

SAIYARAK GROUP

AIDS support - Pua, Northern Thailand

Praising the ongoing support of Saiyarak with the help of CAM

Saiyarak is blessed to be assisted in Thailand by Church of Christ in Thailand AIDS Ministry (CAM). The wonderful support they offer in assisting the partnership between CoroUniting and Saiyarak is extremely valuable. The Staff also make regular trips throughout the year to visit the Saiyarak group, offering Christian support and HIV/AIDS health information that may help the Saiyarak members.

Back in September 2014 Goong Lek and Ploy from CAM visited Saiyarak to help with a memorial service for Nong Bom and Nong Nack. This was a time for remembering and thanking God for their lives, praying for the remaining family and friends. Nong Nack died in hospital after a period of ill health due to AIDS, aged 17 years. Nong Bom died last year following a motorcycle accident.

After this service, Ploy took the opportunity to teach the Saiyarak members about various opportunistic infections and diseases related to HIV infection, including uterine cancer, osteoporosis and HPV virus. The Saiyarak members appreciated the information. After that lunch was shared together.

HIV/AIDS and the Effect on Families

While HIV/AIDS may only infect one family member, it affects the entire family and often forces children and youth to take on the role and responsibility of the family caregiver, therefore neglecting their own needs for education and social development. Many of these young people have given up their normal childhood in order to care for sick or dying parents, elderly grandparents, and younger siblings. Some may harbour feelings of resentment or unresolved grief, resulting in dysfunctional family relationships.

These young people need to find a constructive outlet to deal with these issues and address them in a healthy manner. Ideally, they would be able to share their experiences and provide empathetic peer support for other young people in the community.



The Saiyarak Group gathering in 2014 supported by Goong Lek from CAM



Offering praise, before sharing a meal during a CAM supported Saiyarak gathering

CAM (Church of Christ in Thailand AIDS Ministry) provides umbrella support (non-financial) and accountability for Saiyarak. Based in Chiang Mai, teams visit several times a year to assist the leaders, provide training and share the Glory of God with the group members.

Recognising the young people of Saiyarak

The young people of Saiyarak make up such a huge part of the group and the glowing future for the families of Saiyarak. It is easy to forget that these young people are facing such a range of challenges in life including just growing up and taking on the life choices and responsibilities of becoming an adult.

At this time we feel it is extremely important to pray for these young people as they make their own way in the world.

Here are some prayer points to please consider:

- Having the support of friends as positive role models. Proverbs 18:24 (NIV)
- Understanding family stress.
- Seeking guidance and God's counsel. Psalm 32:8 (NIV)
- Feeling a strong sense of purpose for their lives. John 15:16 (NIV)
- For courage in the face of adversity and temptation.
- Helping to overcome feelings of distress. Romans 8:26 (NIV)
- That graduates can put their knowledge, skills and insights gained from their education into practice.
- Safety of young people what they are travelling on Thailand's busy roads.

There are 15 young people supported by the Saiyarak group. Each of the young people currently studying is assisted with some monetary help to pay for term fees, uniforms, shoes, socks, backpacks, food and miscellaneous costs.

In the last report received from Saiyarak, the young people receiving support want to thank the CoroUniting community for the generous support that enables them to continue to attend school.



Ongoing Prayer Points

- For the ongoing financial commitment to achieve our yearly budget.
- For Saiyarak members to continue in good health.
- That a group of church members are called to explore the opportunity to visit Saiyarak.
- That the Saiyarak women and children may each know Jesus personally.
- The Staff at CAM feel the love of God as they work in this valuable ministry.

Education Fund

The new education year for the young people of Saiyarak is fast approaching and with this comes the knowledge that the cost of education is supplemented with the Saiyarak Education Fund. This fund is vital for Saiyarak families to help give the children a helping hand that they would not otherwise be receiving. The stigma of families having AIDS greatly reduces employment opportunities particularly for these single parent families. In total 15 students are currently receiving education support. Support the fund or sponsor a child by contacting a member of the CoroUniting Saiyarak team. See the details below.

SUPPORTING SAIYAIRAK. CoroUniting Members are committed to supporting Saiyarak through donations totaling approximately half the annual budget. The remaining funds are raised throughout the year.

To support Saiyarak regularly or 'one off' please contact saiyarak@corouniting.org