



Christian Center for the Development of People with Disabilities

NEWSLETTER
March 2010



Dear friends,

We thank you for your ongoing interest in the work of our project and we are thankful to God that He continues to be with us as He has been with us since the beginning. In February our team, working with the KWO (Karen Women's Association), ran a "Train the Trainer" program. This was held over two weeks with 10 women from 5 of the Karen refugee camps situated along the Thai-Myanmar border attending an intensive program covering all aspects of working with children with disabilities. Staff from the CDPD ran a variety of theory and practical sessions with all participants reporting an increased level of confidence and understanding of working with children with disabilities.



The program also included a 3 day program led by Glenys Freeman, a physiotherapist, and Joan Marshall, a maternal and child health nurse, from Australia. Their program was titled, "Developmental Screening, Nutritional Assessment of Babies and Young Children with a Disability; Planning and Intervention Programs". Joan had visited the Project in 2004 and was pleased to see many changes in the work done by our team in both the villages and at the center. Joan's church, Ringwood North Uniting Church, has sponsored 2 children as well as staff training so Joan and her husband, Rob, took photos to share the stories of the CDPD work back in Australia. Glenys and Joan were also pleased to see that the health and nutritional state of the children had improved with distribution of the health packs in the village and a healthy lunch given to the children at the school.

Our team presented Glenys with a cake to celebrate her 8th year of coming to Mae Sariang and working with the project. We remembered back to when Glenys first came to the project in 2002 when there were only 3 staff members. It is wonderful to see the many ways that God has assisted the staff over the years to reach out into the surrounding villages of Mae Sariang and have an impact not only on the lives of the clients and their families but on the communities as well. Some of the clients have been with the project for nearly 8 years and it has been good to see their progress and also the ways in which they have benefited from the therapy and educational programs at the center as well as in their communities.

Village visitation: The CDPD staff visited clients in their homes and surveyed and assessed new clients. This quarter the rehabilitation team evaluated all clients in the villages to determine which clients we should continue to visit and which clients should be discharged.





Day center: At the end of Semester 2 the students attending the school preparation program were individually evaluated based on the child's IEP (Individual Education Program). Each child was tested and a final progress report was written assessing their progress according to the IEP. The students also welcome every visitor to the center by sharing a meal with the visitors, giving them a gift and playing with them. One special education teacher and one teacher's assistant resigned and so we have divided the children into two classrooms. We hope to hire a new teacher for next semester. The project staff and a special education teacher from Mae Hong Son Province have

discussed what indicators and system conditions should be looked at when assessing the readiness of our children to attend the government integration school. This is to ensure quality in our program and an easier transition for the children. Next semester we hope that three of the six children who are now partially integrated into the government school can attend the integrated school full time. The other three will still need to come to our school preparation program part time.

Field Trips: We organized a trip for people with disabilities and their families to the National Park for a picnic and for a time of playing games.



Educational and Vocational Training: This quarter we had one new client from the outskirts of town come and ask for work to do. This resulted in more people with disabilities attending the vocational group.

Cooperation with Government: The therapy team was invited by the Special Education Center of Mae Hong Son to teach parents about how to care for children with disabilities. The project staff consults with the pediatric doctor in the local hospital for referrals and physician exams. The staff has also contacted the police concerning a person with disabilities who was sexually abused.

Visitors: This quarter CDPD had two people from BWAA, two retired missionaries, one Swedish missionary and two Australian volunteers visit. Brad also came to film our work. Thank you, Brad.

The CDPD Board voted to expand our work to other associations of the Thailand Karen Baptist Convention but we don't have enough funding yet for that expansion. In the meantime, the project staff has developed a survey form that will allow the associations to look at the number of people with disabilities and the kinds of disabilities located in the villages in their associations. They can also use the survey to determine the needs and resources of people with disabilities and begin to plan for a possible project in their area. These survey forms were given to representatives from different associations after an explanation of how to conduct the survey.



We are thankful for every visitor who came this quarter; in your different roles you have given encouragement for our work now and in the future.

The project team thanks you again for your support, prayers and encouragement and looks forward to sharing the joys and challenges of our work with you.

Please continue to follow the activities of CDPD by visiting our new website at www.cdpthailand.org

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