



1Step2Step News...



1Step2Step is a Christian project working with children with disabilities in Bann Feung Farr orphanage in Thailand, through the work of Nicola Anderson and others.

News from Early 2011



We had lots of positive feedback from the first DAT tour that we ran and started to see examples of practices being implemented. Examples from one superintendant are :-

- The making and use of special feeding spoons.
- A new playground complete with a replica of the rose at Williamsons Park in Lancaster (see photo) using similar equipment as seen in the UK.
- New sensory opportunities in standing positions for the children.



Nicola's ward, which held 100 children, has been split so that there are now 60 of the older children still on her ward and 40 younger children who have been moved onto a newly renovated ward on the 2nd floor. Nicola is hoping to make the new younger children's ward more homely by adding mobiles, stickers and photo's.

Following the success of the first DAT tour, 1step2step were requested by the Department of Social Welfare to run another tour, this time for the Heads of the Welfare service. This was funded by the department and they were keen to include a visit to London. This was arranged to coincide with Nicola's visit to the UK in summer 2011.

The DAT Tour 2011

The Tour for the Heads of the Department of Social Welfare took place on July 5th-14th 2011. They visited the Houses of Parliament, the CEO of Charities of England and made several visits around the North West including Beaumont College and a visit to the Mayor of Lancaster. We received very positive feedback and had several good discussions with the Director General about the potential implementation of OFSTED or CQC (inspectors of care homes in the UK) on their return to Thailand. They also received lots of details about how services are implemented and funded in the UK.



The delegates have made links with Beaumont College in Lancaster that we hope will open the doors to allow us to take Nicola's children on holiday with the help of Beaumont College staff in 2012.

We received a letter of thanks from the Director General who said

"I undoubtedly agree with the Thai Delegation that the visit to UK is not only very useful but it is also most enjoyable"

Nicolas UK Visit

Following the tour Nicola had a good time of restoration in the UK. She went to New Wine, a Christian Conference, with St Thomas's church. There she had time to catch up with friends but also lots of time to reflect on her time in Thailand. She feels God has given her a new commissioning, which includes growth, following several words of confirmation. She also found herself talking with Steve Chalke who had come to speak at the main meeting and talked about his time in Thailand orphanages with children with disabilities.

Following New Wine, Nicola has invited 2 new members onto the committee Emma Dixon and Jannicke Ive. This takes the total number of committee members to ten.



Returning to Thailand

A lot has already happened since Nicola's return to Thailand:

- Nicola has been able to take several items of equipment back to Thailand with her, including pedro boots and some projector lights. The children were pleased to see her and were all well. Chutipong had a seizure on her first day but is now fine.
- Within a few days of her return, Nicola was asked to take a trip to the beach with one of the boys formerly on her ward. She agreed, and got badly sunburnt due to her excitement to be back with the children!
- Bann Faung Farr now has a trampoline, which Nicola hopes will be beneficial to many of the children.
- Bann Faung Farr has won an award for its physiotherapy department. We were very pleased to hear this especially as lots of the equipment that we have shipped out to Thailand is used there and has contributed to them receiving this award.
- Nicola has moved condo rooms within her building. She is now on the 6th floor and has more space which is very useful.



- Nicola is teaching English on a Monday night at the American church she attends. This year the course has 150 students studying at three different levels. Several members of staff from Bann Faung Farr are on this course and enjoying it greatly. Two terms ago two members of staff attended the course. This increased to five last term and this term nine members of staff have enrolled on the course.
- Nicola has had the opportunity to assist in the adoption process for some children being adopted by US families.

She has taken the children with her to the American Church before their adoption to help familiarise them with Western culture. She has also been helping with receiving parcels from the US families and taking them to the waiting children. Nicola has had permission for a friend to help a deaf boy at Bann Faung Farr (see picture on right) learn US sign language. He is being adopted to a family in the USA. All the children she has supported who are now with their adoption families are doing really well and one has now become a Christian.



Wanisa

The biggest news since Nicola's return is that Wanisa her oldest child (now 13 1/2) has been moved to Ratchawadee Girls home for older children. She was much older than most and it was time for her to move. Nicola was very concerned about this, knowing that the assessment of her ability would effect which ward she went into. Wanisa's move went well and 1step2step are very proud of her. She has spent the first 2 weeks on the sick ward being observed where she was eating well and smiling at all the staff, winning them over! Nicola has been visiting her daily whilst she settles in and will continue to visit her regularly in the future. She is now on the ward for girls with cerebral palsy and is noted to be one of the happiest natured girls there.



This leaves Nicola working with 5 boys. Her other girl Napasorn has been living at home for 2 years now. Nicola hopes to take on a new child in the near future when Wanisa is fully settled in her new home.

Potential Visitors

Nicola hopes to have a lot of visitors over the coming months:

- Mark Cresswell is visiting from November to February
- Caroline Jackson and Connie Gillett are visiting in February
- Her Mum Sally Anderson is visiting in February
- The Johnson Family are visiting in March
- Beaumont College are hoping to visit and take Nicola's children on holiday in August.

If you are interested in anything in this letter or supporting this work financially or if you would like to join the 1Step2Step network do contact us at info@1step2step.org