

Coats Cambodia Newsletter

July 5, 2017

Debbie

I am delighted to tell everyone that Debbie is doing very well, pretty much back to her old self. Thank you so much for all your prayers for her! We have made 3 short trips to the village in the past 3 weeks. We will go tomorrow for a longer visit. We will try to be careful - when folks hear Debbie is in the village, many sick people with unusual health problems come to her for care. I do not want for her to take on too much of that yet.

Nyaw

Please keep praying for Nyaw. We did find a hospital that would treat him affordably with chemotherapy, but he has decided not to go that route. He did not like his first chemotherapy experience, and wants to stay home for the duration. He says he is feeling better, but he continues to lose weight from the cancer.

Closing the Tuberculosis work

I have made the decision to begin turning the Tuberculosis Program over to the government. I sensed the Lord pushing me in this direction earlier this year, and am convinced now it is time to move on. When we started the program nearly 20 years ago, the local government health staff were poorly paid, short-staffed, under trained, and had no facilities. Now they are much better paid than our staff, well-staffed, trained better than before, and have good facilities. Not all of them share the commitment to patients we would like to see, but I think they can handle the work. The work allowed us to show God's love to many poor and sick, and to tell them about Jesus, but I think

we now have a more powerful opportunity to do that in the children's work. Mr. Nyaw was a great witness to those sick with TB, for which we are very grateful.

The Children's work

Financially, it is also a good time to move on. We do not have the funds to operate both the TB program and to grow the Children's work, and we now have an opportunity with the children's work we never have had before. There are now several prospective local Christian candidates who want to work in our children's program, which will allow us to expand. I have been impressed with the staff's skills, experience, and heart in working with the children. Many kids and youth are growing in their faith and other kids want to enroll in the program, but we have not been able to accept them because of a lack of teachers. Now we have potential teachers! But we lack the funds to expand. Withdrawing from the Tuberculosis Program will help, but it is time now to begin praying for more funds.

We now have about 300 kids attending our teachings. With more teachers we can reach a lot more kids and have a more tailored teaching for the teenagers. I see this as an open door from the Lord and we do not want to miss it. A large number of parents live and work far away and they are happy to put their kids in our program because of the difference they see in their kids' behavior and lives. The kids are changing villagers' attitudes toward Jesus. I don't know how long this door will be opened and want to take advantage of it while we can.