

2009

March 2009. We have approval! Our efforts in Muang Sing have been recognized and approved by the Lao Government. So we are welcome to return to our village and continue to help the people in the community. It has been a long wait with uncertainty, thinking about the children and their families gave us the optimism to continue. Leila is finishing her obligations and commitments in Vientiane. We plan to return to Muang Sing in May after a trip to Switzerland and the Netherlands to visit family, friends, and colleagues we have not met but have corresponded with e-mail.

As soon as we return to Muang Sing, we will have to meet with the provincial and district governments, and begin building the school that we promised our village. There are also many people we helped that we need to follow up on, and friends to visit. And when we do this, we usually find more people needing help.

Here is an update about several people you might know about. It turns out that the boy with active noma did not go back to his village and die. His parents kept him alive with medicines from the hospital and feeding him the best they could. Leila located him and his village and made arrangements for him to travel to Vientiane for surgery. It looks a lot better now. The girl who could not walk until surgery and fitted with braces was given money to return to Vientiane for larger braces but never came. The family has many children so perhaps they needed the money for more important things. The man with a huge tumor on his face is not doing well. The tumor came back. The Lao doctors and two separate teams of visiting surgeons believe that surgery is too risky because the tumor is so close to his brain. He is back in his village at home with his mother and his sister to take care of him. He calls us and tells us that he is fine but in a lot of pain. The deaf boy returned from his village to the deaf school in Vientiane for another year. Since we could not contact him about returning, he decided to come alone on the bus, and take the chance that we would support him once he arrived. We asked and were given approval to support him for another year. We are very impressed with his courage. One of the women with a vesico vaginal fistula is in the hospital right now after her second surgery. The surgeon is very optimistic about her outcome. Vesico vaginal fistulas are another problem that needs addressing here.

We are doing well financially. Our balance sheet looks good because the donations we received from our friends and the fundraiser at Brooks Institute of photography. Since we have not been able to help the people from Muang Sing while waiting for approval, expenses have been minimal. Leila and I continue to pay our own expenses. We appreciate the support of our friends in Santa Barbara and elsewhere who help by reducing expenses and make it possible for us to be here.

Helping other people is not something we can do alone. When I say we help somebody we just do a tiny bit. The credit goes to a multitude of people, each of whom does their part. Some parts are larger than others, but each of the parts is just as important and necessary. I have never ceased to be amazed by the kindness and generosity given by people who have, and people who don't.

2008

The year 2008 is a transition year for us. We had to leave our home in Muang Sing because we had no official project agreement. We are in Vientiane, the capital city of Laos, continuing our volunteer activities with Health Frontiers and the Lao University of Health Sciences working on continuing medical education for the pediatricians and administration. Health frontiers submitted a new five-year project agreement that includes Muang Sing as an outreach program. We have received approval from the province and are waiting for approval from the central Government of Lao Ministries.

We have renewed and strengthened our friendships in Vientiane with the Lao doctors working in Vientiane and the Women's International Group. The doctors and these women who do the real work of helping the people we send to Vientiane. We are very grateful to Health Frontiers for their recognition and support of what we are doing in Muang Sing to help the community and to expand the Health Frontiers project in Laos to accommodate our work.

Leila hoped to bring worldwide attention to two issues that she feels important to children in Laos and other developing countries. She co-authored an article in the American Journal of Tropical Hygiene about noma. It's a disease seen only in conditions of severe poverty, and as a result is not recognized by most medical personnel. Leila also co-authored an article in the British Medical Journal about mothers feeding their babies coffee creamer instead of breast milk or formula. Their babies end up severely malnourished and sometimes die. One coffee creamer manufacturer puts a logo on the front of the can that implies their product is for babies. It's a logo of a mother bear holding her baby bear in a position that perhaps implies breast-feeding. Feeding babies coffee creamer is a terrible problem, so we hope to do our part and try to solve it.

Leila is bringing attention to the problems we see here by helping to author these articles:

Barennes, H., T. Andriatahina, et al. (2008). "**Misperceptions and misuse of Bear Brand coffee creamer as infant food: national cross sectional survey of consumers and paediatricians in Laos.**" *BMJ* **337**: a1379.

