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Life Development Center Newsletter



In this issue you will learn more details about our perspectives and the ministries;

Such as;

- **The situations we are encountering**
- **Our perspectives**
- **The progressive of the ministries**
- **The events that happened in the past three months**
- **Future plans**



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This is our second newsletter I would like to start with express our appreciation to all friends and sponsors. We always realized that we survived to this moment because of your supports, God has demonstrates his loves and cares for us by strengthening, protecting and providing necessary things through his people that made us survived and be able maintain the ministries he has entrusted us. We are very grateful to him and sincerely appreciated for all your supports

Due to limitation of resources we can not maintain all ministries we had initiated we must be wise God's stewardship. We are very concerned and wisely used the resources that God provided us for the most cost effective and productive ways. This year we focusing on establishing economy sustainable projects, some community groups we supported for many years are strong and accessed to government funds but ourselves are nothing, receiving support from outsource are also no longer available. Therefore, we extremely need some incomes generation projects for maintaining qualifies staffs and the ministries. We are starting doing organic farming and ecotourism projects but due to global economy crisis not many tourists, agriculture products' price also very cheap therefore, we pray to God seeking his provisions for having a multi purpose building with a very good location in Chiang Mai for opening charity shop, organic and community products distribution market as well as LDC office. We have been praying and seeking God's provisions for over a decade but still don't have any hope yet.

We are taking very effort to assist vulnerable and underprivileged people have development opportunities and improving their living conditions but we also needs secure support and economy sustainable projects to make us survive and be able continue assisting our people so please remember us in your prayers. Developing people and projects we are very concerned about social engagement or beneficiaries' involvement, to make sustainable development projects we have to build up an ownership and responsibility of beneficiaries. Therefore, we are encouraging and enlisting villagers and community groups involved in projects implementation, we mobilize by community based organizations (CBOs.) and local Christian churches (FBOs.) We provide various of development training programs, provide technical and financial supports to them for conducting alternative development projects, local churches development projects, community health care promotion projects, social and environment solution projects. Currently four women's groups, twelve local Christian churches and three villages are actively involved. We hope that they can be change agents among their communities. Especially local Christian churches we would like them to demonstrate invisible God's loves and his cares to be visible and tangible loves and cares among societies. We need your supports, any recommendations or assistance you could provide us would be greatly appreciated. We can not achieve these goals without your support.

Learning by doing

Learning is never end, the more we do the more we learned, working with people is very challenges, life is paradox what we learned, what we perceived, what we expected and what we gained are different in many ways. Christians are being taught and nurtured to be the light and the salt of the world, these two things are different; the salt is a visible and tangible substance that we can taste and use for many purposes, but the light is abstract and intangible but its virtue for all living creatures. As Christian we have to be very concern about these two examples, many Christians are focus only on spiritual world and needs and living as idealism or imaginative world while many Christians are concentrating on physical world and needs. But this bible word obviously demonstrates that we must keep our lives balancing. We must live in a real world and situations not dream world or imaginative world.

In Thailand especially among tribal people we've learned a lots of scriptures from



evangelists and missionaries, Christians have been taught and nurtured by the words of God that made many Christian living

in imaginative world not realistic world, unconsciously a lot of Christians isolated from community and society, too much bible teaching without practicing promotion became idealism and trash information especially for those who don't have formal education they don't know about information management systems and knowledge management systems. Some scholars said "having huge of information is not knowledge, having numerous knowledge is not wisdom" Which we can interpret that giving too much information about the scriptures without having practicing and information management skills it can be trash information for them and made them perplexing. I myself also feel like that.

There are so many thing need to be done but we don't do, we just keep teaching and giving information to the people, people can not taste or touch about what Christians teachings, why don't we promote practicing instead of teaching? Why don't we make invisible and intangible God's loves and cares to be visible and tangible loves and cares that people can touch and feel?

In Thailand Christian Churches have much



not influence or impacts to community and society, they are isolated from the society, even among Christian themselves,

divisions and adhering on denominations/groups are occurring everywhere. Some time our local people don't know how to behave. If Christians keep doing like this the salt and the light of the world are never come true. In deed Christian should be the first group to play a major role in all areas of solving social and environment problems, loving people, caring people and helping people.

The church also must have integral missions, which focus on speaking and living out our faith in an undivided way, in all aspects of life. The church should be God's transformation agents that demonstrate his invisible and intangible loves and cares to be visible and tangible loves and cares. I personally believed that Christians must have a very good living standard on the earth because we are the son of God and he promises to give heavenly kingdom to his people. I was wondering that most of Christians are poor while the father is a millionaire.

