

## *THE DAUGHTERS OF RUTH FOUNDATION*

The Daughters of Ruth Foundation is the only mission of its kind in Thailand. It is officially registered as an NGO with the Thai government and is licensed as a safe house for pre-teenage and teenage girls who have:

- both parents in prison
- one parent deceased and the other one in prison
- one parent imprisoned and the other one living below the Thai poverty level
- or has recently been released from jail or prison and has no where to go and one to care for her.

The Daughters of Ruth Foundation is located in Chiangmai. They come to us from years of abuse, distrust, fear and shame. Like Ruth, they were living under a curse, but not one that God placed on them. They want to step out of the curse and into the blessing, but they don't know how.

The Daughters of Ruth have no family or friends to support them and no clue how to start over. They currently live in a rented three-story townhouse. It costs less for us to clothe, educate, feed and house these twenty girls than it does for the government to rehabilitate one adult prisoner.

As you read their stories please note that:

- they all have nicknames. This is Thai culture and tradition.

and most want to enter the medical profession because there was, and still is, little medical assistance in their remote mountain villages. They want to return and minister to their people.

### PALINEE SAELAO

Nickname: Fah

Birthday: September 6, 1996

Age: 12

Siblings: 3

Grade: 7

Father: Serving 25 years for drug trafficking

Mother: At home living below the Thai poverty level

Interest: Social studies

Talents: Traditional Thai dancing and singing

Goal: To serve the Lord by becoming a medical doctor

Favorite Scripture: *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."* Romans 12:21

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: May 26, 2006

Brought to us by: The head of the sub-district City Council

History: Palinee was sold to the parents she has now. She does not know who her real parents are. Then her parents had their own children so stopped caring for Palinee. Her primary school teacher reported this to the city council and asked them to help her find a new home. So the City Council brought her to the Daughters of Ruth.

## THITINAN KIATPRAISAN

Nickname: Nan

Birthday: December 12, 1990

Age: 17

Siblings: 3

Grade: 12.

Father: Serving 25 years for drug trafficking

Mother: At home living below the Thai poverty level

Interest: Musical instruments and the Chinese language

Talent: Traditional Thai dancing

Goal: To represent the Lord as an owner/manager of a five-star hotel

Favorite Scripture: *"That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world."* John 1:9

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: February 29, 2007

Brought to us by: One of the members of our church that meets at the Daughters of Ruth home

History: Her mother took her to many orphanages but none could accept her because she is not an orphan; her parents are living. Finally, a member of the church suggested taking her to the Daughters of Ruth.

## LEE SAELO

Nickname: Lee

Birthday: November 21, 1998

Age: 10

Siblings: 6

Grade: 5

Father: Serving 25 years for drug trafficking

Mother: At home living below the Thai poverty level

Interest: Musical instruments and math

Talents: Reading and Traditional Thai dancing

Goal: To minister to others by becoming a doctor

Favorite Bible story: Ruth

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: July 30, 2007

Brought to us by: The pastor in her village

History: With her husband in prison and so many children at home, her mother could not afford to care for her. Her mother confided this to the local pastor and he brought her to our home.

## NITTAY SAELEE

Nickname: Nid

Birthday: November 11, 1996

Age: 11

Siblings: 2

Grade: 6

Father: Serving 25 years for drug trafficking

Mother: At home living below the Thai poverty level

Interest: Musical instruments and reading

Talent: Traditional Thai dancing

Goal: To serve the less fortunate by becoming a doctor

Favorite Bible story: Ruth

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: May 5, 2007

Brought to us by: The pastor in her village

History: With her husband in prison the mother was discouraged, disheartened and depressed that she could not provide for Nid. She confided this to the local pastor and he brought her to our home.

## NAMKHANG SAEYANG

Nickname: Num

Birthday: October 11, 1991

Age: 16

Siblings: 3

Grade: 11

Father: Deserted the home to marry a different woman

Mother: Deserted the home to marry a different man

Interest: The English language

Talents: Traditional Thai dancing and singing

Goal: To serve God by becoming a Nurse Assistant or by owning a business

Favorite Scripture: *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."* Matthew 7:7

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: May 26, 2006

Brought to us by: The City Council

History: Num's parents abandoned her when she was very young. She had to live with her poverty-stricken relatives. A teacher noticed how destitute she was and reported this to the head of the sub-district. Because Num's parents are still living she does not qualify to enter an orphanage. Because she did not have a parent in prison she did not qualify for the Daughters of Ruth either. But her situation was so grave that we bent the rules, and welcomed her with open arms.