OBJECTIVE: To investigate the use of Bear Brand coffee creamer as a food for infants and the impact on consumers of the logo of a cartoon baby bear held by its mother in the breastfeeding position. **DESIGN:** Interviews with paediatricians throughout the country and a national survey of potential consumers regarding their perceptions and use of the Bear Brand coffee creamer. **SETTING:** 84 randomised villages in south, central, and northern Laos. **PARTICIPANTS:** 26 Lao paediatricians and 1098 adults in households in a cluster sampling. **RESULTS:** Of the 26 paediatricians, 24 said that parents "often" or "sometimes" fed this product to infants as a substitute for breast milk. In the capital city, paediatricians said that mothers used the product when they returned to work. In the countryside, they reported that poor families used it when the mother was ill or died. Of 1098 adults surveyed, 96% believed that the can contains milk; 46% believed the Bear Brand logo indicates that the product is formulated

for feeding to infants or to replace breast milk; 80% had not read the written warning on the can; and over 18% reported giving the product to their infant at a mean age of 4.7 months (95% confidence interval 4.1 to 5.3). **CONCLUSION:** The Bear Brand coffee creamer is used as a breast milk substitute in Laos. The cartoon logo influences people's perception of the product that belies the written warning "This product is not to be used as a breast milk substitute." Use of this logo on coffee creamer is misleading to the local population and places the health of infants at risk.

Keomany, S., M. Mayxay, et al. (2007). "Toad poisoning in Laos." Am J Trop Med Hyg **77**(5): 850-3.

We describe two patients who developed severe illness after eating the skin and eggs of a toad, probably *Bufo melanostictus* Schneider, in southeastern Laos. One boy died, and one developed a digoxin toxicity-like syndrome with bradycardia and heart failure but survived. A telephone survey of 16 Lao provincial hospitals suggested that toad poisoning occurs in at least six provinces. That 93% of villagers in three villages in southeastern Laos were aware that toads are poisonous but that 51% had encountered patients with toad toxicity suggests that the potential gravity is not appreciated. These data indicate that toad poisoning may be underestimated and that education on the seriousness of toad toxins could be a useful public health measure.

Mayxay, M., T. Khomthilat, et al. (2007). "Factors associated with a measles outbreak in children admitted at Mahosot Hospital, Vientiane, Laos." BMC Public Health **7**(147): 193.

BACKGROUND: In 2002 and 2003 there were large outbreaks of measles in many provinces of Laos, including in Vientiane. We therefore conducted a study to determine risk factors associated with measles amongst children admitted at Mahosot Hospital, Vientiane. **METHODS:** A retrospective case-control study was conducted in 50 children with clinical measles who were matched by age and sex with 50 healthy children (who had never had a febrile rash) living in the same villages as the cases. **RESULTS:** The proportion of children with complete immunizations was significantly lower in the group with clinical measles compared to the controls [13/50 (26%) vs 34/50 (68%), $P < 0.001$]. The percentage of children who had received measles vaccine at 9-23 months of age was significantly lower in the group with clinical measles compared to the healthy controls [12/50 (24%) vs 24/50 (48%), $P = 0.01$]. The family educational and socio-economic status did not differ significantly ($P > 0.05$) between cases and controls. **CONCLUSION:** These results emphasize the importance of intensification of measles immunization coverage in Laos. The strengthening of campaigns with large, widespread high second dose coverage is likely to be a key measure to prevent further measles outbreaks in Laos (192 words).

2007 October

This year we helped children from villages near our home travel to Luang Prabang for cleft lip and burn surgery. This is now our *Third Annual Journey of Hope*. We would like to thank Dr. Panomsit and the staff for accommodating these patients. We would like to thank Dr. Dupuis from Belgium for helping the children we bring to him.

There are not as many patients as in previous years because this year patients were helped at our Provincial Hospital where SFE arranged for Dr. Dupuis to assist Dr. Sadachan with plastic surgeries.



2007 September

From a recent email: "When we met in Vientiane three years ago I was so inspired by your work and commitment to health care. After that visit I came home, reassessed my career goals and applied to nursing school. I'm now in a nurse practitioner student at Yale University and you were a great influence on my decision to be here."

2007 Aug 27

Seng (2007 July 30 below) calls us every so often to ask about the biopsy from the growth on his face. He has been waiting for about one month. The surgeons told us that he could die during

surgery, or end up paralyzed; and that the surgeons are afraid. So we assume the growth is malignant or the surgeon who offered to help is afraid of the possible outcomes. It's difficult to be in the middle so all we can do is provide the patient with the facts and let make their own decision.