We are taking very effort to encouraging and rising up local Christian churches from ignoring and



sleeping. We assist them and enable them to demonstrate God's invisible and intangible loves and cares to be visible and tangible loves and cares that people can see and feel, the church leaders must be alert and self motivate for church development and self development to be able to stand on their own feet and impacts to societies in all areas of life. The church must be the first place where problematic people will recognize and comes to. The local church must be aware and taking action to be self-supported church and self-ministering church, the church must be evangelizing and global mission center, mission organizations also must help local church to achieve the goals.

The Life Development Center is a local Christian non-profit organization that very concerned about being self-reliance and self-ministering of local Churches, in addition, the church must impacts to community and society in all areas of the problems. But due to limitation of education, poverty and dominating by hegemonic cultures our local Christian church leaders are very weak and not be able to think and to act to be self-support and self-ministering church. We are



working closely side by side with them for building up self-esteem, self-confidence, competency and courage. Twelve local Christian churches leaders and four women's groups are actively involving in self-development and church development process, but since they have been dominated and being treated as passive for over twenty years it has very difficult to change or improve. However, LDC has been assisting and leading them for improving leadership skills, practicing social accountability/public mind for five years have learned that they are improving gradually, yet they still needs support from us and you too. To achieve

the mile stones we need your supports, pray for us and if you would like to make God invisible and intangible loves and cares to be visible and tangible loves and cares by contribute yourself or means please to do so.

To improve their competency and public mind LDC has creates opportunities for practicing philanthropy, self development, and enable supportive communication and development environment with different forms such as, we encourage and enlist them participate in outreach



programs 3-4 times a year, LDC is also provides capacity building training, workshops, seminars, as well as committee members' meetings and their projects



activities. Last July 14-20'2009 ten of local church leaders, 13 denies volunteers and 30 community volunteers

have done outreach together at Karen and Lisu villages by constructing drinking water supply systems, forest conservation projects and organic farming project, we hope this practicing will help improve their public mind and social accountability. On September 1-4'2009 we provide network development and local church development plans workshop at Lisu village

The Life Development Center is also helping four women's groups in Maehongsopn province, we have been assisting them for many years and now some of them are strong enough to stand on their own feet, they are recognized by government officers and able access to government funds but some of them still needs our help especially for those who reside in remote areas, don't have Thai citizenship and don't understand Thai.

LDC has been supporting these women groups' meetings and capacity building activities for several years but in the past four years LDC was facing financial difficulty situation that made us unable to support them.

LDC is also encouraging and enlisting them involving in social and environment problems solutions by doing outreach together 3-4 times a year and

contributes some financial support for social and environment problems



solutions projects. Many of them are still keep doing handicraft projects, saving projects. They are becoming change agent in different communities we would like continue to support them until they can be their own way. If any one has heart for this project please feel free to support

By supporting the church from Norway day care center project at Banmai Lisu village in Pai area is still running properly, 25-30 kids are attending daily, this project is huge benefiting to community people, many illegal migrants children's are attending this project. Fellowship church from Norway has been supporting this project for many years,



we are greatly appreciated. If any one would like to share the church's burden we are very welcome.

After a long trial of serving the Lord for fifteen years LDC has comes to a very challenging situation now. We now has to make a decision to keep continue God's ministries that God has entrusted us or to quit because of financial problem, some said if God has entrusted us to do his works he will provides what we needs but



there are many paradox in the realistic world. There is a word said "Without God we can do nothing, and without us God

do nothing as well". God is working through his people so let God works through your life, we need your support either by prayer support, encouragement words support, self contribution or by financial support. Let us love each other by act not only by word 1 John 3:17-18 said "If we are rich and see others need, yet close our hearts against them, how can we claim that we love God? My children, our love should not just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action".

Up coming events

Establishing LDC incomes generation projects and community groups development and empowerment projects should be go along together, as I mentioned earlier that we are starting doing organic farming and ecotourism projects in Chiangdao area, this project is mainly focusing on creating environmental friendly incomes generation projects for villagers and LDC. In this farming area 20-25 kinds of organic products will make available to serve visitors all year around. Camping area, accommodations and conference facilities are also make available for the visitors. We will also start multi-purpose service center in Chiang Mai as soon as funded. CBOs. and FBOs' development activities also will be carried out simultaneously in different areas; October'2009 offering and environment conservation workshops will be take place at Banmai Lisu village for 4 days, local church leaders' retreat will be held in November 2009, February 2010 there will be mission leaders and local church leaders seminar will be take place in Chiang Mai city for two days. Local church leaders meetings and outreaches programs also continually carried out throughout the year in different communities.

