



Slum area from back of Day Care balcony

As many of you may remember a mission team from Island Lutheran went to Thailand in October of 2008. One of the ministries we visited during our trip was the Concordia Day Care Center in Bang Na, a slum area of Bangkok.

There has been a serious fire in the slum community next to the Day Care Center in Bang Na. The devastating fire occurred on Wednesday February 10th. Twenty homes were destroyed and twenty-six families were affected by the fire including many children who regularly attend the center.



Fire damage area of slums

The Concordia Day Care Center is a child care center for at-risk children in the slum community near the Bang Na Expressway in Bangkok. The community consists of approximately 220 homes and more than 1,000 people.

The reality in the daily life for these slum residents is a life spent on the edge of complete despair. Every day is a struggle to survive and to just be able to put food on the table; there is no time to think of the future. The condition for slum residents is one of ongoing frustration, pressure, and stress. These factors all lead to an urgent need to care for the children in the community, as providing adequate child care is just one of many frustrations when families are living in such poverty. Many of the children are simply left to their own devices as they receive little or no attention and rarely if ever have the opportunity to experience a positive and nurturing environment.

The Concordia Day Care Center recognizes this and is meeting an important need of the area and has found this as a way to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Thai people of the slums. The center has reached out to the community in providing a safe and nurturing environment for the young children; the care provided emphasizes activities which promote the development and growth of the children in the following areas: health and nutrition, knowledge and intelligence, and character and morals through regular Bible teaching and with an emphasis on Christian living. It is a center where children are able to receive the care they require as well as prepare to attend elementary school and one day become productive members of society and to break the cycle of the slum living.



Fire damage area near Day Care

As important a mission as the Day Care is, the LCMS World Mission can no longer solely fund the daily operations of the Day Care. At the end of June this year, the center will lose all LCMS world mission funding. The total operational costs of the center each year (including the staffing of 4 full-time teachers) is less than what we budget in our own church for electricity, cleaning and general maintenance of our building. Is there enough interest and support by our members of Island Lutheran to “adopt” or aid this ministry which touches so many little children and their families with the Gospel of Jesus Christ in a Buddhist nation? Pray about it. Discuss it at your bible study groups. If you feel so guided to help, let one of the elders know of your interest and support so that a coordinated effort can be done as soon as possible to keep the Day Care open.



“Mon” at fire and when she helped us paint