

# **Integrated Ministries for Ethnic Minorities Foundation (IMEMF) January 2018 Update**

## **Kim's Comments**

I believe that children have a special place in the heart of Jesus. And yet an estimated 300 million children worldwide are subjected to violence, exploitation, and abuse. This comes in all forms and includes trafficking, labor exploitation, domestic servitude, physical and emotional abuse, sexual exploitation and pornography, denial of basic human rights, and neglect. Many of these children know that they are unwanted and unloved. These children are at risk of becoming invisible and forgotten, at risk of doubting the very existence of God. If a child has never known love, never known a parent's concern or care, how can we tell them about a God of love? Why would they believe us? I believe that Christ has seen their tears and has heard their cries. No one is ever invisible to Christ; no one is ever forgotten by Christ. Not even the smallest child. You are helping these children to know God with your financial gifts and prayer support of the work here in Thailand--thank you! Below, I have included another story below of God's amazing love changing the life of a child who came to the House of Love.

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## **Praise and Prayer**

- **January 23 will already mark the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the official opening of new IMEMF compound, where the House of Love (HOL) now is. Time has certainly flown, but I am always impressed that weekly, someone in the HOL family will thank God for the beautiful home they have to live in. We remember gratefully the many donors who made this lovely facility become a reality!**
- **Praise God many of our House of Blessing (HOB) children were able to return with their families to their ethnic minority villages for the New Year and celebrating the new rice ceremony. I am thankful that despite now living in the city, they have the opportunity to celebrate their own cultures.**
- **The Christian Center for the Development of Persons with Disabilities (CDPD) will be having a special time of thanksgiving on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, marking the completion of Finland's support of the CDPD. This partnership over that past 16 yearshas been key in the CDPD growing and serving so many in northern Thailand. I look forward to having volunteers and friends of the project return for the event. Please be praying for the work/planning that needs to be done in this next month. Thank you!**
- **For the IMEMF, this month we will be starting the interviewing process for a new ethnic minority director. We have received 5 good applicants for the position, and now I need**

to review these applications, and then the IMEMF board will begin to meet with these people. Please be praying for this important process.

- Would you also join me in praying for two 20 year old Swedish visitors we had this past week? Sondra and Beem had friends who used to be HOL child sponsors, and so these friends recommended a visit to see our project. Sondra's and Beem's hearts were touched by meeting the children, and hearing some of what God has done, and we had some time to talk about their spiritual journeys (they think very generally that Someone is out there.) Will you pray God will make Himself real to these 2 young women as they travel around SE Asia for the next few months?

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## Photos

How well I remember the excitement of the children as they waited by flower-adorned gates to greet guests coming for the worship celebration at their new home in 2010.



While we have a wonderful facility at the CDPD center itself, our therapists do home visits to assist the families in knowing how to best work with their special needs children. I so appreciate the creativity and energy our CDPD staff brings to their ministry!



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## Suttee's story

**I invite you to take a few minutes to read another wonderful story of God's love and redemption!**

Suttee, a child living at the House of Love, was brought to us because no one else wanted him. He had lived with his mother and her alcoholic boyfriends. They did not want to care for Suttee. They became angry and violent when they were drunk and would take out their anger on Suttee. He had scars to prove it. Other villagers did not want Suttee around. He was

HIV positive, and deaf and severely impaired intellectually. He did not talk. Everyone in the village teased him. He was brought to us after his mother committed suicide. Suttee let us know how he was treated at home by acting out his abuse, usually through hurting another child. He would not look at us; he did not try to communicate with us and it was obvious that no one had ever tried to communicate with him, not ever. His eyes were full of fear; he trusted no one. Suttee, at the age of eight, had never been to school, did not know how to hold a pencil or how to kick a ball. What Suttee did know was that no one cared about him, that no one wanted him.

Suttee, however, experienced the love of Jesus through the house parents, the other children and a student intern at the House of Love. The house parents tried to communicate with him. The children invited him to join in their games. The student intern sat with him and showed him that she was interested and concerned. Simple things, but Suttee slowly began to trust, slowly began to feel a part of the House of Love and slowly began to change. He was able to go to school, learn sign language and complete the seventh grade. He has learned to communicate, to laugh and to play with the other children. He looks for ways to help others. He has a sense of humor.

Suttee attended a church for the deaf and began to learn about Jesus and His love. Suttee has accepted Christ and has asked to be baptized. Suttee is an evangelist at heart; he asks all the guests that come to visit at the House of Love if they have been baptized and do they know that Jesus died for them?

Suttee now 18, has recently gone home to live with his uncle and grandmother. He helps in his uncle's car wash business and is caring towards his two younger cousins. He has learned responsibility, compassion for others and he knows that Jesus loves him. Suttee still has difficulties to overcome and needs our prayers; but God has seen Suttee and has begun His miraculous work of healing in the life of Suttee.

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