The Butterfly Children's Center in Muang Sing is doing great with so many activities for children of all ages. We are so fortunate to have 5 teachers from Vientiane helping the children.



A novice monk from a nearby temple has been here every day learning batik.



A neighbor stops by to play a violin with 2 strings called a seesaw. The children sang along. He promised to come back and teach the children.



The violinist was a patient of Dr. Tom Dooley in the 1950's. He is looking at a book written by Dr. Tom Dooley about his experiences in Muang Sing in the 1950s.



We would like to thank Room to Read and Big Brother Mouse Books for providing the children with Lao Language story books.



A group of children enjoy creating from paper mache. Ajan Somnuk coaches them on technique. The children call him Ajan to show him respect. Ajan is Lao for teacher.



We needed to perform a bacci ceremony for one of the children who returned about two months at the Don Khoi Children's Development Center in Vientiane. The children were in charge of cooking. The first step was to purchase a live virgin female chicken.



Bacci strings are tied on her wrists while acknowledging gratitude for her safe return from Vientiane.



One of the craft projects was a room divider made from seeds, pieces of paper from magazines, and fishing line.



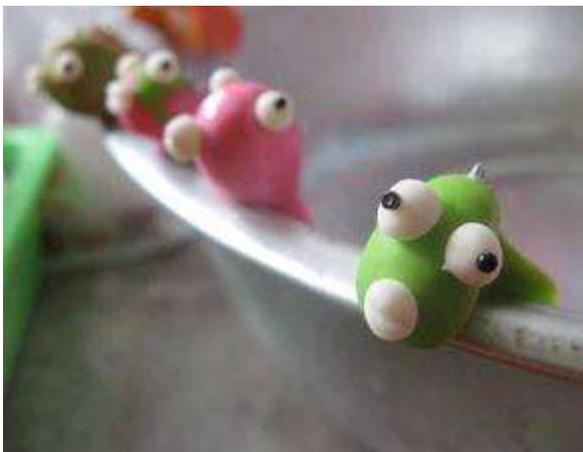
Nang Sengchan and Nang Bouavy, two of the teachers from Vientiane pose with the children.

2007 Aug 24



Mengkabua children proudly display their arts and crafts projects. The two craft teachers are in the back on either side of us..

2007 Aug 21





Hello from Muang Sing. There are two art and craft teachers from Vientiane staying with us for a couple of weeks. They are teaching the children here how to do many different projects.

The children are learning many different crafts. Yesterday they made key chains, today they are tie-dyeing fabric.

Primary and secondary school will begin in a couple of weeks. We hope to help more blind or deaf students study in Vientiane this year. Every day children return school books to us. We will loan them to students this year.

We would like to thank the Bayer Foundation in Switzerland for their support. We would like to thank our friends David, Gail, and Jake from Santa Barbara for visiting us and helping with the children and patients. Thank you for your scholarship for the secondary school graduate going to study at business school.

Here is a newsletter article that a friend wrote after her visit to Muang Sing last year.

My Lao Experience

2007 July 30



Mat McCalla has been here from Direct Relief International (DRI) to assess the health care situation and needs in the capital and in the provinces. We have a long relationship with DRI, working with them to receive 2 cargo containers and numerous hand-carry shipments to Laos. Items included supplies and equipment for the Nalae District Hospital and the Muang Sing District Hospital, equipment for the needs of the Internal Medicine and Pediatric Residency Programs in Vientiane. We hope that new partnerships between DRI and other NGOs will be formed as a result of this visit. We encourage you to visit DRI's website www.directrelief.org

Seng telephoned last week from his home to tell us that he was in the hospital because his tumor was bleeding. We still do not have his biopsy results from Chonburri Hospital in Thailand. Here is a photograph of Seng and his sister. She came with Seng to take care of him in the hospital. After Seng went for a CT scan, we went sightseeing on the way back to the hospital.

Sarah and Mike, thank you for your support and for sending us the photographs. The three children at Don Khoi Children's Development Center were delighted to received them.