## KESORN SAKJARENCHAIYAKOON

Nickname: Sorn

Birthday: January 18, 1997

Age: 11

Siblings: 5

Grade: 6

Father: Serving a life sentence for drug trafficking

Mother: Serving a life sentence for drug trafficking

Interest: English and math

Talent: Playing the guitar

Goal: To follow God wherever He leads

Favorite Scripture: *“Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise.”* Proverbs 6:6

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: May 25, 2006

Brought to us by: The head of the sub-district of the City Council

History: When Kesorn’s parents are both imprisoned she had nowhere to go and no one to turn to. So the head of the City Council brought her to our home.

## YUPIN SAEWA

Nickname: Pimp

Birthday: April 28, 1995

Age: 13

Siblings: 5

Grade: 8

Father: Serving 35 years for drug trafficking

Mother: Serving 40 years for drug trafficking

Interest: Mathematics

Talents: Sewing and stitching

Goal: Would like to serve others by becoming a doctor

Favorite Scripture: *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”* Proverbs 1:7

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: March 18, 2007

Brought to us by: Daughters of Ruth director, Boonlerd Chompukeeree

History: Boonlerd first became aware of her when he visited her father in prison. Later, he met her mother in the women’s prison. Her mother asked Boonlerd to transfer her from the people she was staying with to the Daughters of Ruth home.

## SAOWANEE SONGSAWATWONG

Nickname: Patt

Birthday: September 21, 1996

Age: 11

Siblings: 0

Grade: 6

Father: Serving 25 years for drug trafficking

Mother: Cannot be located

Interest: Mathematics

Talent: Drawing

Goal: Would like to become a doctor so she can help the poor families of Thailand.

Favorite Scripture: *"The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?"* Psalm 27:1

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: May 5, 2007

Brought to us by: The pastor of her village

History: At first her parents were very happy together, but later they divorced, and she stayed with her father. After her father's arrest she went to live with her grandparents. They are very old and not able to physically care for her. Her grandfather asked the village pastor to take her to the Daughters of Ruth home.

## SOMSRI SAELEE

Nickname: Sua

Birthday: September 20, 1995

Age: 12

Siblings: 5

Grade: 7

Father: Serving 25 years for drug trafficking

Mother: At home living below the Thai poverty level

Interest: Reading and studying

Talent: Playing the guitar

Goal: Would like to be a doctor so she can financially support other girls like herself

Favorite Scripture: *"Then Boaz said to Ruth, 'You will listen, my daughter, will you not? Do not go to glean in another field, nor go from here, but stay close by my young women.'" Ruth 2:8*

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: May 5, 2007

Brought to us by: The pastor of her village

History: Her father was arrested when she was only five years old. The poverty in which she was raised is indescribable. In Thailand, children have to pay to go to school. Her mother loved her but could not afford to send her to school anymore. She confided this to the village pastor and he brought Sua to our home.

## WILAILUCK MINGKNUAN-A-CHA

Nickname: Luck

Birthday: August 16, 1995

Age: 13

Siblings: 4

Grade: 8

Father: Deceased

Mother: Serving 25 years for drug trafficking

Interest: Musical instruments

Talent: Drawing

Goal: To bring glory to God by becoming a doctor

Favorite Scripture: *“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”* Luke 2:7

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: April 7, 2007

Brought to us by: Daughters of Ruth director, Boonlerd Chompukeeree

History: Wilailuck was only 10 years old when her mother went to prison. Her father cared for her until he died with HIV. Boonlerd learned about her when he visited her mother in prison. Her mother asked Boonlerd to take her to the Daughters of Ruth home.

