

April 16, 1980 – Wednesday

Wang Kaew Reading Diary of Anne Frank – excellent!

To hear the ocean waves, the many birds, to see the monkeys and their many little ones, to smell the delicate but radiant flowers, to taste the well prepared food (esp. shrimp) and the salt water, to play for hours in the warmth of the sea brings me so close to Your great goodness Lord! Even the storms over the seas caused some great waves to do body surfing in.

I love the Imitation of Christ I have been reading these days. Unless our lives are totally in You, this life has no meaning. In what can we hope and trust except in You, Lord.

April 17, 1980 – Thursday

Wang Kaew

I am glad to go back to the US with this very positive image of the beauty of Thailand and its very gentle and hospitable people. How I truly wish I could make their gentleness a part of my life.

In the pm the Irish had a great party for all the camp – toasted cheese sandwiches, beef, onion, tomato sandwiches, sticky rice, drinks, mangos, popcorn and peanuts, etc. All the girls have a great spirit – BeBe, Anne, Catherine, Phil and Pat. If we have a party, I would suggest toasted peanut butter & jelly sandwiches, cheese, fruit salad, juices, hamburgers and potato salad.



Dr. Del Pat BeBe Phil Kate Catherine Anne

BeBe, Phil, Catherine & Anne are part of the Irish Team nurses

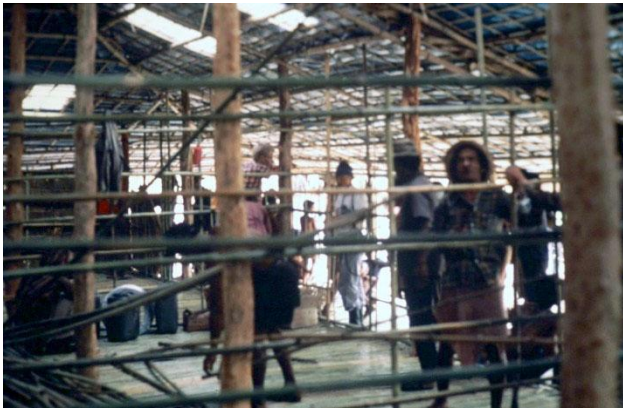
April 18, 1980 – Friday

First day back to work after four days of vacation (with Ted Mazza)

Lord, I was so happy to get back to my people. They call me the Mother with the “big family.” Listen – this is one of my most important works. It is sad to hear the stories of the young people (10 – 20) who have been deprived of their education – how fortunate we are.

The Germans have a beautiful clinic and hospital – OPD 4. There is also a nice school – many pictures, numbers, very neat.

Many people sleep at our clinic during the night. This is the only home they know – whole families sleep on mats.



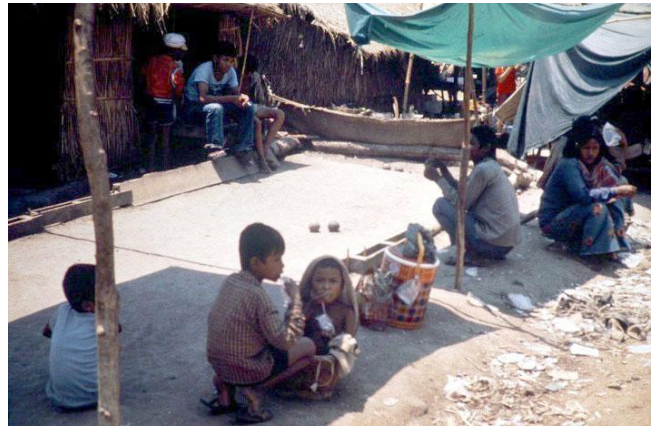
All photos on this page taken by Ted Mazza

April 19, 1980 – Saturday

Lord, my heart aches to see these lonely and suffering people – there seem to be so many young children and adults so alone. I ask that I make Your gentle, caring love present to them. Will they see peace? The conditions are so uncertain it is difficult to plan for the future.

