

HOPE IS LIFE FOUNDATION – STATUS REPORT – YEAR END 2008

Providing Hope for Children in Cambodia:

After enduring nearly three decades of brutal warfare and the genocidal Khmer Rouge regime, **Cambodia** still remains one of the poorest countries in the world. Today, of Cambodia's estimated 14 million people, nearly 42% live on less than 50 U.S. cents a day. Low spending on education perpetuates poverty, as children of poor families are forced to drop out of school – making it harder for them to access opportunities as adults. In order to facilitate social transformation of communities suffered after years of war and to assist poor children in their education and health programs, *Hope is Life Foundation* has initiated a project to build community learning centers in remote villages in Cambodia. The Foundation is also providing scholarships for children to continue their education. Next center will be completed before end December 2008.



HIV/AIDS-Infected Children in Vietnam Receive Care and Hope:

Asia is confronting a complex and devastating HIV/AIDS epidemic. Many countries including **Vietnam** appear to be on the edge of a devastating AIDS epidemic. Migrant workers spend long periods of time away from home and frequently visit sex workers, then return home to infect their spouses, who in turn, pass the virus to their unborn children. *Hope is Life Foundation* is working with HIV/AIDS PLW/Vietnam group to assist children as young as four months old who are infected with HIV/AIDS to provide welfare and education. Currently, more than 40 children, mostly under the age of ten, are living at the orphanage.



Children's School Receives Electricity:

Karen hill tribes migrated to **Thailand** from Burma and now live on the western part of Northern Thailand. They number about 300,000, and live in isolated settlements in northern Thailand. A small village school is now serving about 23 Karen children who come from poor families and cannot afford to send their children to public school. The children spend the entire day at the school while both parents work in the field. The village is called Ban Theen Pa. *Hope is Life Foundation* now help provides electricity to improve the living conditions at the school for the children.



Teenage Girls Fulfill Their Dreams:

Girls in some countries are getting a raw deal. They face gender discrimination, and in some areas, are forced to stay home and work and remain at the bottom of the social and economic ladder. In an orphanage managed by the All Bengal Women's Union in Kolkata, the City of Joy, in the state of West Bengal, **India**, *Hope is Life Foundation* is providing hope for many of these teenage girls. The girls were abused by their parents, rescued from the streets or sold by their grandparents. All wanted to continue their education, and all had dreams to become someone in their life. *Hope is Life Foundation* currently provides scholarship for the girls to attend school and fulfill their dreams.

Abused Children in Nigeria Receive Help: In the town of Esit Eket, on the southern edge of West Africa, **Nigeria**, hundreds of children are abused, poisoned and chained to trees by their own parents. These children are accused of being plagued by witchcraft, which is seen to cause anything from disease to divorce. A local by the name of Sam Ikpe-Itauma has opened his small cottage to house nearly 130 children whom he has rescued from the streets. *Hope is Life Foundation* is collaborating with *Stepping Stones Nigeria* in their effort to provide learning skills that they will need to successfully integrate back into the wider society in the years to come.



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Village Children in India Receive Help: *Hope is Life Foundation* provides scholarships to many children in a remote village called Kattavali in the state of Maharashtra, **India**, to attend school. Most of the villagers earn less than a dollar a day and prefer to keep the girls home to attend to the chores and help in the farm. *Hope is Life Foundation* has opened a library in the village school, provided educational materials and text books in local language to the entire school and monitors the progress of the students with the help of the village council.



Opening more libraries: As part of Project Book Angels, we continue to open libraries in Children Learning Centers in impoverished areas of Thailand. During the past, we used to ship books from Rochester, New York, as part of the *Project Book Angels*. Now we conduct local book drives and purchase books locally to start libraries. Here is a picture taken during one of the opening of libraries.

Provide Scholarships for Tsunami Children: More than six hundred *Anganwadis* (day-care centers) in the southern part of India were destroyed by the tsunami in the southern part of India. The Foundation helped in the repairs of some of the buildings. Each day care center received educational materials, children books and toys. The care takers of the center were trained on health care. In other coastal areas in Sri Lanka, several hundred school children who were affected by the tsunami received school bags, text books and other educational materials from the Foundation. Hundreds of fishermen families received hurricane lamps. Our goal was to continue to help them resume their life they had before the tsunami and encourage them to stay in school.



Learning Centers in Villages Receive Educational

Materials: Several village centers in India, especially along the coastal areas and in the state of Maharashtra received educational materials and local text books to encourage villagers to send their children to receive early education. The *Foundation* provides storage trunks with educational materials including puzzles, wooden games, picture books in English and the local language (Marathi) to the day care centers. After providing the materials, the *Foundation* trains the teachers on how to use the materials and monitors their progress. We have plans to continue this support to village schools in other parts of Asia

Other major projects include, building playgrounds for under privileged children, Assist children who lost parents in cyclone in Burma and provide scholarships for children in garbage dump areas, provide drinking water facilities to Karen tribe children along the Burmese border

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