2007 July 26



Today we paid a \$1,900 bill from the National Rehabilitation Center for 6 patients from Muang Sing that we brought to them. The good news is that 4 patients went home walking. Very sadly, 2 patients had to return home with no hope. The 15-year old boy amputee complained about pain in his chest, the diagnosis was cancer. Sengsalit went home to Muang Sing to be with family and friends. We helped to support his family until the end of his illness. The other patient was a young girl with club feet who had additional difficulties that prevent her from ever walking. Bona's photograph is below.

Even when the situation appears hopeless we help as we are able. Families cling to faint glimmers of hope and so must we. At the end of the day, we know we helped all we could, and do not have any regrets. We celebrate the four children who went home walking, and mourn for the two patients we were unable to help. These risks, even with the odds against us, seem necessary when helping individuals and their families.

Santa was fitted with a prosthetic leg and a brace to provide support for his damaged leg. He is now able to walk upright without crutches. In the background, Sengsalit watches Santa. It's a shame that Santa's father passed away without seeing him walk again.

2007 July 24

Dr. Leila continues to support the Lao Pediatricians Continuing Medical Education through Health Frontiers by helping to plan and coordinate the annual pediatric conferences. In addition she visits the Pediatric Graduates in the provinces to perform an annual assessment of their professional and educational goals.

We have been cooperating and referring people seeking medical assistance to the Muang Sing District Hospital. They sometimes consult with Leila about patients. We are currently helping them with the knowledge, equipment, and supplies for the diagnosis and treatment of diabetes. Leila visits the Luang Namtha Provincial Hospital about once a week when she is in Muang Sing. She assists Dr. Phouvieng, a pediatric graduate, with patient diagnosis and treatment. We refer patients to both these hospitals for medical care.

The staff of GTZ in Muang Sing has been extremely helpful. They often find people in need when they visit villages, then visit us with the hope that we are able to provide assistance. They help spread information in the villages about opportunities, such as for cleft-lip surgery. We appreciate and heed their counsel since they have been here for many years and have many experiences to draw from.

We have hosted many visitors to our home in Muang Sing. Drs. Hakon, Karen, Cindy, Louisa and Kevin from Health Frontiers in Vientiane visited. Even Ning, the mayban from Health Frontiers arrived for a short visit. Dr. Paul Newton from the Mahosot Hospital Microbiology Laboratory went to visit villages with us. He was very helpful when we came across a leprosy patient. As a result of this visit, a link formed between Luang Namtha Provincial Hospital and Mahosot Hospital Microbiology Laboratory improving the diagnostic capability of the Luang Namtha Provincial Hospital. Dr. Hubert from the Institute Francophonie Medecin Tropical (IFMT) in Vientiane. After his visit he arranged for students from IFMT to research medical and public health issues in the province. Ruth and Joe from COPE in Vientiane came to visit. They visited some villages with us, and were able to offer guidance about their rehabilitation services. Several children were helped as a result of this visit. Clowns Without Borders came to visit to entertain the children in our village and a few surrounding villages. He juggled balls, sang, and played guitar. He left us with a generous donation.



This baby was born with a cleft lip and could not suck. They walked for two days from their village to Muang Sing. A friend of theirs brought them to our home. They were feeding the baby coffee creamer in a toy squeeze bottle. Right away we went to the market to find a breast pump, boxes of formula, and a baby bottle.

The mother never produced any milk. The father visited us every couple of months asking for more formula. One box costs about \$6, equivalent to 3 days wages.

When a surgical team from Singapore visited, we brought the family to Vientiane. The surgical team did a great job allowing the baby to feed well.





On our last trip from Muang Sing to Vientiane, we brought along 3 children from our village. We took the bus, stopping for three nights along the way. One day, we took a boat ride on the Mekong. This was the furthest they had ever traveled. We ate noodle soup at quick lunch stops, and went out to a nice restaurant one evening. Everyone enjoyed mango fruitshakes. Boonphun ate that whole fish by himself. Later, when a beggar walked by, Boonphun wrapped the fish head in a napkin then handed it to her.

These three children are now attending the Don Khoi Children's Development Center in Vientiane. They will be there for two months before returning to Muang Sing. They were welcomed with a sign, songs, and flowers. The other children at the center gave them clothing because they were wearing all the clothes they own.



Mr. Bounliem fell off a roof 10 years ago and has not been able to walk since. He lived with his brother and never left the house. We were able to help bring him two wheelchairs. This chair has a hand lever to propel it along the road. We learned that he cuts hair, so we are helping to set up a barbershop in front of his home.