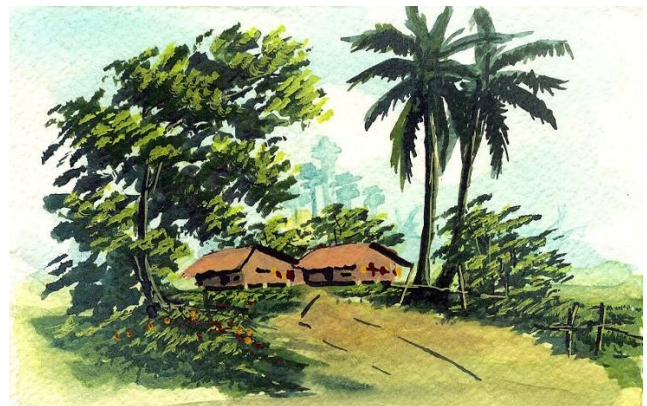
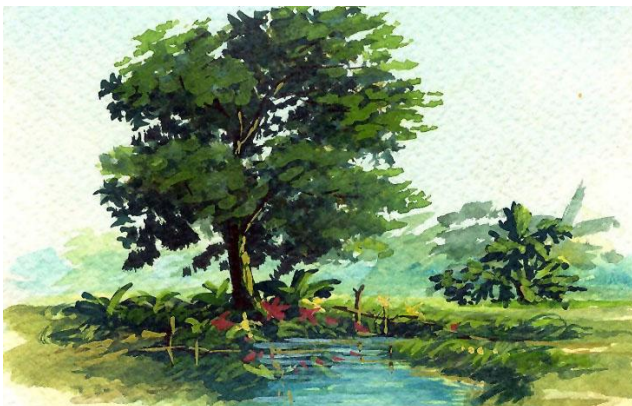


Photos
By
Ted
Mazza



April 20, 1980 - Sunday

Fire in the camp! How fast those two homes burned. Lord, protect these poor, innocent people from further harm. Each night they say there is much gun fighting and some shelling. Many are very afraid to stay alone in the camp. The Sisters from Khao I Dong say they hear gun fire all night too – the people run from their beds.

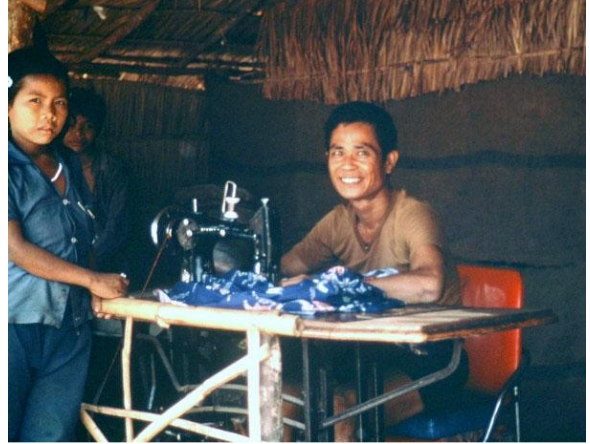


Hand painted cards by one of our volunteer refugees

April 21, 1980 - Monday

I left home 7 weeks ago already.

One thing one must be really careful here – not to go wild on the Western meds and sophisticated treatment. Everything must be simple so the Khmers can do it themselves after we leave. It would be a great disservice to make them dependent on us. We must use their culture – we are always guests in another country. These people are very creative and industrious. Many were farmers, business men, people of means and it is amazing what they all do with the little they have.



Photos by Ted Mazza

April 22, 1980 - Tuesday

I need to keep turning to You, Lord for hope and courage in this situation. Conditions are so unstable and so many innocent people are suffering. If I dwell too long I would really break down. So many are making an honest day's wage – getting fire wood, sewing, bike repair, getting food to sell. I cry to see the little children carrying the heavy water tins, their wares, to see the teenagers alone trying to survive for the day. I don't know what to say. I turn to You in prayer knowing You can do all things. Grant me patience with myself and with my children.



April 23, 1980 – Wednesday

Lord, thank you for the gift of this service to Your beautiful people.

The Doctor of our clinic has his daughter come to my classes – guess he must be impressed. She is a tiny 13 year old – like a princess – so gentle. We count up to ten – have pictures in Khmer and English, a homemade clock, the alphabet. How the people who are more refined must suffer from this extreme poverty and not have the chance to advance.

