



## Childlife Newsletter – Leader Youth Camp - part 2



We leave from Mae Sai around 11:00 am which is later than expected because we had to take Me Ooh to the hospital. She is looking a lot better from when we first saw her, she was only 6-kg and now she is 8-kg.

After taking Me Ooh to the hospital the children and I discuss our plan of action as per section 1. We are going to send some kids back home to Baanteudtai on the way to Maesalong hill, very close to the Myanmar border. It is 130-km away from Mae Sai. This is the first place for the youth leader group (Arho Yue Yue) to go to start learning how to keep data.



*We leave Maesai in our pick up truck which we are still trying to pay for in instalments. We are headed to Maesalong to visit the homes of 5 kids from Childlife.*



Baan Phanoil, once a hill tribe village far from the town, are mostly Ahka. Ahka are a minority in Thailand, although they are Thai citizens and have ID cards in. The village isn't very big, they have approximately 70 families and a nursery for the small children.

When we walked into the village two children caught my attention out of the corner of my eye. They were standing behind a tree and looking at me with big scared eyes. They looked frightened and as though they may start to cry. One of the boys was carrying a doll. I moved closer to him and asked if I could see his doll. "Oh no!" I thought and I called out to the Arho Yue Yue group to come and look at the old doll that was rotting. I told some kids to walk back to the truck to see if we had a new doll we could give the boy.

It turns out that we did have one and I tried to give it to the boy but he wouldn't take it. One of the Arho Yue Yue kids asked him why he didn't want the doll and the boy told me that his doll was given to him by his father two years ago when his father left to work in the town and never came home. He is still waiting for his daddy and is attached to the doll. His story made me feel bad and wonder about what happened to the little boy's father.



*Father of a child who stays at childlife making a fire to cook food.*

This village is has a very nice view and a spectacular landscape. A man told me in the winter season that they have Sakura Flowers all over the hill, even more than Doi Maesalong but there is not very much tourism. If you are interested it would be a very nice place to visit.

Everyone was hungry after spending some time in the village. We had bought some vegetables and meat on our way and some of our kids prepared a traditional Akha meal for lunch.



*A Bamboo woven pot to keep rice in.  
Our group is having an Akha style lunch.*



*After we finished lunch the kids learned a procedure from Kru Geh and Liana, a Canadian Volunteer, the kids start to gather data.*



Two children from Childlife, Arjah a boy who's 11, and his younger sister Ahsa who is 9 both stay at Childlife. The leader of their family passed away a few years ago and they stayed in a house with 5 people. They have a mother, a grandmother, and a little brother. The mother got seriously ill many years ago and can't work, she is very thin. The grandmother who is 69 years old works alone. She walks into the jungle everyday to look for vegetables to sell at the market. Sometimes if she is sick she cannot do her daily walk and that means that the family has nothing to eat.



On our caravan today we have Canadian volunteer Liana, she is 22 years old. She will volunteer with us for seven weeks and is with a Canadian organisation, Volunteer Abroad. She would like to make a few comments about our organisation

*"I have been here at Childlife for five days now and what I have seen is amazing and overwhelming. The lack of staff means that the current staff members are working around the clock, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The amount of caring and support that goes into running this organisation is unbelievable. Unfortunately the heart is there, but the money is not. The living conditions are not sanitary. The water tank at the shelter is broken so the dishes, clothes, everything, has to be washed in the lake. There is no electricity and the children have no playground or sports equipment and even if they did, there is no field or courts that sports could be played on. The kids are great; they have a lot of potential. The Arho Yeu Yeu group, as you have just read, are especially motivated, and if given the opportunity could excel at just about anything. Childlife is really struggling due to eight staff members having quit in the past two months. There are approximately 4 staff and 80 children. There are no professional psychologists or counsellors and no funds to hire them, but through all this Childlife has managed to survive through donations and amazing staff who literally dedicate their entire lives to the children."*



At the moment our activities have no support yet. We would like to request our friends help to support these activities .

Guljohn Jeamram - Childlife Director.

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