



# THAI LIGHTS

## Summer Camps for Youth



March 26 - 29, we arranged and helped lead a children's summer camp for 45 children from Thamanikom, Lawa and Lahu churches at David & Karen's "ranch". The theme was "Face to Faith", using the example of Jacob's life, his failures and successes as he lived a life of faith. The camp had many games, devotionals, bible studies, hikes and swimming. On the last night, we closed with a dedication and commitment service. Many of the children gave very positive testimonies about wanting to live a better life and build a stronger relationship with Christ.



There was a lot of fun performing dramas for each other



Enjoying worship and devotions at night



Small group Bible study in the morning



The youngest children presented their creations



Lots of group activities and games



Fun with water slides in the nice Thai weather

In May, before school started, we sent 10 of our Pa-Oh, Lawa and Thai young people to a 9 day camp led by Youth for Christ and the Prosperous Youth Foundation. The children testified that they made a deeper, personal commitment and learned how to encourage and build each other up. They also learned how present the gospel – initiate a relationship with someone engrossed with their cell phone and give them an opportunity to receive Christ. The Pa-Oh leader who went with them, said they all better understood how a Christian society should be. They broke in small groups to do evangelism and came back together for 3 days of evaluation. These small groups still keep in touch online for follow up.



### Thai New Year Water Festival (Dam Hua)

The Thai New Year is celebrated in April with a water festival. People come to give respect by pouring water over the hands of their elders. They ask for forgiveness for anything done wrong in the last year, and then they ask for a blessing. The Thai are secure enough to humble themselves and give honor to older people.



The Christian Communication Institute (CCI) came to our home to bless us



The president of Payap University leads students and faculty to bless and receive a blessing from retired teachers

### Thamanikom Church Expansion

On June 23, we celebrated the renovation and expansion of Thamanikom Church. This is the second expansion of the church since we retired here. The church now has 180 members – when we first moved here, there were 10 in regular attendance. The church has become multi ethnic with Thai, Chinese, Pa-Oh, Shan, Lahu, Lawa, Akha and American members. The moderator of the Church of Christ in Thailand, Rev. Dr. Taweesak , preached and gave a piano to the church.



Rev. Dr. Taweesak (center) leads the procession into the church



The church was overflowing and filled the tent we had set up outside



The Pa-Oh are new members of our church and they came dressed in their finest



The food was not only beautifully presented, but it was delicious too!

### Meeting with Wa Pastors

February 20, we met with Wa pastors from the Southern Wa Area in Myanmar to encourage and support each other in faith, witness and economic development with emphasis on coffee growing. We also gave out many many Bibles, that have now been distributed across the border.



Singing from the new Wa NT with hymnals



Pastor John arranged to have over 50,000 bibles taken across the border

Thank you for your prayers and support

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