

Working report, March 2009

Activities:

1st March: We bought 50 desks for the school, sponsored by the Rooftop Committee (30,000 Bhat) and other individual sponsors (7,500 Bhat).

10th March: We paid all the expenses for construction material due in February. The shop decided to donate 3 stone tables and seats for the school because the whole amount (127,204 Bhat) was paid at once.



18th March: The official Thai school requested us to have the student enrollment within the week they closed enrollment in order to 'catch up' the students who were too poor to attend regular Thai school. Therefore we decided to have a village meeting at the temple on the 18th. We started the day with a meeting with the abbot to update him on the recent changes and plan the village meeting the same evening. Over 60 villagers attended the meeting where we clearly informed them about the school and what we would offer the students. (A detailed meeting plan is available upon request)

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19th March: We started

student enrollment at 8 A.M. We received 24 children from the village and 17 young novices currently living in the temple.

20th March: We visited the homes of some students accepted in the school. We were also able to meet the poor Shan community in the village and explain further about the school. We also spoke with 3 women who can take turns cooking and buying food



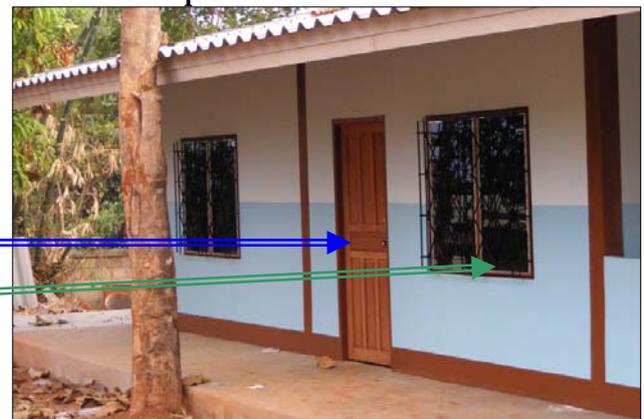
for the lunch meal at school.

22nd March: The school site was cleared and the building cleaned by the young novices at the temple.

23rd March: Windows and window bars were installed in the office/computer/storage room and the teachers' apartments.

24th March: Electricity wires, lights and fans were purchased in Chiang Mai (because it's cheaper than in Nong Ook)

25th March: Made price estimates for water pipe extension and water tank for the school building. A rough price estimate for additional soil for the property was made. We also designated an area for the school playground.





Problems/challenges/changes implementing the activities:

Student enrollment: Only poor Chinese families came to enroll their children on the official day for student enrollment.

However, these families are really poor and unable to send their children to the official Thai school. Another

challenge is the language barrier. The children's parents don't speak Shan or Thai, but we've managed to find translators from the Chinese community to help us. We



decided to visit the Shan communities in the village to talk with the families there. It was only then we were able to receive needy Shan children. The students we have received are a mixed group consisting of 9 girls and 30 boys. Among these are 9 Chinese children, 15 Shan children and 17 young novices from the temple. Their ages are 5-17 years old. Around 15 of the students accepted have never attended school due to poverty and the difficult situation along the border. Other families are so poor and desperate for income that they decide to send their children straight to work instead of studying in school. Many of the student's caregivers

are either too sick or too old to hold regular jobs. Three girls we received are orphans living with their grandmother. One Chinese woman is epileptic and unable to provide for her 2 children.

Some of the children wore clothes and sandals completely worn-out. We could really see that the families were poor and their children needed the schooling we wish to provide their children. We now have 39 students enrolled. However, due to the unstable border situation we can expect more families to arrive in Nong Ook during this year. Therefore we would like to reserve schooling for another 6 "emergency students."



We need to hire electricians to install the electric system. Please see price estimate at the end of this report.

Water pipe extension: We will buy the pipes necessary and extend the water to the school building (teachers' bathrooms) ourselves.

More soil is needed to fill out the school property to prevent it from sliding out during the rainy season. This is an unforeseen expense not included in the revised budget. We also want to create a playground area for the students. Please see price estimate at the



end of this report.





Update on the Shelter of Hope Orphanage

There are currently 7 boys (6 – 14 years old) in need of a home. They will be taken care of by Noom Hkurh and the abbot at the temple. Three of the girls we accepted at the school are orphans staying with their grandmother. However, the place there are currently living at, is out for sale, and they can end up homeless any time. We are considering hiring this grandmother to help cook the school meal and believe she can

take care of the girls in the orphanage. In addition to her 3 grandchildren, we feel she can look after 3 girls in the home. Due to the rapidly changing border situation we would also like to reserve a place in this home for 2 more “emergency girls.”

We would like to find a suitable house of the orphanage in April and have included the expenses needed in order to start renting and taking in children.

Plans for April:

- Please see the revised budget for the remaining expenses and activities for April. We will wait with school books until May as we’re still waiting to hear from Curriculum Project (they have agreed to help with English and Math books). This will be confirmed within the next weeks.
- Fill out the rest of the school property and prepare a playground. We are looking for ways to make this as cheap and yet good as possible. We already have wood, cement, sand and stones left over from the school building. It’s also possible for us to ask for free tires for the playground. We plan on getting the sponsors involved in completing this playground when they come in May for the opening ceremony. Please see attached photo/drawing for more details.
- 18th April: Meeting with the students’ caregivers to explain about student and school regulations.
- 27th April: Clear the school site with the students’ caregivers.



Budget for April, 2009

General expenses:

Details:

Costs:

Allowance, Noom Hkurh	5,000
Teacher’s books/curriculum resources	
Two movable whiteboards	5,000
Working desks and chairs for teachers	3,000
Bookshelves	6,000
Classroom dividers	6,000
Transportation	1,000
Administration (internet, phone)	1,000
Unforeseen expenses	3,000
Total expenses for March & April 2009	30,000 Bhat

Shelter of Hope Orphanage – First month

Details:

Costs:

Rental & deposit	5,000
House repairs	3,000
Food	3,000
Children's clothes	3,000
Mattresses, towels, blankets, pillows	10,000
Toiletries	1,000
Rice cooker, pots, pans, plates, cutlery	2,000
Unforeseen expenses	3,000
Total expenses, first month	30,000 Bhat

Water pipe extensions

Details:

Costs:

Water pipes	3,000
Water tanks	3,000
Water storage tanks for bathrooms	1,000
Total	7,000 Bhat

Soil to fill out the remaining school property (unforeseen):

Details:

Costs:

Allowances for building remaining stone wall	3,000
10 truck loads of soil	15,000
Food for the novices who will help clear the soil	1,500
Total	18,500 Bhat

Playground (optional):

Details:

Costs:

Oil pain for fence around the playground	1,000
Nails, ropes, knots and other tools	2,000
Total	3,000 Bhat

Total funding needed for April = 88,500 Bhat