DEAR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS OF WORLD MISSION,

Of the seven billion people living in the world, almost two and a half billion are children. We don’t have to look far to know that millions of children face conditions that leave them vulnerable and often marginalized. Jesus had a special place in his heart for children as precious and valuable, and he issued a strong warning for anyone who would cause “one of these little ones to stumble.”

Reducing child abandonment is the core mission of Home of the Swallow in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Additionally, to eliminate the perceived need for abortion, it serves as a safe house and resource center for women facing unplanned pregnancies. Home of the Swallow equips parents with the tools to cultivate emotionally healthy, independent families through such services as parenting courses, professional therapy, vocational schooling, and career training. Most of the mothers seeking help struggle to obtain a livable salary, which means their young children are often left unsupervised at home, and after-school programs are either unavailable or prohibitively expensive. This leaves the children vulnerable to dangerous situations, particularly sexual abuse by relatives or neighbors.

To address this need, Home of the Swallow plans to start an after-school program to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children while their parents are at work. The program will help enrich and develop children through nutritious snacks and meals, educational activities, and caregivers who seek to demonstrate Christ’s love and care. By providing this care, Home of the Swallow hopes to build relationships with families, underscore the importance of secure attachments, and provide opportunities to train parents in godly parenting techniques.

Adding an after-school program means Home of the Swallow seeks to equip their center with appropriate furniture and supplies, purchase a van to transport children and families, purchase snacks and meals, and supply salaries for several staff members. The estimated cost for the first two years of this project is $20,000.

Please consider giving toward the development of this ministry and its crucial service. We long to see it provide an environment where vulnerable children can experience Jesus’s love and provision, which will impact not just their lives, but the lives of their families as well.

For the sake of the children,

CURT PETERSON, Interim Executive Minister, Serve Globally
The Asia Regional Coordination Team, GRACE SHIM, TIP BOONRANG, and PATRICK BOONRANG
AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP had left Abby hospitalized. While there, she and her two-year-old son were referred to a government safe house where she met staff from Home of the Swallow (HOS). When she asked if she could live at HOS, she was welcomed into the family with open arms. Abby carried deep scars of abandonment, rejection, and abuse. After several weeks at HOS, she surrendered and gave her life to Christ. As Abby began to heal, she started serving others, both within HOS and in the community. She was able to get a job and started saving money to buy a motorbike. She says she is thankful for HOS, because without its care, she would not have a relationship with the Lord.

IN THAILAND, some parents have to stop working during school breaks to supervise their young children, losing income their families need. Home of the Swallow seeks to provide a program that allows parents to continue working while their children engage in suitable, enriching activities. When we asked eight-year-old Catie what she usually does during school breaks, she said she plays games on the mobile phone, watches TV, and sleeps. But she feels lonely at home. When Catie comes to Home of the Swallow, she enjoys the freedom to play with friends and join them in arts and crafts or games.

WHEN LAURA became pregnant at 16, her parents pressured her to have an abortion. As she made the decision to raise her daughter, Laura realized that she has the potential to make a difference. Laura’s time at Home of the Swallow provided the encouragement and strength she needed to plan for her future. She is now able to care for her baby. Laura is studying hard for her high school equivalency exam and hopes to become an assistant nurse.

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LEADERSHIP RENEWAL IN LATIN AMERICA

Five of the 210 students who signed up for the Colombian Covenant Church (FIPEC) Leadership Training Project in January are native-indigenous Colombians. When some of the classes had to go virtual, the students’ lack of internet as well as language barriers made their participation impossible. Believing in the value of accessible education for all, FIPEC made accommodations to teach those five students in person.

Thanks to your giving to FOWM 243, our global partners like FIPEC are going above and beyond to empower and equip people for leadership!