

2010 MIEN FAMILY CAMP

Forty or fifty years ago life could often be lonely for us missionaries in Thailand where fewer than 1% were Christians and we ourselves had few converts. Thus our joint mission devotional times were precious and especially when Mel Byers led us in singing:

"I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God – I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood! Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod, For I'm part of the family, the family of God."

My mind kept wandering back to those lonely days and how God has grown His family among the Mien since then. And I praise Him for the **great family time** we had at our **family camp** August 13-15 at Lassen Pines camp in northern California. The camp theme was "Healthy Family." Messages, songs, prayers, repeatedly emphasized that families must be rooted in godly biblical truths to be truly healthy and happy.

Mien love these family times so there was a huge turnout: 490 registered + 10 visitors
50 + were youth/young adults
50 + were children
29 were staff
12 from Oakland were cooks!
7 came from Thailand
2 were from England
1 from Canada
1 church brought 137 of total
9 were baptized

Dr. Youd Sinh Chao and Dr. Vincent Inzerillo each brought 2 great messages on family. In the final Sunday morning service Dr.

Inzerillo spoke of 4 important things for a family to be healthy:
I. TALK (communicate freely)
II. TOUCH (togetherness)
III. TASK (serve one another)
IV. TIME (spend time together)

Of the many scripture references he & others used this might sum up the gist of the messages:

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers....Dear children let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:16-18

Pastor Gueix Zunh led a workshop on healthy family. Pastors Chan Choy & Fou Jiem led morning devotional times.

Liew Tsan & Jude Barkway came from England to visit Mien churches for a month & **to present the Mien Radio ministry** which they lead along with 2 in US & 2 others in Thailand. Their well-illustrated presentations showed powerfully how vital this radio ministry is in our outreach to Mien in Asia.

Anne Thomas described vividly **her valuable work in promoting literacy in Laos** among Mien and other people groups where few can read in any language.

Andrew Lai led **the youth & young adults**. His messages & intensive discussion times were on 4 vital topics for youth: What is Truth? And the Biblical teaching on Purity, Abortion, and Homosexuality.

(Continued on back)



Lively worship was led by Richmond team



Adults worshipping



Those baptized with 3 pastors



Andrew speaking to young adults

Pao Ho & Caryn were in charge of **children's program**. Charlie Chao taught the kids about the Christian's armor & challenged them to take up the Sword of the Spirit and the Helmet of Salvation & to be sure they were saved. Among the games Zenas led was a scavenger hunt around the camp for pieces of the Christian armor. Brandon & Dorothy helped lead worship & their appropriate theme song was, "I'm in the Lord's army..." Pao Ho said, "We all made new friends & we hope to see these kids at Youth Camp in the future!"

Tantalizing meals were prepared by 13 hard working members of Oakland Mien Church. Richmond Mien led in **great times of worship**.

Muang Bu PA from Merced & Meuy Seng RN from Redding & San Diego provided health care. They saw no major problems, praise God! But a number suffered dehydration from daytime heat & not drinking enough water.

Many slept in **a long encampment** of about 80 tents from the lake clear up to upper end of the campsite. When I learned that the tepees, stockade, and tall Paul Bunyan statue are still up in that area I was reminded of how our first youth camps years ago were held up there. The Mien camps & Mien Christian family have grown so much in numbers and spiritual maturity since those days!

If you are not in God's family I hope you will let God adopt you. Jesus is knocking at your heart's door wanting to be your older brother. All for Him, C.W.



Intensive discussion period



Baptism of Muang Jiem



Children & their leaders in amphitheater by lake



My birthday was celebrated for the second time at camp. Dr. Youd Sinh is at the left

P. S. –Don't forget: Mark your calendars now to join others of the Mien family at **next year's Mien Family Camp - August 12-14, 2011.**

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

As reported in my last newsletter my own children & families came to Vallejo for an early celebration of my 90th birthday on July 3rd.

Not to be outdone Mien leaders surprised me with a second celebration at this camp. I heard that they made 4 huge layer cakes!

Then on Aug. 21 (just 9 days past the actual date) my home Mien church in Richmond put on another big splash in a fancily decorated hall with a huge meal & lots of gifts. My hearty thanks to all of you for your many expressions of love!

PRAISE GOD

He is mightily at work in Mien hearts & lives in 7 countries.

He blessed us all in the retreat reported in this issue and in numerous other gatherings local & national this year.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Ask for great blessings on Mien youth as they meet in Seattle on 9/25 for a rally & camp planning.

Ask for blessings on couples in their next retreat & on annual business meeting of Mien Christian Mission Fellowship. Both in Nov.

Ask His continuing favor on our vital radio ministry shining His glorious light into thousands of isolated villages in SE Asia.

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