We helped to connect a boy with valvular rheumatic heart disease from Luang Namtha to a team of visiting heart surgeons. The surgery could not be done here so the team took the boy to Germany for care. The boy is doing well now and receiving regular checkups in Vientiane. His father offered us a baby monkey in appreciation. After some negotiations, one of his sons was offered in exchange for the monkey. More negotiations finally resulted in a solution that pleased everyone. Leila was given a lovely skirt hand-woven by the boy's mother.



We would like to thank everyone who brings us clothes, especially children's clothes. The Women's International Group (WIG) in Vientiane has given us boxes, bags, and more boxes of clothes. We appreciate their help, especially all the help they provide to patients that we refer to hospitals in Vientiane. We could not do what we do without their help.

I hope someone recognizes their beautiful dress.



Sengsalit is on the right, arm in arm with his brother. Sengsalit's father asked me to take family photographs. At this time, only Sengsalit and his father know he was dying from cancer.



A noma survivor we brought to a team of visiting surgeons at Settatirath Hospital traveled to Singapore for plastic surgery to improve her facial appearance. Now, after three surgeries, including micro-surgery, her face is much nicer. She even came to visit us at our home in Muang Sing. She travelled alone all day on two busses to reach our home. She has come so far from her hiding place in a dark corner of her family home. We talk to her several times a week on the telephone we gave her. Dr. Leila continues to follow up on rumors of noma survivors. We are aware of one survivor in Muang Sing, and three survivors from Nalae District. We are hoping that Mahosot Hospital is able to help them with facial reconstructive surgery when the surgical team from the Netherlands comes to assist. The WHO official map shows no reported cases of noma in Laos.



Santa's father was deaf. Two years ago, he motioned for his son to cross the road. He did not hear the sugar cane truck, and when he saw it, it was too late. Santa was run over. He lost one leg

and damaged his other leg so he could not walk. We took him to the National Rehabilitation Center early this year where he had surgery for his damaged leg.



We were asked to visit a village to see a baby born without an anus. We brought the baby to Mahosot Hospital where Dr. Phedavanh did surgery to correct the problem. Professor Liem from Hanoi assisted with a one-step surgical procedure.

Here is photograph of the baby breastfeeding from her mother at home in their village.

The baby died about one year later from diarrhea. Diarrheal illness accounts for many deaths in children under 5 years of age.

Dr. Phedavanh repeated the procedure on another baby we referred to him in July.



Bona, a ten year old girl, stopped walking seven years ago due to peripheral neuropathy. We had been visiting her village for over one year and never saw her. Then one day, she crawled over to us wearing flip-flops on her hands to ask for help. After two surgeries, and many months of therapy she is walking again. She went home earlier this month walking with braces on her legs and no crutches. We look forward to visiting her at home.

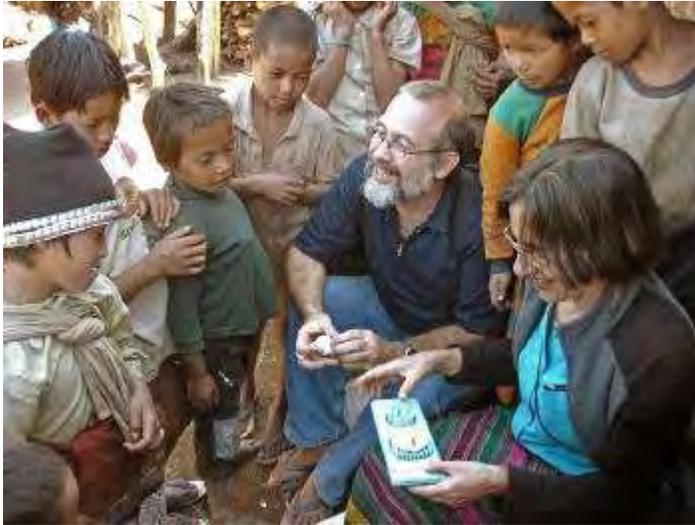


We visited Bona's family in the village. They enjoyed talking together when she was in the hospital.



We took Khampat to Vientiane for a prosthetic leg over a year ago. He wore out the leg, so last year we took him again for a new leg in January. It's very rewarding to see him riding his parent's bicycle past our home, or find him play ball or climbing trees with other boys.

