

Akha Orphans

In June 17-27, 2002, a large group of young people based in Arvada, Colorado, went to Chiang Rai, Thailand, to help build a concrete pad for a basketball court for Akha orphans, a minority tribe in Thailand and socially near the bottom of society. The people mostly were from Faith Bible Chapel, Faith Christian Academy, and Faith Bible College.



We flew in this 747 across the Pacific.

It was rainy at the Narita airport in Japan



A rain shower near Chiang Rai, Thailand



Orphanage buildings and work area

Then the work begins.



Lunch break



Smoothing the concrete



Sand crew, includes the Akha children



Rock crew, working together



Progress



We Americans were housed here.



Relaxation



Akha boy's orphanage: House of Joy



Sunday worship gathering



We had a side trip to the KhunKhon Waterfall.



Many enjoyed the pool at the base of the waterfall. The tropical vegetation variety was also special.



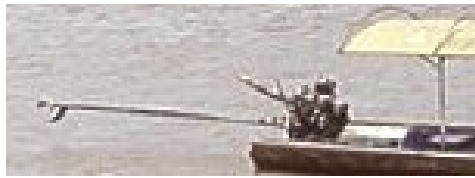


Ready to go back to the orphanage

Left - Nancy, Right - Aje; leaders

Nancy, originally from Arvada, Colorado, married Aje, an Akha leader and highly trained pastor. Together they run the orphanage.

Another day we went upstream in “long-tailed” boats to a village of the minority Karen tribe. These boats are needed in shallow water. The motor shaft to the propellor cannot be vertical. Instead it is very long and nearly horizontal. The expert operator can swing the shaft and propellor side to side above the water and dip it a little into the water to give the boat a push or steer it in a different direction.



Going upstream by a hill

Going around a bend in the river

Arrival at Karen village, with elephants





Karen village sign, elephant camp



Akha village buildings



Bamboo walls, thatched roof



Exploring Akha village



Gathering for a baptism



Music for ceremony



The baptism



Distributing gifts to Akha orphans



Received



received



Temporary boy's dormitory



Final game on wet concrete pad



American team departing for airport