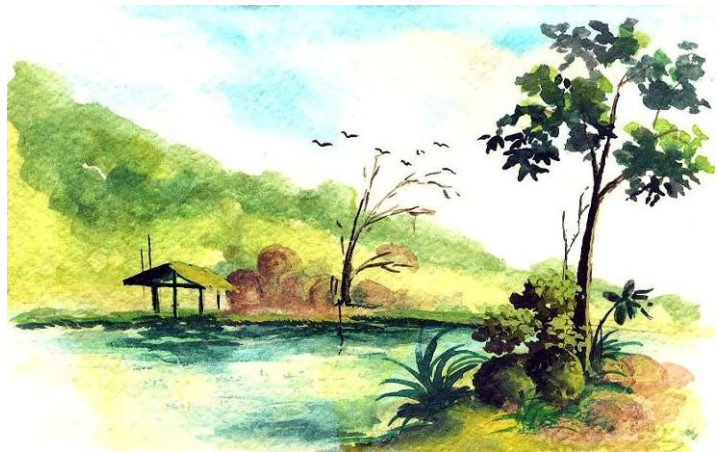
Lord, forgive my impatience with the kids – they are so hungry, have so little and suffer so much.



April 24, 1980 – Thursday

We planted a beautiful garden in front of our clinic today. I asked for volunteers to fix the land and a professional farmer did it for me in no time. Actually the ground was quite fertile when dug up – I hope others around the clinic will start gardens.

The man who did it seemed such a kind, gentle man – simple – who was just passing through camp. We planted some water crest and lettuce. We will use our old water from the clinic – water is a scarce commodity – to water the garden. We give seeds and tools for anyone interested in starting their own. Many are farmers.