Aju had a difficult delivery that resulted in a urinary fistula. Dr. Phet performed two surgeries to correct the problem. We do not yet know if the surgery was successful. Her village is hard to get to, and we have not yet visited her. Urinary fistulas are a very difficult problem because of extensive tissue damage. We have tried to solicit help from WHO to provide specialized urinary fistula repair training for Dr. Phet, but they have not been responsive. Patum is another urinary fistula patient. Dr. Phet did two surgeries that cured her. She just married the schoolteacher in the village and is pregnant. Even specially trained surgeons are only successful 2/3'rds of the time, even after two surgeries.



Pisho from an Akha village about 20 km from Muang Sing. He came to us with osteomyelitis in his leg and arm. We took him to Mitthapab Hospital earlier this year where his bones were debrided. He is continuing to take antibiotics orally. We visit him to ensure his disease is resolving successfully. He is the third child with osteomyelitis that we have been able to help. All three children are doing fine.

The Muang Sing Hospital was treating Seju for leprosy. His village did not help him, so he had to work. Since he has no feeling in his hands and feet, he injured them, but did not attend to his wounds. We took him to the Skin Hospital in Vientiane where he improved, but afterwards he returned to his village where his condition deteriorated. Last month in June, we brought him to live in a leprosy village where he will learn self-care. We will visit him at the end of August to see how he is doing there and whether he prefers to stay or return to his village in Muang Sing.



Almost everyday, if both of us are at home in Muang Sing, the children from our village come to play. We provide art supplies, puzzles, and sport equipment. Last year two Lao teachers from the Don Khoi Children's Development Center in Vientiane stayed for one week to direct children's activities. The children's parents were invited to a song, dance, and acting performance. Last year three children from Ban Nong Boua came to the Don Khoi Children's Development Center in Vientiane for a two month scholarship.



This year we are planning for Dr. Dupuis to assist Dr. Sadachan at the Luang Namtha provincial hospital. We will screen patients at the Muang Sing Hospital. The patients will be screened again at the Luang Namtha Provincial Hospital for immediate surgery, or surgery at the Luang Prabang Provincial Hospital. We are also planning to assist with helping patients requiring facial plastic surgery when a visiting Dutch team arrives in January. We established a relationship with them last year while they were at Mahosot Hospital.

We helped the first Akha medical student in Laos through the admission process. He has completed his first year of medical school supported through an anonymous sponsorship. He told us that all the Akha people are following his progress, so he has to succeed. We are providing nursing scholarships to two nursing students from Muang Sing studying at the Nursing School in Vientiane. We provided a Scholarship for an Akha female student from Muang Sing to graduate from the minority boarding school in Luang Namtha.



Tuseh, a 14 year old boy from Muang Sing is deaf and never went to school. We took him to the deaf school in Vientiane where he has completed grade 1. He is the boy on the left with the blue eyeglasses and the spiky hair. I brought his photographs from his village. We think he will return in September for grade two.



Here are Tuseh's friends at home in his village saying hello to him in sign language. I brought them pictures of Tuseh at the deaf school. The only way he could communicate to his family was through facial expressions in the photographs.

Tuseh returned to his village for the first time in 9 months during the school holiday. He rode a bicycle from his village to our home to tell us his muscles were sore and to show us the blisters on his hands. Planting rice is difficult work.



Next school year, we hope to help 2 blind boys attend the blind school in Vientiane. We also hope to support 3 more deaf students at the deaf school in Vientiane. Many children around Muang Sing become deaf from childhood ear infections.

When we first visited Tsheygo, he was living with his father. The boy was filthy. We climbed up the stairs and sat on the balcony with Tsheygo. There must have been around 40 people from the village crowded around. We gave away toys and clothing. We learned that Tsheygo was accidentally shot in the face losing both eyes. We told the people in the village about the blind school in Vientiane. His father did not come outside the whole time we were there. He just said "sure, take him"

We have visited several times since. Tsheygo is living in the same house, but with his grandparents. His father is not around. They are taking better care of him and tell us that they would like him to go to the blind school. We hope to enroll him in September 2007.

The other blind boy fell off a balcony and damaged his brain. He has good parents. They would like the doctors to put in new eyes.

