



Childlife Newsletter – A day



Yesterday I was very tired. I'm very busy and it's very difficult working with the street children. Last Night I slept in the First House office, because I had to prepare a proposal and write the newsletter. I'm going to bed very late every night and have to wake up very early.

I'm very busy looking after the guests who are coming to visit Childlife - negotiating with them confuses me. Today I had two appointments. The first was a network meeting of with NCWSS (Network of Women and Children under the same Sky). We are trying to organize a meeting of all the pastors of the Chiangrai Province in order to co-ordinate a co-operation against human trafficking. The second was an appointment at the Drop In Myanmar to look after a case.

Just before I left I was very busy. When I checked my bag before I left the house, I noticed, that out of 1100 Baht there were only 1000 Baht left in my wallet. The 8 year old boy Musi Yah who used to beg on the bridge and who first came to Childlife one month ago, had stolen the money. I don't feel angry, because as I am working with street children, I can't avoid it to happen.



Musi Yah, 8 year old, Lahui minority. He speaks Thai ,Myanmar ,Ahka , Lahu and Chinese .

At around 4.30 pm I arrived in the Drop In Center Myanmar, one of our projects which aims to prevent the children from begging on the bridge and to educate both children and adults. Walking around in the community I met Musi Yah, inhaling glue. He didn't see me. He looked pale. I felt very sad.

The mother of Musi Yah died a few years ago. His father is addicted to drugs like amphetamines opium and alcohol. Musi Yah smokes cigarettes, inhales glue and lives as a street kid in the streets of Maesai. He's often afraid to go back home, because if he doesn't bring money for his father, his father beats him up. He never went to school, never studied with pen and paper. He doesn't want to go to school. It's very difficult for us to explain to him, how fantastic life can be. He can't imagine.



Musi Yah at the border, drunk from glue. Now he stays in the first house. We are trying to give him special treatment and change his behaviour. The next step we hope to do is sent him to school.

Our case worker informed me that two months ago there were violent attacks against children in the streets of Maesai. The military at the border threatened the children with guns and chased them into the Maesai river. The neighbours who watched the scene saved the kids just before they drowned and brought them to hospital.

These kind of attacks occur quite frequently.

After that the case worker brought me to one of the huts. He told me that a five-year-old kid is staying in this hut. The mother died a few days ago and the father died last year. "It makes me so sad to hear things like this" I think to myself, "but not too much. I've been working for many years with cases like this and I've seen a lot of terrible suffering."

We were standing in front the house when I heard someone softly crying. I stepped into the house. Oh god! What I saw let my heart fell to the ground! What happened to that girl? She's just one and a half years old and is so thin and weak - just skin and bones.

The people told me that her name is Mee Ooh, and that she has four sisters and one brother. Out of the six children only Mee Ooh is has Aids. Her father went to work in Bangkok three years ago. When he came back, his wife gave birth to Mee Ooh, infected.



One and half year old Mee Ooh has Hiv/Aids from her father.

This family is so poor that they don't even have enough rice to eat. The parents couldn't work for a long time because they were so sick. We tried to help the family by inviting them to eat every day at the Drop In Center. The mother of Mee Ooh used to feed her baby with breast milk. Now she's dead. As there is no proper nutrition available for Mee Ooh, her health is getting worse and worse every day. She cried the whole the time while I was taking pictures.



The five children are staying by their own, learning how survive by themselves.

We will try to help her as soon as possible and do what we can. We will bring her to the hospital and get her some proper nutrition, in the hope that she will have a chance to open her eyes to the beauty of the world.

If you know any way how to help her, please contact us.

All the best to you

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