



*“It doesn’t matter who you are or where you come from. Every child deserves a good beginning. This will give them hope and confidence needed in life”*



Newsletter from  
Lutheran Christian foundation  
Diakonia Department  
December 2019

Dear friend and supporters.  
Thank you for your engagement in the work of Lutheran Diakonia Department do for vulnerable people in Thailand. We are sending a Christmas greetings from Thailand to you. Hope you will continue to support our work!

**Home of Praise and Home of Praise Immanuel** - two nurseries placed in Klong Toey community in Bangkok. The nurseries provide safe and loving care for unprivileged children age 6 month to 4 years. The aim is to provide holistic education – helping each child to develop socially and emotionally as well as academically. In addition, the nursery helps to prepare children beginning preschool.



A cold day in December at Home of Praise

**Khun** is almost two years old and a new student at Home of Praise. The first week he cried a lot because he did not know anyone in the nursery. Soon things started getting better, and now Khun is enjoying talking with his new friends and teachers. The family of Khun does not have a regular income. That makes life hard for the rather large family living in poor

conditions under the express highway. Their house is made of old wood and is leaning wobbly towards one of the pillars holding the highway. The surrounding area is dirty, full of garbage and not a nice environment for a little child to play in. Home of Praise teachers visited the family after they applied for a place in the nursery. Because of the family's living conditions, Khun is given the opportunity to attend Home of Praise without the family having to pay much. This is possible thanks to you and your support to Home of Praise! Khun and his Family thanks you with all their heart!

**Immanuel Hostel** in Phibun in North east Thailand provide scholarship for secondary students. They also provide scholarship and accommodation for high school students, who live far away from school and come from families with low income.



Meet one of our students:

Hello, my name is Khiew. I am currently studying second year in high school. I have stayed in Immanuel hostel since Secondary grade 1 because my family don't have enough money to support my schooling. Immanuel hostel gave me an opportunity to study at Phibun Mangsahan School. For this I am very thankful! I learn so many useful things at school, and I especially like to cook and do church activities. When I visit my family, I try to teach them the same things I have learned at school. I am proud to be where I am today, before I thought I would only manage to finish secondary school. When I become an adult, I want to be an interpreter. That is why I have chosen to study Japanese language, and I want to continuing study at Burapha University, Faculty of Arts, Major in Japanese Language.

Khiew's' dreams is about to come true thanks to you and your support!

**Hope for families** is a project who support underprivileged families. We want to give children and youths opportunities to get an education and to improve their quality of live. We also work with marginalized low-income senior citizens and HIV positive persons.



Meet **Lek**: She is 13 years old and one of the children that benefits from this project. Lek's parents are divorced and she doesn't live with either of them. She lives with her grandparents close to Immanuel church in Klong Toey. Her grandfather has a job and her grandmother stays at home, Lek loves her grandparents! When Lek was younger she went to Home of Praise Immanuel. She was an avid student and her urge to learn English started here. She is now studying first year in secondary, and has many friends both among fellow students and teachers. She loves going to school! When Lek attended Home of Praise Immanuel she started to learn how to play the Violin. She has a great talent and liked it very much! These days she is playing the cello in Immanuel A orchestra. Her dream is to become a musician, and maybe do some singing along with her instrument.

Lek thanks you for making her dream come true!

**Mary, the mother of Jesus, had to look for a safe place to give birth to her child. Many girls in Thailand have the same challenge.**



Teenage girl **Nam** was despairing when she discovered she was pregnant. Afraid of the shame of having a child without being married, and for what her parents would say. She packed her bag and left home without telling anyone. Suddenly she was standing in the street alone and scared, with a child in her stomach without safety and a roof over her head. She found this at Home of Grace, a shelter for pregnant women. Here she was met with love and care from caring personnel and other girls in the same situation.

16-year-old **On** was an avid student with school scholarships and ambitions. Life was good to live and got even better then she met a man she liked. He failed to tell her that he was already married and had a family. When On got pregnant, he left her on her own. On stayed at Home of Grace when she needed it the most. Now she and her child are back with their family, and the young mother will soon begin her studies again.

**Fo** came to the big city of Bangkok to work. She fell in love with a boy and moved in with him. When she got pregnant the boy's mother wanted her to have an abortion, she even threatened her life. Fo still did not want do take an abortion. But everything was hard for

her! She had no husband, and no support from her own parents. In an already desperate situation, she also lost her job. Home of Grace, a shelter for pregnant women became her rescue, there she got the help she needed. Fo's little child is taken care of in a foster home while she is trying to find a new job and a home they can live in together.

Sometimes it becomes too difficult for a young girl to take care of a small child. In these cases, Home of Grace can assist with foster care or adoption. This is always sad and difficult for those affected, and the goal is to find a solution where mother and child can be together.

**Nong B** is a young girl, about 16 years old. B comes from the province and moved with her family to live in the Chonburi Province. B has a warm and nice family. She goes to secondary school Grade 2 in Chonburi. B meet a boy on Facebook and they became lovers for some moths. Sometime after they broke up B found out she was pregnant. Knowing that she was pregnant she did not dare to tell this to her ex-boyfriend because he got a new girlfriend already. She didn't dare tell the parents either, but her mother found out since she got bigger and bigger. When the mother knew about it she took her to the doctor for an abortion, but it was too late for that. Then B's mother contacted Home of Grace and asked if her daughter could stay there. At that time B was 8 months pregnant, and not long after she gave birth to a healthy baby son. B wanted to give the child up for adoption because it was too difficult for the family to take care of the baby, and B wanted to go back to her study. Home of Grace contacted Pattaya Orphanage who was willing to look after the baby until the baby was adopted. B returned to her family and continued school.

Sometimes the road to making your dream come true, is a bit longer and harder than you would expect. We pray for B and that her son gets a good life in a new family.

**Who knocks on the door tomorrow?  
Many girls in Thailand are in the same situation  
as Nam, On, Fo and B.  
Tomorrow, a new girl knocks on the door at  
Home of Grace.  
What has she experienced?  
What pain is she in?  
Help us to keep the door open!**

**By donating 1000 THB you keep the door open for one girl for 10 days.**

**Donate to Lutheran Christian foundation. Bangkok bank,  
Bangkok branch. A/C type "current" Account number: 179-4-61647-2**