

August, 2016

# THAI LIGHTS

## Changing Faces and Lives Through Cleft Palate Operations

Before



After



In May and June, The Thai Christian Foundation through its Thai arm, The Pan Rak (Sharing Love) Foundation, assisted the YMCA Cleft Palate Program at Overbrook Hospital (Christian) in Chiang Rai to perform cleft palate operations for 34 Wa from Myanmar (Burma). Most were children.



The average cost of the operations was \$1200. Overbrook Hospital and volunteer doctors took care of half of the expense. The hospital performed the operations on faith that the Lord will provide the rest of the funds. The “Y” project paid for 14 and the Wa Christian Women’s group paid for 11. **Pan Rak raised \$600 per patient totaling \$7800 for 13 of these patients.**



### An Ongoing Project

There are 260 more Wa children with cleft palates and no one knows how many more in other ethnic groups in Burma. The YMCA said that their project was started to help the Thai. Now there are very few Thai, so they have reached out to help patients in Laos and Burma. We believe that diet has made a big difference in the cases of cleft palate as it has in children born deaf or blind. So this is a public health problem as well.

### Background:

The Wa are a large ethnic group in Myanmar. They were headhunters until 1979 when the Chinese Army pushed in to make them the Communist Army in Myanmar. The Wa obtained self rule in April 1989 and negotiated an autonomous region in Myanmar. To support themselves, they became the largest opium producers in Southeast Asia.

In the past 20 years since the Wa first asked our help, the Wa have made much progress in finding replacement crops. Because of border closure, we could only do a little, but in April 2016, Pan Rak representatives went to visit the Wa State area in Myanmar and saw no opium fields. Many are becoming Christian. Pan Rak has also been helping sick Wa come across the border to get treatment at Thai hospitals since they are poor and have very little health care in their area. Please pray for our efforts to help these isolated afflicted people.

**21 Weeks of School Evangelism by the CCI Team  
June – November, 2016  
About 50,000 students will be reached during these weeks.  
This year's theme is "HOPE."**



**Each day's program begins with singing many CCI original songs. There are testimonies and dramas with a short Gospel message afterwards,**



**The King of Nineveh repents in the elementary school version of a musical about Jonah**

**Day 4 A drama about hope for justice**

**There are usually 6 performances each day – three in the morning for middle and high school and three in the afternoon for elementary students. The dramas and messages are adapted to fit the different levels.**



**Teen Drama "On Line On Life"**

**Deeply involved**



**A Climactic Dance**

**Ending with prayer**

On the last day, an invitation is given to students in the upper grades to make a decision for Christ. Last year 3,654 students in 21 Schools and Payap University walked forward to make this decision. Younger children are invited to raise their hands and pray in their seats. The school chaplain and the Youth Dept. of the united church (CCT) do the follow-up. Please pray for the CCI Team and the follow-up.

**Please join us in our TCF Annual Meeting, Saturday Oct 1st. Call East Dallas Christian Church  
Phone: 214-824-8185 for reservations for lunch with program afterwards.**

Thank you for your prayers and support.

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