

New Life Church Update

New Life Ministry continues to expand and mature. We are always struck by how much ministry pastor Phonh is called to do and by how many volunteers provide so much ministry as well. We thank the Lord for this evidence of his presence.

Highlights of New Life Activities:

1. Our youth group continues to grow under the leadership of Chao and MaiYer Khang, the youth directors. There is a well attended weekly bible study at the Khang home, and individual students are now going to the Khang sisters for counseling and guidance concerning personal issues they are facing. A real sense of community has developed and we thank God for the strong commitment Chao and MaiYer have made to this ministry. Chao and MaiYer also direct Sunday School activities and the music ministry each Sunday.
2. Ken Xayabout, a member who assists Phonh in much of his work, has started a boy's soccer team. It was quite an expensive undertaking to outfit over 40 boys who came out to play, but New Life and Faith did several fund raisers to bring in needed funds. This became a wonderful entry point into the lives of many young men who are now members of New Life.
3. Due to the tremendous response of the youth initiatives, it was necessary for the New Life Advisory Team to set a goal of \$20,000.00 for fundraising in our 2010 budget. We have already begun the process of planning events and writing grants to raise these funds.
4. Phonh and Sommai took a six week trip to Thailand. Most of the time was spent on mission work in Thailand, however, they were able to visit Laos for one day. While they were away, Ken Xayabout and the Khang sisters took the helm at New Life.
5. As seen from the prayer requests, Phonh continues to spend much of his time counseling Karen refugees who struggle with the impact of living in a new country with limited English, limited employment opportunities and stressed families and marriages. We thank God for Phonh and Sommai's gifts in this area.
6. Joining forces with Bonnie Smith and Starfish Ministries has been a wonderful blessing. Bonnie managed to find a space to rent in Gustavus Adolphus Church, only one mile from the area where most of the Karen members live. We are now using that space to do weekly tutoring for almost 30 Karen students and will eventually move many of the youth group programs to that facility as well. The proximity of this space makes it much easier to transport all who wish to attend these activities. Phonh's office and weekly worship will remain at Faith.
7. We are working with Hmong American Partnership in St. Paul to teach ESL to Karen adults. Members of Faith Church travel to HAP four nights a week to tutor eager adults. This ministry may move to Gustavus Adolphus as well in the near future.

Since I am currently in Florida without my NL folders and my computer is at Best Buy getting fixed, I am working from memory on all of the wonderful things happening at New Life. But I can tell you with certainty, that it is truly God's hand at work as we watch this congregation and its many ministries continue to grow. Faith Church and New Life Church have a wonderful relationship ...we are a blessing to each other.

Shelley Freeman/New Life Advisory Team Chair