



ANNUAL 2013 NARRATIVE REPORT

Together with our financial report, I would like to write to explain what we did this year in regards to our work with children and various building projects and farm work. We spent over 5 million Baht more than we took in, but we will not have construction expenses this year, and many of our regular repairs are finished. Some building will go on at the farm, but nothing big and those expenses are already to be covered by grants from Europe.

Two Redemptorist Brothers joined Fr. Ole and I within the past two years. Brother Keng was here last year, but had health issues. He had his stomach stapled in the fall of 2013, and has lost a lot of weight, and he keeps his diet faithfully. He has a degree in counseling and is of great value with dealing with some of our disturbed kids. Bro. Dtic also joined us in late summer, and stays with the two houses of boys in Pai Si Tong, and is in charge of the farm.

Thanks to interested people and some generous donations, we now raise pigs, and butcher a pig a week. We are increasing our flock of chickens, and our fish ponds are stocked heavily with fish. Our young lads dragnet the ponds periodically, to catch the big fish who tend to eat little fish. We also have had great success with our fertilizer project. We harvested enough rice for the whole year, feeding both kids and staff, plus people in our Outreach Program. I moved our rice mill from a 16 rai plot to the same building we store our fertilizer and machines. This building has three phase electricity and also a two phase surge, so the motor runs the mill much more efficiently.

We have 15 head of cattle, which is about our limit, considering the paucity of pasture for the beasts. Our cattle are Bramhin beef; not milk cows. We are re-finishing the herd now; selling off young bulls to farmers for breeding purposes and buying young heifers. One cow died giving birth, and a village lady took the heifer calf, named "Dumbo" for her big long ears. Dumbo was milk fed from a big milk bottle bought at Farm and Fleet by a cousin. Dumbo is nearly 6 months old, but still bellows for her milk fix. Now, in January, we are planting corn and soy beans, and hope to make our own pig and cattle feed, using our new hammer mill. We still have lots of water in our two retaining ponds, and will pump that water on the corn and soybeans. In February, an Irish Redemptorist is going to visit our farming project, to give us some ideas and possible help to make our project more of a success.

Our Construction crews were hard at work since the beginning of the year. Two more bedrooms were added on the priests' house; plus a two-truck garage and a chapel. Fr. Ole designed the chapel, and it is nice and simple. It has a Gaelic cross from Limerick, Ireland, and a Green Bay Packer altar cloth from a priest classmate of Fr. Shea. (The cloth did not help the Packers much!). A crew was hard at work at our field house for boys who won't be leaving us. Some of these kids have mental development problems, and would not work out in society. They would wind up in slave-like conditions, and I feel responsible for them. They can stay in a dorm-like atmosphere and work on the farm and get paid. This building, the Gary & Janet Smith Building (named after the same people who donated our lovely Joseph & Mary Hall), opened in early December, when about 20 people