

A-je and Nancy's Prayer Letter #105 April 24, 2012

Men's Retreat

Watching leaders lead is one of the most thrilling experiences in church ministry, and a healthy church is vitalized by men leading men. At the 2012 Akha Outreach Men's Retreat in Dama Gawjaw Akha village in Doi Maesalong, we were proud to witness as multiple Akha Outreach church leaders organized, taught and ministered to one another. For years we have struggled to see male leaders emerging from within our churches.

As our staff have invested in relationships with the pastors who attend our monthly training times, those relationships have grown include many lay-leaders who are now also joining us monthly and who are stepping into key leadership positions in their church. Because of this growth, this year's retreat drew many emerging leaders and was completely organized and run by our church board and pastors. And we had a great time. One of our games was impersonating a chicken (watch a clip: <http://youtu.be/n4filWlV53Q>). We appreciate your continued prayers for strong male Akha leaders.



Youth Camp

Two weeks ago, nearly 90 campers and 30 student leaders gathered at House of Joy for our eight annual youth camp. Ranging in age from 10 to 18, the campers hailed from the 17 villages within our church planting group as well as our own House of Joy kids. Everyone was especially happy to see 6 boys and 6 girls from Hoi Taht, the village that just decided to follow Christ this past July. Many of these young people were recently baptized in the river near Hoi Taht and they were so eager to learn more. Their enthusiasm was contagious and everyone really got into the games and activities. This year's theme was "The Good Life," and the teachings explored the lives of Moses, Daniel, David and Joseph. One of the student leaders said she felt it wasn't



coincidence that she ended up in Group Moses just when God was teaching her about humility. Other student leaders echoed her sentiment - God was doing something in them deeper than mere camp activities. It's exciting to see His work among this next generation of Akha leaders.



After three days full of worship, teaching, comedy routines, water fights, and crazy fashion shows, we had a time for testimonies. One young man got up and shared about how he has desired to study the Bible since last year but had to stay home to help provide for his younger siblings. This year, however, he is free and he's coming! Another young lady said she's been planning to come for years. So that they wouldn't have to make an extra trip down to the city, our staff interviewed prospective Bible students during the camp. It's true that many of our Bible school students were first campers.

This fact encourages us to keep running with this camp, to keep planting the seeds and stirring a hunger for God in these young people. Thank you for all your prayers for the camp and for the future of the Akha church. God is moving! Watch video collage of the camp here: <http://youtu.be/gHoMg2x5paw>.

Twenty New Kids

On April 30, House of Joy will receive 20 new children. This is more than we've taken in many years, but we feel that God has provided enough new staff to do so. However, almost all of the kids still needs sponsors so if you or anyone you know may be interested, please visit akhaoutreach.org/sponsor or email us for more information. They will arrive nearly two weeks before the beginning of the school term to brush up on Thai language and math skills before going to school in the city. There is a vast discrepancy between the quality of village schools and city schools; so we feel that a confidence-booster is in order. Please pray for wisdom for our staff as they kick off the school year in our absence. And pray for peace & purity for all our kids/teens during the rest of the break - that God keeps them in the center of His will and that they resist the temptation to conform to the world's standards - especially difficult for first-generation Christians with such painful pasts.



Ya-zi, one of the children we're taking in this year, in front of his father's village home.

Another Colorado Gathering

It was great to touch base with many of you this past Saturday at Faith Bible Chapel. If you didn't make it then (or just want to see our lovely faces again ☺) please join us on **May 5th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.** Aje and I will be sharing at another gathering at Jan Satterfield's home (751 S. Race Street, Denver CO, 80209-4606). We hope those of you in the Denver area can make it, and please bring family and friends who might be interested in hearing about the ministry.

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Joyfully, Nancy

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