving them a home. This visit was different from their first visit three years ago as the new home had just been completed and the young teenagers had not yet moved into the buildings. Gary and Barbara could experience the happiness and joy being felt by the teenagers because of their generosity and concern for them.

A special pre-Christmas celebration took place at Ban Mae Marie in their honor with food music and Thai cultural dancing performed by some of the young men and women. At Ban Mae Marie the youngsters are

given the opportunity to complete their studies, some of them will go on for technical studies.

As this newsletter is being written our teenagers are attending a summer camp in the neighboring Province along with teenagers from three other Dioceses'. Ban Mae Marie can accommodate 24 teenagers, at present we have 15 with 2 more expected to arrive after the Thai New Year—"Songhnan".



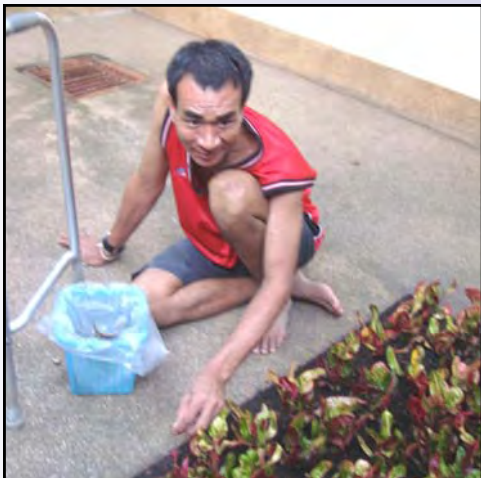
Teenagers at Ban Mae Marie are fortunate indeed to have a special home and the opportunity of good care and the possibility to complete their education in local schools and technical schools.

Mother of Perpetual Help Center in Nong Bua Lamphu Thailand assists children who have been born as HIV/AIDS patients. They also help other children of HIV/AIDS and other poor families of neighboring villages with school supplies and food supplements.



Villa Marie Hospice --

Over the years many changes have come about at Villa Marie; before the Anti Retroviral medications became available to all suffering with Aids, many who came to the hospice for care would die—now patients seldom have to die. The social stigma still remains! Counseling and education as well as compassionate friendship are our efforts to bring about a change into their lives. So many now who come for care have been rejected by family and friends and have no home to return to; thus, we have recently converted several of the buildings on our farm into decent living conditions where some of those atients who will remain with us indefinitely have a place where they can call “home”. Here they can look after themselves with some supervision from the Center. Here they have the opportunity to plant gardens, look after the fish ponds and fruit trees also as a source of food. Others who require more care will remain at the hospice.



Aids Education and Awareness --

Our Aids Education and Awareness program continues in schools throughout the Province of Nong Bua Lamphu, but with a new twist starting this year. Thanks to Misesan Cara in Ireland we have received a grant which enables a new beginning for the training of teachers in these schools to eventually enable them to give counseling and our “Aids Education and Awareness Program to their own students in each of their schools. In March we conducted the first 3 day camp with teachers from 10 different schools and nurses from local sub-health centers who are also interested in our program. This camp is being followed up with another 3 day workshop before they will be able to assist staff from the Center for actual prac-

tical experience at other schools. These teachers have shown enthusiasm with this training and we are confident that the program will continue until teachers in all Districts within the Province will be able to carry on with the training exercise in their own schools.



“Songkran” Happy Thai New Year

April being the hottest time of the year a Thai tradition for the New Year is to express good wishes and blessings to family and friends by means of pouring water over the hands—it is a family feast and a way of paying respect to the elderly.



Mother of Perpetual Help Center and Ban Mae Marie can always use extra support for their many activities. If you would like to help take a look at our website: www.aidshelphailandia.com for Divine Word contacts where donations can be sent to.

“Thank you” to all who have so generously supported our endeavors through prayer and other donations.

Brother Damien Lunders, SVD