2007 July 13

Today a patient arrived from Luang Namtha. Seng has a tumor on his face that was surgically removed at least three times. The tumor has recently grown back and the surgeons from Mitthapab Hospital planned to help him. With the help of a visiting surgical team from Dallas Texas (L.E.A.P.) they examined his face and CT scan last week. The surgeons concluded that the surgery would not be safe here due to equipment limitations. They did a biopsy, sent it to Chonburri Hospital in Thailand, and are waiting for results. We hope that they will be able to help him.

Murphy, part of the L.E.A.P. team brought a Medtronic external pacemaker to donate. We arranged for them to meet with the director of cardiology. He was very pleased to receive this donation. He said that many patients whom could benefit from a temporary pacemaker. This is the first external pacemaker in Laos.

2006 October



Second Annual "Journey of Hope" trip.

We took 25 patients and their families from Muang Sing to Luang Prabang Provincial Hospital for plastic surgery by Dr. Panomsit and Dr. Dupuis from Belgium. The hospital was only able to help 22 of these patients due to unavailability of time and equipment. Here is everyone posing on the front steps of the hospital as they left to return to Muang Sing.

Dr. Panomsit and Dr. Dupuis are standing in the back row.

We wonder how many patients will want to be included in the 2007 Journey of Hope.



Here is the first "Journey of Hope" trip in 2005. We took eight patients and their families from Muang Sing to Luang Prabang Provincial Hospital for plastic surgery by Dr. Panomsit and Dr. Dupuis from Belgium.

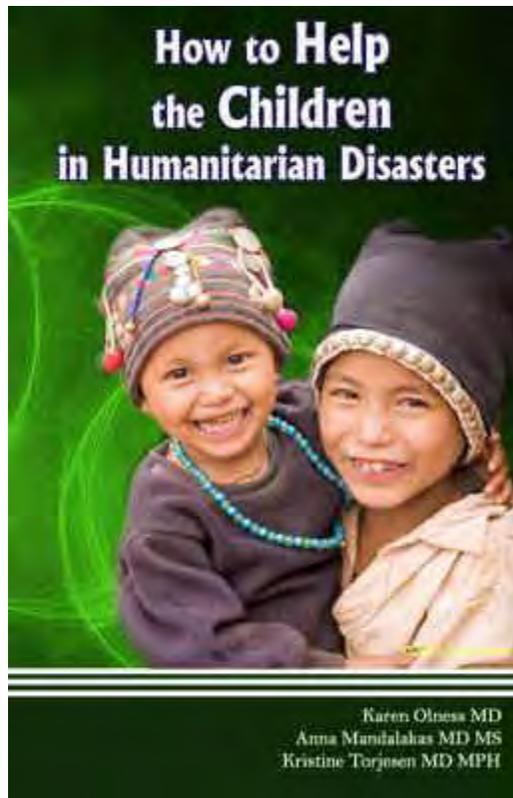
Photographs from this trip were incorporated into the "journey of Hope" DVD.

2006



This young girl was introduced to us by a friend. Her eye, about the size of a golf ball, was sticking out, black, and uncomfortable. It had been getting worse over the previous year. Her parents had no money to take her to the hospital. Despite the odds, we helped her get to Vientiane and find a surgeon willing to try. Her eye was removed and she returned to her village where she lived happily for several months.

Later she stopped eating and died. Her parents called us with the sad news, and to express their gratitude everyone who helped them.



The girl hugging her older sister had successful cleft-lip repair surgery in Luang Prabang. She is featured in the "Journey of Hope" DVD .

Archive



WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

November 9, 2005

Bryan Watt
Post Office Box 2548
Vientiane

Dear Bryan:

Before any more time passes, I wanted to write you and commend you for your efforts in Laos. Your deep concern about the future of the people there and your exemplary work with Health Frontiers go a long way toward healing and renewing our global community, one person at a time.

I encourage you and your wife to remain devoted to your mission. You are doing important work, and I commend you both for helping to make the world a better place.

Sincerely,

"... I commend you both for helping to make the world a better place."

President Bill Clinton

A prime example of how 'foreign relations' is most powerfully done!!

Congresswoman Lois Capps

The National Press Photographers Association (NPPA) gave recognition to the work that Leila and I are doing in the Lao PDR by publishing a story in this month's issue of News Photographer Magazine. We hope the article will motivate and inspire their readers to help the less fortunate in their communities.



THE SUPER BOWL SCUFFLE
WHAT REALLY HAPPENED AFTER THE GAME?

