

Judy Cook

Prayer letter, May 2018

bmsworldmission.org/jcook



Dear Friends and Family

Greetings from what is now a very hot and humid time of year here in Chiang Mai. The constant heat can prove to be quite draining for all of us but especially for the children who have sufficient health challenges already. Young Joy, our 10 year old girl at Hope Home generally has a tough time each hot season and now is no exception although she now copes a bit better. However during the last year she faced two major life changing surgeries...a tracheotomy to reduce her constant fight with pneumonia, and a gastric feeding tube to enable more steady nutrition. So, to our relief we can see the long term benefit and Joy has thus far made this year with only two spells as an inpatient in hospital and not too many sick days. Joy is a young girl who lives up to her name in full. She smiles and laughs through the toughest of times, and loves to watch others having fun, even if it is something she is physically unable to do herself. For me, Joy's immense tolerance of life's challenges, her ability to keep smiling and her enjoyment of other's joys are a constant lesson to me – to look for the positive in all times, to keep encouraging others to see the joy and hope in life.

Many of our staff at Hope Home do not yet know the Lord as their Saviour – they hear the children learn and sing worship songs, they watch Christian videos with the children and they participate in our Bible Story telling times. My constant prayer is that one day each of them will understand the deep rooted joy that comes from knowing you are loved and accepted as a child of God – without this joy and peace in our lives the challenge of caring for children like our special children, with all their ups and downs, steps forwards and steps back, highs and lows....the task of day to day care for these special ones becomes just that - a job. I long for each person caring for our children at Hope Home, staff and volunteers to come with a true heart of love and compassion – and this comes from being secure in God's loving care.



Pray for one staff member, Ann (name changed), who has a background of constant rejection and hurt from her own family, raised ultimately in foster care and now trying to make her way through life as an adult alone. She and I have begun to get to know each other better and I feel privileged that she feels able to come and seek advice outside of work times on many issues. Recently, on Easter day, the children watched a cartoon telling the Easter story, and Ann watched and listened avidly. She is beginning to ask questions about

Christianity from the few Christian staff we have and I pray that she will open her mind and heart to seek and find Jesus for herself. He is the only answer to the fear and rejection that she currently faces. Recently we have held more joint activities between Hope Home and the Church of Christ in Thailand AIDS Ministry (CAM) –and the CAM staff use these times to gently come alongside the Hope Home staff and encourage them and build them up. Pray for the opportunities here for the CAM staff to be a shining example of what it means to be a follower of Christ – in their personal and in their working lives. CAM staff are my family away from home, and I am delighted that the link with Hope Home is expanding and that our vulnerable young staff at Hope Home can have a source of help and advice and extended family in their lives too. Pray for the Hope Home staff to work together well as a team, to accept each other's differences, and to learn to love themselves too, and above all to meet Jesus for themselves. Increasingly the staff are as much of the ministry here at Hope Home as the children are, and God is teaching me many a lesson in patience and perseverance, and forgiveness through the exchanges. I am grateful to the CAM staff, and work colleagues at Hope Home as a sounding board for advice on staff management issues. I have many more lessons to learn I am sure.

In a few months' time I will be home on Home Assignment and am looking forward to sharing stories and experiences from both Hope Home and CAM. I hope that there will be opportunity to join in one of the arranged church visits. Please feel free to email me for details of the church visits. Thank you so much for the prayer support , financial support of BMS and the many other forms of encouragement we receive here – we cannot be here and sharing our lives in this way without you. We are all part of the wider ministry of making

Jesus known and are partners together, wherever and in whatever way God places us.

Please consider regular support of BMS through the 24:7 partner scheme and the details of this are on the BMS website.

May God richly bless you in all you do for Him wherever He has placed you right now. May you know his peace and joy in your daily lives.

Yours sincerely

Judy Cook

Praise Points:

- Increased strength and health for Joy
- Opportunities for the CAM staff to get to know the Hope Home staff better
- New staff at Hope Home settling in
- Increased partnership with CAM and Hope Home

Prayer points:

- For renewed energy levels through the hot season in particular
- For the staff of Hope Home to learn more about Jesus
- For improving staff relations at Hope Home.

Address: TBMF, PO Box 29, Chiang Mai, 50000, Thailand

Email: judycookbms@gmail.com

If you would like to support Judy by prayer and committed regular giving, visit bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



PO Box 49 129 Broadway Didcot Oxfordshire OX11 8XA Tel: 01235 517700
mail@bmsworldmission.org bmsworldmission.org

The Baptist Missionary Society: registered in England and Wales as a charity (number 1174364) and a company limited by guarantee (number 10849689)