## PAWEENA SAELEE

Nickname: Wee

Birthday: March 10, 1995

Age: 13

Siblings: 3

Grade: 8

Father: Serving 25 years for drug trafficking

Mother: At home living below the Thai poverty level

Interest: Thai language

Talent: Singing

Goal: To serve the Lord by becoming a doctor

Favorite Bible book: John

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: May 3, 2007

Brought to us by: A pastor who is also a teacher at Lanna Christian College

History: When her father went to prison her mother could no longer afford to take care of her. She tried unsuccessfully to get her into several orphanages but Wee did not qualify because she was not an orphan. The pastor learned about her and brought her to live with the Daughters of Ruth.

## PATCHAREE SAEWANG

Nickname: Fon

Birthday: October 3, 2000

Age: 7

Siblings: 4

Grade: 2

Father: Deceased

Mother: Serving 10 years for drug trafficking

Interest: English and Mathematics

Talent: Sewing

Goal: Would like to serve God by becoming a professional Thai dancer

Favorite Scripture: *“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.”* Mark 12:30

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: May 4, 2007

Brought to us by: A pastor’s wife

History: Her father was shot and killed by law enforcement agents while attempting to traffic drugs. Her mother was arrested and imprisoned for also trafficking drugs. Fon was left alone with no one to care for her. A pastor was visiting her village, learned about her and his wife brought her to the Daughters of Ruth.

## JENJAI PUPAKAMPANAT

Nickname: Jen

Birthday: July 10, 2000

Age: 8

Siblings: 2

Grade: 3

Father: Serving life in prison for trafficking drugs

Mother: Left the home

Interest: Mathematics

Talent: Sewing

Goal: To become a schoolteacher to the less fortunate

Favorite Scripture: *“So he answered and said, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself””* Luke 10:27

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: April 1, 2007

Brought to us by: A pastor in her village

History: Her mother deserted her to go live with her boyfriend who was a close friend to her father. Then he left her mother and no one knows his whereabouts. Her mother’s relatives took her to the church and asked them to care for her. The church tried their best but eventually the pastor brought her to the Daughters of Ruth home.

## MONRUEDEE SAELO

Nickname: Mon

Birthday: September 21, 1995

Age: 13

Siblings: 6

Grade: 8

Father: Serving a life sentence for drug trafficking

Mother: At home living below the Thai poverty level

Interest: Reading and science

Talent: Singing

Goal: Would like to serve others by becoming a doctor

Favorite Scripture: *"In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths."*

Proverbs 3:6

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: May 3, 2007

Brought to us by: The pastor of her village

History: After her father went to prison her mother could not afford to look after all the children. She took Mon to the village pastor and he advised her to place her in the Daughters of Ruth home.

## WIPA SAELO

Nickname: Mo

Birthday: February 21, 1997

Age: 11

Siblings: 6

Grade: 6

Father: Serving a life sentence for drug trafficking

Mother: At home living below the Thai poverty level

Interest: Math, science and English

Talents: Traditional Thai dancing and singing

Goal: To be God's servant in the medical field

Favorite Scripture: *"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."* Luke 11:9

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: May 3, 2007

Brought to us by: The pastor in her village

History: Her story is the same as that of Monruedee Saelo. She is Monruedee's younger sister.

## WILAI SAEMA

Nickname: Blia

Birthday: October 28, 1994

Age: 13

Siblings: 3

Grade: 8

Father: Serving 25 years for drug trafficking

Mother: At home living below the Thai poverty level

Interest: Musical instruments

Talents: Traditional Thai dancing

Goal: To bring glory to God by becoming a professional businesswoman

Favorite Bible character: Abraham

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: May 5, 2007

Brought to us by: The pastor from her village

History: Her mother was in so much depression that she could not care for her children. The village pastor learned of her condition and brought Blia to the Daughters of Ruth home.

## KANDA SAELEE

Nickname: Da

Birthday: October 8, 1993

Age: 14

Siblings: 6

Grade: 9

Father: Serving a life sentence for murder

Mother: At home living below the Thai poverty level

Interest: Reading and mathematics

Talent: Drawing

Goal: Would like to serve other by becoming a nurse

Favorite Scripture: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding."* Proverbs 3:5

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: March 9, 2007

Brought to us by: The director of a compassion foundation

History: Her dad was arrested when she was only seven years old. Five years later her mother married another man. Now, each child is on his/her own. Her mother's relatives raped Da. For her own safety and security she was brought to the Daughters of Ruth Foundation.