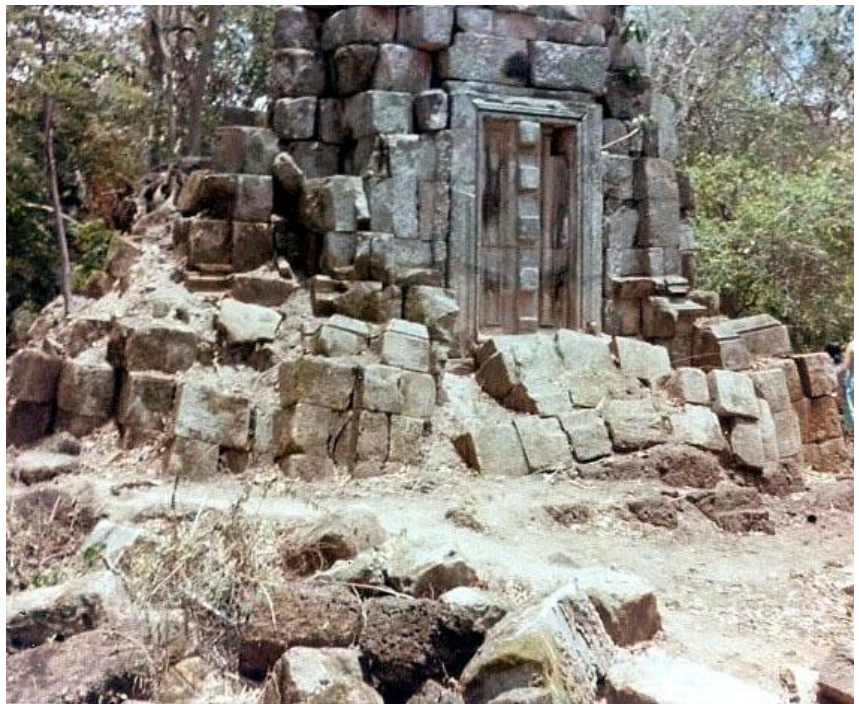


April 25, 1980 – Friday

Visited the ruins of an ancient Temple in Cambodia

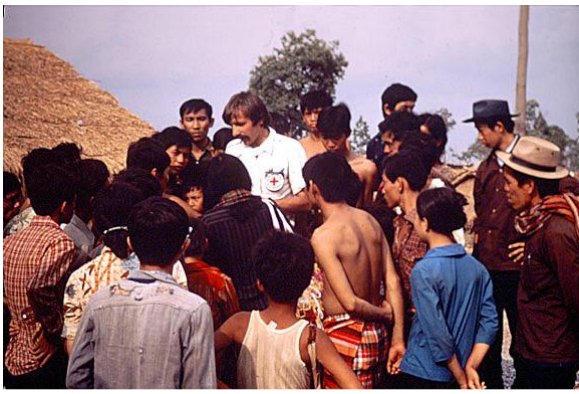
Lord, I felt like I was in the ancient city of Rome – the vast stone, pieces of walls and right in the midst of the ruins a stone Buddha with a bright orange grab, candles burning and flowers around – real temple worship. The land was so quiet and peaceful, the stillness promoted reflection on the effects of war. There were few huts in the area but most of them had wells.

Westerners must come to the area for the kids were shouting “ok”. Imagine this history of this area.



April 26, 1980 – Saturday

Pierre is the new “Papa” for the boarder camps. Jocko, Finnish, is coordinator of Samet. Both are very quiet, gentle men – few words but those spoken hold much power and wisdom and are respected by all. I find the more quiet one is, the more attentive to another, the more one is liked and respected. People admire the dignified presence of others – that is why the (Thailand) King and Queen are so popular.



April 27, 1980 – Sunday

Lord, the freshness of the rain was beautiful today. I am anxious to see the rice fields. Things quickly get greener after a rain storm.

It's getting awfully hot – 100 degrees daily. I'm sweating as soon as I finish my shower. Nights are usually cool though. Magnificent sunrise and sunsets! I love Thailand!

April 28, 1980 – Monday

The ICRC has reduced its boarder staff.

Lord, I trust You will lead me where You desire. I asked for a 6 week extension and would like to stay but You know much more what is best.

My stay at the Nursing Homes has taught me discipline, sacrifice, hard work. How could we ever complain in community when all people are shifted from one place to another or given orders without any explanation. I have grown to treasure community and am so grateful for being a member of the Sisters of St. Joan. Help me always be open to needs of our Community.

April 29, 1980 – Tuesday

Went to Samet Village but could not work – fighting in camp. The place seemed so stable these last few weeks – but there's always unrest. The best would be if the people could go back to their own Country – this is really what they desire. I think the OPD's have fulfilled their purpose – now there is just too much drug abuse and psychosomatic illnesses. Really, we could use guidance counselors and psychologists here. The people seldom cry – they will break into a laugh or just be stone face. As a rule, when we smile they will smile back. Wish I knew what was happening inside.



Checkpoint to and from
refugee camp

April 30, 1980 – Wednesday

Lord, thanks for the gift of meeting Papa!

As Papa said, the ideal thing would be for the Khmer to go back to their Country. So we really can't push schools since that would make the camp more stable.

I am in the ideal situation with the food program – if the people and kids eat well, they will not get sick. Then we won't need meds or fancy treatment. Teaching is our most important job – so the Khmers can do the work. I am getting so much more from this experience than I could possibly give.



May 1, 1980 - Thursday

I am nurse on duty at Watthana – good day!

Lord, I am beginning to complain so much again – please get me out of this. If I cannot be in a positive situation, I must walk away for I know my own weaknesses. People need positive things.

Help me never hurt the people or children in any way by rough mannerisms, partiality, impatience. Help me always express love and concern to each person by gentleness and compassion. Who knows the horror these dear people have experienced – this is often locked in their heart behind gentle and soft smiles.