THE MUNDANE | HUMANITARIAN PHOTOJOURNALISM | FIRST 2016

...the police officers...
 ...the man in the red vest...
 ...the scene at the stadium...
 ...the chaos that ensued...
 ...the aftermath of the game...
 ...the injuries sustained...
 ...the role of the photographers...
 ...the challenges of capturing the moment...
 ...the impact of the event on the community...
 ...the legacy of the Super Bowl...
 ...the future of sports photography...
 ...the importance of journalism...
 ...the power of the camera...
 ...the responsibility of the press...
 ...the search for truth...
 ...the pursuit of excellence...
 ...the dedication of the professionals...
 ...the passion for the craft...
 ...the love for the game...
 ...the respect for the fans...
 ...the pride in the team...
 ...the joy of the victory...
 ...the tears of the losers...
 ...the unity of the crowd...
 ...the spirit of the event...
 ...the memory of the moment...
 ...the story that will be told...
 ...the history that will be made...
 ...the future that will be bright...
 ...the hope that will be kindled...
 ...the faith that will be renewed...
 ...the love that will be strengthened...
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BRYAN WATT



THERE ARE MANY TRUTHS

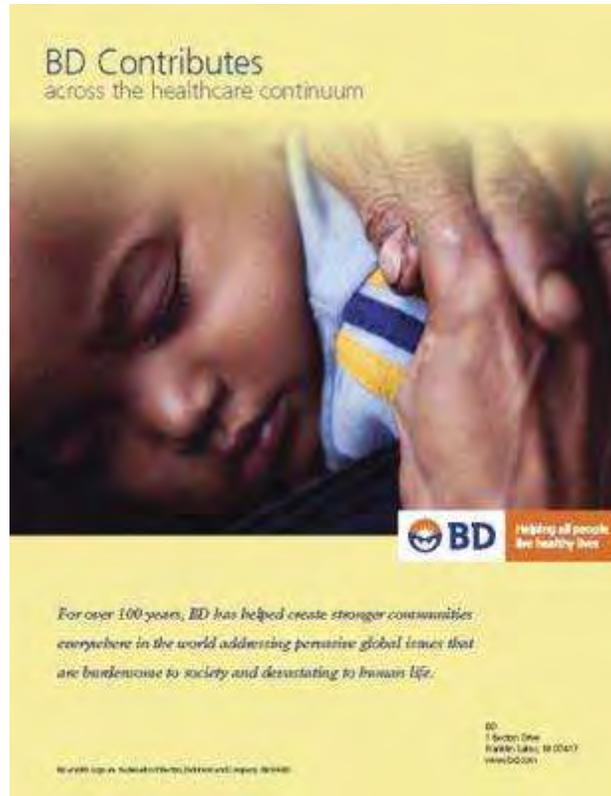


"A man can only do what he can do. But if he figures that each day he may sleep at night and do it again the next day." - Albert Schweitzer

Bryan Watt was born in 1968, raised in...
 ...the world of photography...
 ...the challenges of the profession...
 ...the importance of storytelling...
 ...the power of the camera...
 ...the responsibility of the press...
 ...the search for truth...
 ...the pursuit of excellence...
 ...the dedication of the professionals...
 ...the passion for the craft...
 ...the love for the game...
 ...the respect for the fans...
 ...the pride in the team...
 ...the joy of the victory...
 ...the tears of the losers...
 ...the unity of the crowd...
 ...the spirit of the event...
 ...the memory of the moment...
 ...the story that will be told...
 ...the history that will be made...
 ...the future that will be bright...
 ...the hope that will be kindled...
 ...the faith that will be renewed...
 ...the love that will be strengthened...
 ...the peace that will be sought...
 ...the justice that will be pursued...
 ...the truth that will be revealed...
 ...the light that will be brought...
 ...the life that will be given...

...the world of photography...
 ...the challenges of the profession...
 ...the importance of storytelling...
 ...the power of the camera...
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Photo by Bryan Watt



Exhibition of Akha photographs, Paris France

Exposition Akha à Paris du Mardi 28 mars au Samedi 9 Avril 2005

Exposition Déclic, Salle Charlemagne à Bois Colombes (92) du 20 juin au 30 juin 2005.

Journée Escapade en Othe à Chenegy le 25 juin 2005 : www.maisondubailli.org

We posted our Children's Fund 2004 report.

