

After a fulfilling day of reaching these schools, the Lord rewarded us with a change of accommodation where we were able to upgrade to a nicer bungalow on a hill.

Day 6: Breakfast and devotions the next morning was spent on the patio of this bungalow where we felt caressed by the cool morning breeze.

But alas, soon it was time for us to move on -- lest we get too comfortable! We moved on the fourth leg of our journey to Mae Chan, about 30 km away. On the way, we chanced upon the villages of some other tribes. This was the Ahka, the Lahu and the Padaung (the well-known long-necked Karens of Burma). Many missionaries have reached the Ahkas, and this is evidenced by several Ahka church missions that one can see along the way.



The Lahu and Padaung here were a small community living in very spartan conditions of bamboo shacks. Here, we felt led to donate the last of our supplies. We had 20 kg more of rice and as there were no men in this *Karieng* village at this time, we invited two tribeswomen (they don't usually venture out because of the brass rings around their necks and legs) to come up the 400-metre pass with us to receive the bags of rice.



Day 7: After a free breakfast at the hotel, we sent on the next leg of our journey to the Golden Triangle.. This is a part in the Chiang Rai province where the three borders of Laos, Burma and Thailand meet.



We went on to enjoy dusk (pic above right) at the well-known Chiang Saen lake, one of the largest lakes in Thailand, so serene yet 'alive' with birds and ducks. We had our dinner cook-out by the lake which was a lovely experience. The Lord topped it all by providing a beautiful resort across from the lake where we stayed in two air-conditioned rooms. beautiful rooms with great scenery. What more can we say! He is so-o good to us!

Day 8: We headed back for Chiang Mai where we stayed with friends.

Day 9: Peter took the kids swimming/diving in a sports complex and later ventured up to the mountain of Doi Suthep (hitting the Doi Pui peak at 1,600 metres!) for their last jaunt in the forest and hills before we head back to the city.

Day 10: An eight-hour drive back to Bangkok -- and home sweet home!

We packed in a lot of living there in that short time and we're so thankful for the experience. It was also a great time of bonding with the teens, without the distraction & temptations of city living. It was also a first for us to really travel around this part of Thailand and experience the different culture, lifestyle, foods, sights and sounds! Last but not least, the thrill of making a difference in the lives of the many different kinds of people that we met will eternally be etched in our memories.