

Dear Friend,

Greetings! In this June edition of Mission Update, the stories all show how long-term discipleship can transform communities. I hope that by reading these accounts from Thailand, Uganda and Rwanda, you'll be encouraged in your own discipleship...

## Gail Phillip in Bangkok, Thailand

**Ten years ago, Christ Church Bangkok decided to open a childcare centre**

as a means of sharing the love of Jesus with young children and their families. So the old vicarage was renovated, and the centre opened with 60 children in attendance.

These days the RainbowLand Child Development Centre welcomes over 100 children daily. Two other centres have been set up in Sawang DaenDin and BanChang.

This Spring, we held a ten-year anniversary concert. More than 300 parents joined us, as well as some alumni. One young man, who was one of the first children to enrol ten

# A decade of difference



Gail and a RainbowLand class

a primary school. It was also amazing to reflect on all those who have come to faith in Jesus through the centre. Recently, two of our teachers as well as a K3 child and his mother have all come to know Jesus in a new way and are getting ready to be baptised.

*Praise God for the difference that RCDC has made over the last ten years. Please pray for Gail and the team: Principal, Khruu Pim is expecting her first child; Principal Khruu Aree will cover her maternity leave. Please also pray for the recruitment of more staff.*

years ago, told us, "I sensed the heart of Christ here back then and still feel it now."

It was a joy to hear positive feedback from parents about the impact of the centre on their children and the community. Many are asking us to start



# All 4 Jesus: In ward and deed

## Alison Fletcher in Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda

**Watching the All 4 Jesus group lead worship for our hospital community one morning,** I could scarcely believe

that five years ago several of them weren't Christians.

I first got to know these men and women when they were nursing students; they attended a Wednesday Bible study fellowship I help lead. Several decided to follow Jesus during this time. I watched them grow in their desire to serve others—and not just through nursing. When they finished school, they started All 4 Jesus. “We

want to encourage young people through scripture, drama, dance and music,” said team member Richard.

I asked Richard why he and his friends had such a grasp of faith in action.



He talked about how they learned to help each other during school. “If one was hurting, we all were hurting,” he said. He also said that praying and studying the Bible together strengthened their bond.

Then he said something that surprised me. As part of Wednesday fellowships, we would sometimes do practical things around the

hospital: helping the cooks, visiting, clearing weeds. Richard said this gave them practical experience of how to serve others. I had no idea at the time that these simple things would stimulate such thought and action, but as I continue Wednesday fellowships with new students, it's good to know!

*Give thanks for the long-term impact of these Wednesday fellowships and pray that this meaningful discipleship will continue.*

Part of the All 4 Jesus team

# Coca-Cola and Community

**Richard and Sue Kellow in Rwanda**  
“Are you sure we should bring Coke?”

We were saddened to hear that our friend Christine, who works for the Kigali Diocese guest house, had lost one of her two remaining children. Christine's family has lived most of their lives as refugees; they returned to Rwanda only a month after the genocide ended.

Sue visited Christine's family at their home. When she asked what she should bring, local people advised her to take a box of food for the family and bottles of Coke and Fanta.

It seemed strange to take soft drinks, which are usually associated with celebrations. However, the family has had a great number of callers and they find it financially difficult to provide for

their guests. They feel obliged to offer soft drinks, especially to Westerners, so by bringing Coke as a gift we were all able to enjoy the treat together.

It was humbling to sit in the house that they've established themselves in their own homeland. Stories from the Bible about the exiled Israelites returning to the promised land come alive when one has friends who have lived for years in refugee camps.

We were also challenged by the community support at this time of grief. Surely this is something we in the often relationship-poor West can learn from our African brothers and sisters.

*Give thanks for lessons learned and for how small things can make a difference. Please remember Christine and the many refugee returnees in Rwanda who continue to struggle with hardship and trauma. Also, pray for families who are still refugees in DR Congo and surrounding countries.*



Richard and Sue with Meg Guillebaud

*It is so great to see people growing in love for God and each other - what a difference that makes in communities. I hope you'll join me in praying that, like our brothers and sisters in Asia and Africa, we'll all continue learning and growing in love and sharing our faith. Thank you so much for your continued prayers and gifts. May the Lord bless you with his peace.*

*Sincerely in Christ,*

**Tim Dakin** General Secretary