



South Abbotsford Church extends its heart beyond borders and raises funds beyond expectation!

When South Abbotsford Church in British Columbia began planning for their 75th anniversary celebration in Spring 2007, they knew that they wanted to do something that would reach beyond the church walls and leave a lifelong legacy. As the planning committee researched their options both locally and abroad, through much prayer and discernment God led them to the Abundant Life Home (ALH), an orphanage for HIV positive children, in Chonburi, Thailand.

Carrie Dyck, a member of both South Abbotsford Church and the anniversary committee headed up this legacy project, called "Together for Thailand." Its purpose was to raise money for the Abundant Life Home to aid in the building process of six to eight new houses which will provide family-style living for HIV positive orphans.

And that is exactly what it did. "Together for Thailand" was launched at a Sunday service in May to unify the church in one common goal and "To give honour and glory to God and to share our blessings abroad." Ricky and Karen Sanchez, missionaries with Team 2000 and founders of the Abundant Life Home regularly shared video clips from Thailand, including messages from the children of ALH. In September, Chonburi native Ying Limngen, who came to Abbotsford to participate in MBMSI's TREK program, shared with the South Abbotsford congregation the difference that the Abundant Life Home is making in the lives of HIV positive orphans.

South Abbotsford Church projected an original goal of raising \$75 000 to celebrate 75 years, but as the excitement for the Abundant Life Home grew, so did the increase in financial support.

The "Together for Thailand" legacy project culminated on Thanksgiving weekend - South Abbotsford's 75th anniversary celebration - with a concert to benefit ALH on Friday night and a large gala event on Sunday to announce the total amount raised for the Abundant Life Home. By the 75th anniversary South Abbotsford Church had far surpassed their goal of \$75 000, raising a total of approximately \$110 000. "This was a really rich way to celebrate 75 years because it went so much deeper than a party or a picnic," says Carrie. When fundraising wrapped up on December 31, the final amount came in at approximately \$135 000 - enough money to build two new ALH homes housing six children each!

Excitement for the Abundant Life Home continues at South Abbotsford Church. The "Together for Thailand" legacy project has ignited a response from church members to not only give, but to go and serve at the Abundant Life Home in Chonburi, faithfully continuing in a partnership that is impacting eternity!