

Shelter for the Kids at Ban AYO 03-27-09

Please remember I'm a plumber and be forgiving regarding my spelling and punctuation.

We have been in Thailand for a month and have not seen the new shelter for the kids. We have been on the Myanmar (Burma) border for



most of that time.

We also had to renew our Thailand driver's licenses so we combined the trips to multi-task.



We packed up our motor bike for the 65 kilometer trip to the Ministry of Motor Vehicles at the City of Chiang Rai. It was a pretty easy trip and we were waived thru the two open immigration check points.

We are just kidding about the motorcycle above.



100 CC Honda.

This is what we really traveled on,

We did stop to file up our gas tank. Gasoline was about 32 Thai Baht a liter for 95 octane. The motor bike took 80 Baht to fill it up. The current exchange rate is around 35 Thai Baht per US Dollar. That makes a US gallon of gas \$3.47 USD. Stop bitching Americans.

Everything went smooth at the Motor Vehicle office as we had already done the medical exams, obtained proof of residence at the immigrations office and made copies of everything. I now have both motorcycle and car licenses until December 2014 (2557 Buddhist Calendar). Daeng has motor bike license until January 2015/2558. Our licenses expire two weeks apart. That makes it real easy for renewal in five years. My cost was 1060 Thai Baht for both and Daeng's cost was 355 Thai Baht for motorcycle only.

We did get stopped by the traffic police



but we both had helmets on and all our licenses and vehicle paperwork was correct so the policeman just waived us on. It was a good thing we got stopped after going to the motor vehicle office than before as we would have had to pay a fine of 200 Baht (about \$6.00 USD).

We decided to spend the night in Chiang Rai and go up the mountain to Ban AYO in the morning. We checked into a nice little guest house,



Jamson House, that we have stayed in before. I am so glad we did as while we were checking in it started to



rain, no storm. It was a great thunder storm, lots of lighting and very loud thunder. One bolt of lighting struck across the street and the thunder was so loud my ears were ringing after it hit.

It rained hard for about two hours and flooded the street. I talked to Chom-nom on the telephone at Ban AYO and told him we would try to get up the dirt road in the morning. We said we would call him first to see how the road in the mountain was okay to drive on.

We had fun at the Night Bazaar after the rain stopped. I even got two more tattoos in a little tattoo shop but that is another story. Next time you see me ask me to show you my new tattoos.

When we got up in the morning the sun was shining. Chom-nom said the road was pretty good so we eat some toast, had coffee and started out trip to Ban AYO. We did stop at the turn off of route #1 and eat a bowl of noodle soup. Daeng bought a bunch of cookies for the kids, too.

When we turned off the main road



everything felt and looked clean. It



was still dry and

rain in the last month and black because of the fires but just looked clean.

brown from lack of



Maybe that was because there were no plastic bags along the road, like most of Thailand and the rest of the world.

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The rain had also cleared the air of the smoke form the jungle being on fire.



The jungle burns when it gets dry
grows up again during the monsoon season.

then



I was surprised that the dirt road
the mountain was in such good

up



shape

after the heavy rain.

We got to the new shelter for the kids.



I was ecstatic to see the roof on both of the building. We stopped for a few minutes and then went on to meet Chon-nom, some of the kids and Chom-nom's family.



It is always a pleasure to see them



as they are happy people, accept the little kid in yellow that was afraid of me.

We ate a little and then went back on the road to see the new shelter. We stopped at the old shelter that was on the ground and in pieces.



This is the shelter that the storm blew over. You can see the reenactment at http://www.funnyplumber.com/oneman_1.htm .

When we got to the new shelter area



the driveway, which is still



just dirt, was muddy and steep

so we left our motor bikes at the top of the hill and walked down the driveway.

It was nice to see the four water tanks



full of water.

There are now two buildings plus restrooms.



The first building



from the road is
will be the living area with beds for the kids.

quite large and
The second building will be



**the kitchen/cooking area
dining/study area.**

and the

All the roofs are on and the concrete footings for the floors are done. Two men were working on the walls for the dining/study area while we were there.

They have two restrooms in now but will be installing more at the back of the living/sleeping area of the top building so sanitation and cleanliness will not be a problem.

Chom-nom hopes to move into the building with about 15 kids in May. Everyone is very excited as it has been several years to make it possible.

Now, I must tell everyone, we got so involved with making water to the shelter that we forgot about electricity. That is not to big a problem because there is usable electricity about 700-800 meters away. This means that a temporary electrical service can be run for a few lights, television and computer for now. Then in the future a transformer can be set by the government electric company at the top of the driveway and they can have all the electricity they need.

Cost to put in the transformer and meter is about 115,000 Thai Baht (about \$3,300 USD). We may be able to get a few other property owners at the top of hill to share the cost. A couple of concrete poles will be needed, too.

I want to thank everyone that has helped with this children's shelter and all the folks that have donated money to make it happen. Chom-nom feels he has enough money to get the walls up and the place livable, at minimum standards, without further money.

Money will be needed for thinks to make it nice, like windows, paint and stuff like that.

As we all know, when you move into a new place you always need things to make it livable, bedding, light bulbs, dish soap, pans, etc.

We should be able to help with some of those items as I still have over a thousand dollars (\$1,313.53 to be exact) from donations to help the kids. We will keep you informed during the next three months as the buildings are complete and the kids start to move in.

Thank you ALL, again!
Sincerely,



Terry & Daeng



Chom-nom



& the Kids