



The Lord sent us a wee girl named Nuna, four years old, crippled, mute, and blinded by AIDS. She also has cerebral palsy like complications. Nuna was abandoned by her father, who took off with another woman after the mother died. Nuna's sister, four years her senior, stayed to take care of helpless Nuna. The Khonkaen Welfare department found both girls in deplorable conditions, with Nuna's sister unable to attend school, so as to care for Nuna and beg for food. The older sister is now in school, thanks to the Welfare department. Nuna is with us; very well cared for by our housemother from the House of Hope, Miss Peh. Nuna will be a blessing for Sarnelli House.

Brother Keng has joined our nurse, Kate Introna, in running our Outreach Program. The Outreach program now has 66 children that we help with tuition, school uniforms and other expenses, plus, of course, medicine for those with AIDS. The number of families we help each week with rice, cooking oil, eggs and dried fish and meat is down to 12 families. Many of the families we helped have their disease under control and have began working again. We have over 40 families who come to our clinic in Don Wai, each Friday. We also pick up new sick along the way. Usually, though, people who have recovered from the initial illness caused by AIDS, will move to another part of the country, usually the Bangkok area, to work in factories. No one knows them there, and neither do they know these folk have AIDS.

For a while, we did not take in any new children. Recently, we picked up a little 2-year-old girl, given us by the Welfare department. Kingkaew had been badly beaten by her mother, who obviously has mental problems. She broke Kingkaew's leg; injured her spine and hit her severely around the head. Kingkaew was frightened and timid at first, but now has fit right in. She is a happy little girl, and quite polite! Earlier, we received two junior high school girls from the Loei province. They did not know each other before, but now are like sisters. Lovely girls. One girl also has a harelip that was poorly repaired. We will find money for a further surgery.

We recently were asked to take an 18 year old girl from Nakhonpanom province, east of here. Her folks died of AIDS, and she was taken by her uncle's family. When she was discovered to have HIV at the age of two, they dumped her with the Welfare department. The Welfare people sent her to the Northeast Girls' orphanage, south of Udorn. She had been there for over 15 years, and she had been kicked and beaten by the staff. Dr. Pope, from the Srinakarin University hospital, was treating her for AIDS, and saw the bruises and dried blood. He is a great doctor, and when he asked me to take her, I felt obliged, although we usually only take babies and children. She is a very nice looking girl; kind of dejected and sad looking at first. Now she is happy and talking and is now in school, with her friends. On December 12, we also received an 18 year old girl, who looks 14. She is from Pattaya, and has a bad case of AIDS, and is getting special treatment.

I also met a University girl, who is 8 months pregnant, and we will take her baby when it is born, and the girl can finish her studies and get on with her life. She was the victim of a date rape drug. She is a really nice kid; 19 years old. Better to help her financially and take the baby, than have it aborted.