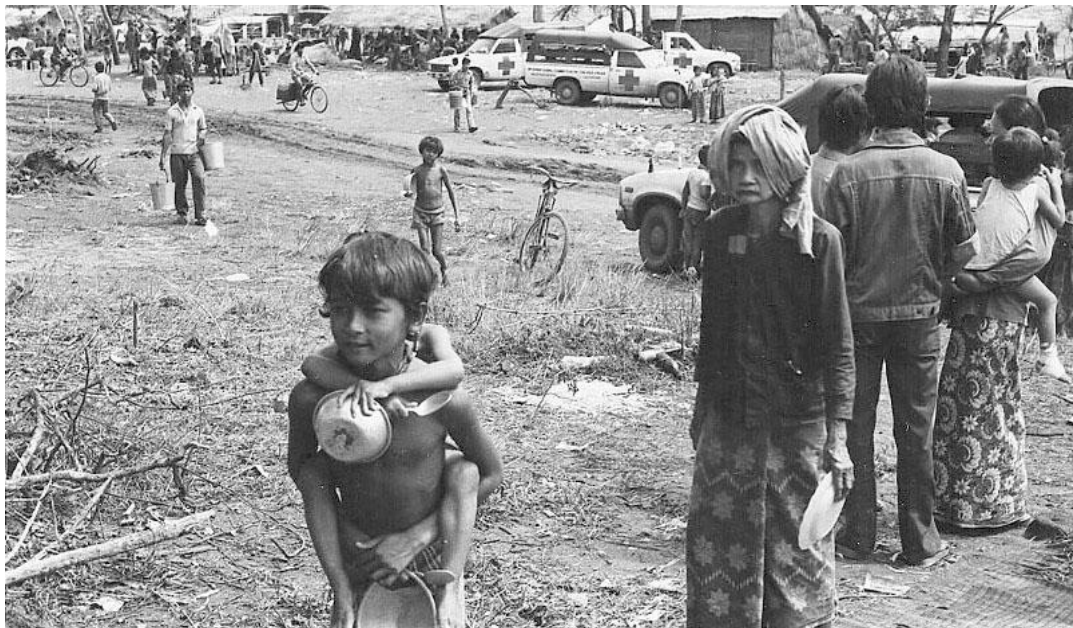
May 2, 1980 – Friday

Lord, help me always be wise and prudent on this trip.

I have been made Camp Samet SFC coordinator. This includes 6 feeding centers feeding several thousand people daily. Some of the projects to work on:

- Further teaching programs on nutrition
- Meeting one time a week with all the staff
- Make tape of teaching course
- Make tape for children to stay in order
- Be sure good posters in all the Centers

I received a bike to travel from place to place – stop for air in tires at bike shops along the way. Lady Long is one of the heads of the feeding program.



