

Judy's Jotting – March 2010

Hello again from a hot and sticky Thailand- to those of you in cold and wet Europe I hope you are now thawing out and seeing the wonder of Spring approaching.

I will try to keep this brief-but since January (oops!-so much for monthly jottings) a lot has happened.

February , as a month, seemed to disappear- but one of the nice things for me was a holiday in Vietnam for 10 days. I went with a friend and her daughter from Chiang Rai-and we travelled down from the north to the south. Fascinating country and well worth a visit. I returned rested and straight into a busy time at Hope Home and CAM. Before I leave Asia (no plans) I hope to make time to visit all the neighbouring countries.

CCT AIDS Ministry is now at its busiest time, for me, anyway-when most donors want their reports in-all wanting different formats and styles. I am increasing my time there as much as I can, just to keep on target. Also in April 3 of the staff and 2 young people from our projects are representing NGO AIDS work in a conference in Malaysia-much to prepare for this in terms of their presentations and power-points-all due there before the conference. It is a good opportunity for the young people though.

Sasikan-my foster girl now adopted- she is still doing well-had a gorgeous photo of her next to a snowman bigger than her! Her big brothers helped build it. She now has her visa to travel to the US later in May, and is scheduled to have corrective surgery there on May 24th. Hopefully this surgery will enable her to walk later. She will be 6 in April-my little girl grew up!

Foster care support-we continue to meet and support each other-there has been a shift recently of predominantly all boys, to more girls now. One of the new girls is with us at Hope Home-she is sort of based at my house, as well as Hope Home.

Hope Home- lots happening here. Chor, our manager has started exploring the options of respite care for families with disabled children and we are in the process of raising the funds to start this work. The preschool is continuing at Hope Home, and our staff are taking on the role of the teachers as from this week, since both teachers left for other commitments. We continue to have volunteers come and go-our lovely lass who was helping especially with the horse training side left to return to Canada-we hope she will come back soon! This week we have a physiotherapist coming to help for 3 weeks which will be a great help. Then in April a nurse student from the UK arrives for a month. We have been on a waiting list for 2 years for wheelchairs-then out of the blue last week we were asked to go and get them! So with 3 different children from our original requests (and measurements) and new children too- we headed off and spent a wonderful, but long, day with a great team from Wheels around the World (Joni Erikson)- and returned with 4 fantastic

wheelchairs. The children look great in them and so much better positioned. Our new girl was able to have a chair too-even though she is tiny! Lapat (Joy) is 21/2 years old, with a small head, cerebral palsy and undernourished. She came to us weighing 5.5kg only, unable to roll, sit ,move independently-but has the most gorgeous smile!!!! She is adorable-a month on, she is doing well, gaining weight, settling down with us all and getting lots of physio. She stayed with me for the first few weeks, and we are sort of attached to each other! – but I am trying to be sensible and ensure she settles with HH staff more. So midweek Joy is there, weekends she is with me-is a popular member of my biblestudy group and just loved by all at the international church. She has a family, who are at present unable to care for her, but have handed her over to become strong and well, and ready to return to the family when the time is right. We keep in regular contact with her family via an American missionary family who work with her particular tribal group. Finally- as has long been promised to the HH staff, we are all going away to the beach at the end of March-7 staff and 7 children-2 days travel, 2 days on the beach- a sort of holiday we hope, but my way of saying thanks to the dedicated staff of HH for all their love and care for all the children, and especially for the love they poured into Sasikan’s life.Also check out the BMS website-on the birthday scheme – we are featured there now.

So March will be a busy month for me, added into this I am also travelling south for 5 days to help translate for another organization in their final evaluation with donors. I have friends of my parents visiting just now-which is always a pleasure too, and in April we look forward to the Asia retreat for BMS personnel, being held here in Chiang Mai. I shall be ready for a rest by then !

Thank you for your patience and your prayers as ever-Judy



Lapat Joy



Lyndal,Lukgade and me in Hanoi



Wheelchairs at last