## NATTIDA SAEMA

Nickname: Ai

Birthday: December 1, 1996

Age: 11

Siblings: 5

Grade: 6

Father: Deceased

Mother: Serving 50 years for drug trafficking

Interest: Singing and the Thai language

Talent: Drawing

Goal: Would like to help the poor families by becoming a doctor

Favorite Scripture: *"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."* Luke 11:10

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: April 12, 2007

Brought to us by: The director of the Daughters of Ruth Foundation, Boonlerd Chompukeeree

History: While trafficking drugs, Nattida's father was shot and killed by government agents. Her mother was also arrested for drug trafficking and imprisoned. Boonlerd serves as chaplain of the largest women's prison in northern Thailand. While performing his duties, he met her mother and she asked him to bring Ai to the Daughters of Ruth home.

## VANIKA

Nickname: Kai

Birthday: November 4, 1997

Age: 11

Siblings: 4

Grade: 6

Father: Serving 46 years for drug trafficking

Mother: In Bangkok living below the Thai poverty level

Interest: The Thai language

Talents: Reading and teaching others

Goal: To become a famous technician

Favorite Scripture: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* John 3:16

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: October 20, 2008

Brought to us by: Her mother

History: After Vanika's father went to prison, her mother wandered from village to village in search of work. She and her five children lived in many places, even Buddhist temples. Finally, her mother brought her to the Daughters of Ruth. Vanika is very shy and does not speak much.

## NIPAPORN

Nickname: Porn

Birthday: March 31, 1996

Age: 12

Siblings: 4

Grade: 7

Father: Serving 46 years for drug trafficking

Mother: In Bangkok living below the Thai poverty level

Interest: Reading about the arts

Talent: Singing

Goal: To become a famous singer

Favorite Scripture: *"For the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.'" Romans 10:11*

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: October 20, 2008

Brought to us by: Her mother

History: Her story is the same as that of Vanika Chotchareunekul. She is Vanika's older sister.

## MALINEE SAE

Nickname: Nee

Birthday: October 21, 1996

Age: 12

Siblings: 2

Grade: 7

Father: Serving 25 years for drug trafficking

Mother: Whereabouts unknown

Interest: Criminal Justice

Talent: Mathematics

Goal: To become a policewoman

Favorite Scripture: *"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."* Matthew 1:21

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: October 21, 2008

Brought to us by: Her grandmother

History: After Malinee's father went to prison her mother remarried. The children were not welcomed into the new marriage so they were sent to live with their very poor grandmother. An orphanage in Northeast Thailand accepted Malinee's brother. The grandmother was unable to care for the two remaining girls. The grandmother eventually brought Malinee to our home.

## VIPAPORN SAE

Nickname: Pan

Birthday: November 4, 2001

Age: 7

Siblings: 2

Grade: 2

Father: Serving 15 years for drug trafficking

Mother: At home living below the Thai poverty level

Interest: Drawing and coloring

Talents: Playing sports

Goal: To become a nurse

Favorite Scripture: *"Then He lifted up His eyes toward His disciples, and said: "Blessed are you poor, For yours is the Kingdom of God."* Luke 6:20

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: October 27, 2008

Brought to us by: Her grandmother.

History: When her father went to prison her mother could no longer afford to keep her so she sent her to live with her grandmother. Her grandmother tried to care for her but was unable to do so.

## SIYAPORN SAE

Nickname: Petch

Birthday: July 7, 2001

Age: 7

Siblings: 4

Grade: 2

Father: Serving 50 years for drug trafficking

Mother: In Chiang Rai living below the Thai poverty level

Interest: Playing sports

Talent: Singing

Goal: To become a nurse

Favorite Scripture: *"And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written, Amen."* John 21:25

Entered Daughters of Ruth home: October 27, 2008

Brought to us by: Her mother

History: Her mother has no education and works on a farm. She is paid daily for the amount of crops she produces. She does not earn enough to support Siyaporn or provide for her education. After the father was incarcerated she brought Siyaporn to the Daughters of Ruth home so she could have a better place to live and an opportunity for a brighter future.

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Jeremiah asked, *"Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?"* Lamentations 1:12. Jesus said, *"Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these ... even the least of them, you did it to Me."* Matthew 25:40. When you pray for one of these Daughters of Ruth you are *"Touching the face of God."*

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