



"It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from. Every child deserves a good beginning. This will give them the hope and confidence needed in their life"



Newsletter from the Lutheran Diakonia Department, June 2020

Lutheran Christian Foundation

Dear friends and supporters

Thank you for your support and participation in the work of the Lutheran Christian Foundation. Our foundation works to support people in need in Thailand, to give them hope and opportunity for a better life and future.

We send you our best wishes during the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. We hope you all stay healthy.

We pray to God to protect everyone to be safe from Covid-19.

We are very thankful for your support. Your support makes it possible for us to help Thai people in need.

If you want more information about our projects, please contact:

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Kind regards

*Nipaporn Kunaruk and Anne Storstein Haug,
on behalf of the Lutheran Diakonia department (LDD)*

During the last months, every country has been facing, and fighting Covid-19. Thailand is no exception. To prevent the spread of the pandemic, the Thai authorities decided that it should be state of emergency in Thailand. Many preventive measures have been taken, such as an injunction to wear a face mask in most places, measuring fever and washing hands with alcohol gel before entering shops, public buildings etc. Everyone must keep good distance to each other, and there is a curfew that prohibits everyone to leave the house between 22.00-04.00 hrs. There is also travel restrictions. Because of this the lifestyle and work of many people have changed, including ELCT and LDD staff. Most of the staff in ELCT/LDD have got their work and salary reduced from 100 percent to 75 percent.

In the end of March LDD had to temporarily close Home of Praise, our nursery in Klong Toey (Bangkok) and Immanuel hostel in Phibun (North East Thailand).

The only staff in LDD working full time are the staff in Home of Grace. Home of Grace is open all the time, and the staff need to be there to assist the women and babies. During Covid-19 the Home of Grace staff have taken many precautions to protect women and babies living at the center. The women living there cannot leave the property except for doctor appointments or giving birth. They need to wear face mask and wash their hands every time they leave Home of Grace. Visits from outside are limited, and social distance is a matter of course.

During the last two months, there have been 10 mothers-to-be who contacted Home of Grace to ask to stay there, unfortunately they could not come because of the authorities' restrictions. From June month, Home of Grace will again be able to welcome mothers-to-be, and they have already prepared a room for women to stay in quarantine for 14 days.



Many people in Thailand are facing a hard time now, and the need for help is big. LDD is taking part in helping people suffering in Thailand because of Covid-19.

LDD department has made face shields to donate to medical personnel and hospitals.



Staff in Home of Praise have raised money and donated useful items to Home of Praise's neighbourhood, and mediated contact between people who want to help the neighbourhood of Home of Praise and the community leader there.



Church District 1 (Bangkok) together with LDD have prepared 100 survival bags including food, face masks and washing gel. This will be distributed to people in need in the churches' neighbourhood. Similar survival bags will be distributed in other ELCT church districts as well.



Saturday Club



LDD supports five Saturday clubs in Nan and Chiang Rai (North Thailand). Every Saturday more than 100 children attend activities in one of the churches. The days are filled with a lot of fun and educational activities:

“Growing vegetables, grilling their own fish, playing with lego, making their own instruments, getting to know old stories and legends from their own tribe, learning to write their local language, felling proud

about belonging to a tribe. Be encouraged to speak up and express themselves, learn about their own rights, and learn about the importance of an education, get to know exciting Bible stories, and gain knowledge of the importance of taking care of the nature”.

In addition to this they get a healthy meal every time. Unfortunately, we had to temporarily close all our Saturday clubs in the end of March. They will open as soon as the situation allows it.

Home of Praise nursery and HOP Immanuel nursery

Home of Praise and HOP Immanuel are located in Klong Toey community. The nursery provides safe and loving care for underprivileged children aged 6 months to 4 years. The goal is to provide a holistic education and prepare the children for their start in the local preschool.



As mention before, the two nurseries have been temporarily closed since end of March. They will open again as soon as the authorities give permission to do so. The teachers are worried about the nursery children now. How are they doing when they cannot come to the nursery? Most of them live in small rooms together with their family. No space to run around and

play. What about food and milk? Many parents have lost their work because of Covid- 19. The teachers try to follow up the children by telephone calls, and if the situation allows it, they plan to visit all the nursery children in their home during next month.

From the coming school year, Hop Immanuel and Home of Praise will be merged together. Immanuel day care will be closed, and children and teachers will move to Home of Praise. At the moment, the teachers work together to prepare Home of Praise to welcome their children for the new school year.

Hope for Families



For the scholarship students in Hope for Families project the situation is uncertain. All the Thai schools are temporary closed, but hopefully they will be open again from 1. July. It depends on the situation. In meanwhile the authorities' offer online studies, so the children can prepare themselves for the day when the schools open as normal.

The Hope for Family committee, which are the committee that approve the scholarship applications, has not been able to have a meeting because of Covid-19. Temporary supports have already been provided to many applicants, so they can pay the necessary expenses for the coming school year.

Home of Grace- a place to stay for pregnant women in a difficult situation.

A story from Home of Grace:



"Bow is a 23 years old girl. She comes from the countryside, and is the oldest among four siblings. Her father died when she was 4 years old. Bow got a baby boy when she was 20 years old, but her husband abused her and she left him. Her son continued to stay with her ex-husband and his family. She started to sell food at the local market, but when her mum got a stroke and needed help, the money earned from the market

were not enough to pay the hospital bills, and Bow needed to borrow money to pay for her mother's treatment, and got a big debt. Bow was invited to the South of Thailand to work in a bar, they promised her a lot of money, and she accepted the offer. After a short time, she got pregnant, and lost her job. She did not know who the father of the child was. Bow contacted Home of Grace and ask for a place to stay, and to help her to give her baby away for adoption. But during her stay in Home of Grace she started to change her mind, and when her beautiful baby daughter was born it was impossible for Bow to give her baby away. Home of Grace helped her to contact Tamar center, which is run by a Christian Foundation who offer a new life to bar girls. The center was happy to welcome Bow, and she will go there to start a new life for herself and her baby girl as soon as the situation allows it. During her stay in Home of Grace Bow has shown interest in the Christian faith, and is today attending baptism lessons".



Because of Covid-19, Home of Grace make less income from sale of handicrafts to visitors, and from the temporary closure of secondhand sales. Therefore, Home of Grace has found other ways to make money/save money, like growing vegetables. Soon they will start with hydroponic farming projects as well.

During Covid- 19, many women in Thailand suffer. Who will knock on the door in Home of Grace? We don't know, but we know that many women in Thailand are in the same situation as Bow. Tomorrow, there might be a new woman who knocks on the door in 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.
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