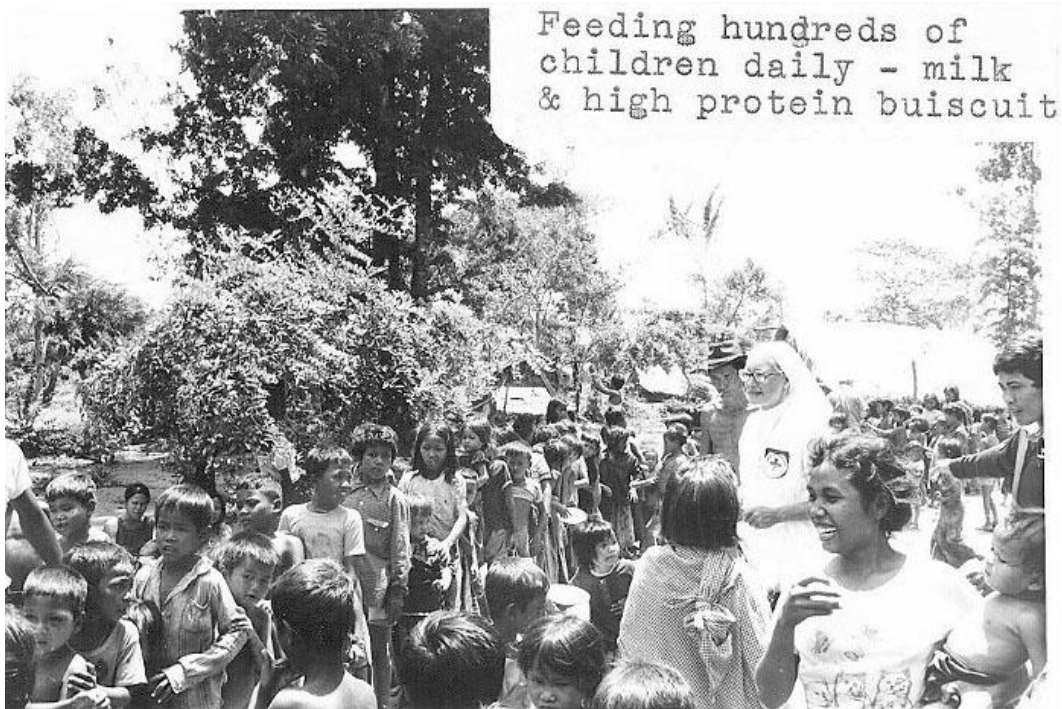


Photo by Japanese Photographer Naoki

May 3, 1980 – Saturday

Some clean up at camp –

1. No more black markets which mean there are no markets in the streets – our clinic grounds are absolutely free of trash and the whole camp is so much cleaner.
2. No soldiers in the camp and the whole grounds seem so much more peaceful – all soldiers are on the boarder of the camp – I wonder what's up.

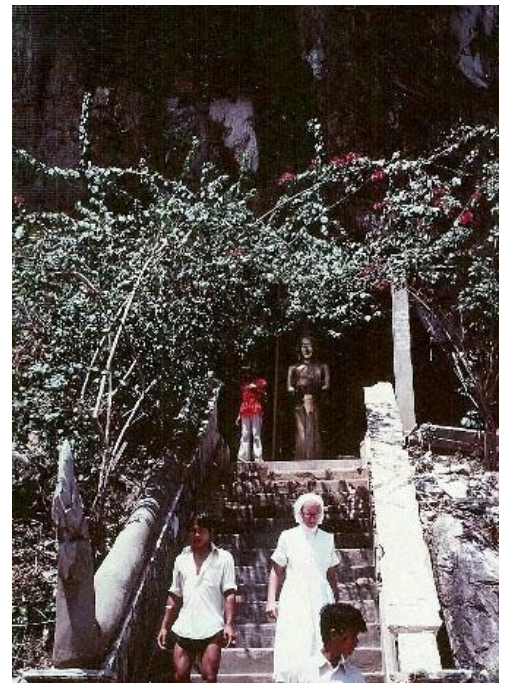
May 4, 1980 – Sunday

Very strict security going into the camp – It is after 10 when we got past the check point so I came back with the other American team since I am anxious to go to Chang Mai. There has been so much smuggling and now they check everything in our car, our passes, etc. Please protect us on this trip to the beautiful northern mountains.

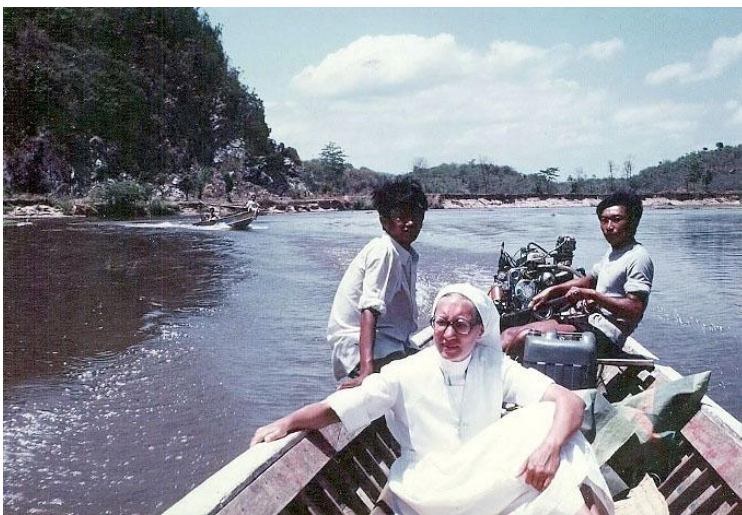
May 5, 1980 - Monday

Night bus from Bangkok to Changrai

Lord, who can create natural beauty as great as Yours! The mighty, majestic mountains – the bus really worked hard to up them! The weather is so cool and refreshing here. Ride along the lake was beautiful – the Temple in the rocks, people paying homage to their Buddha on a remote Island, the people diving for gravel and sand to collect it in primitive ways. The market place – each item carefully taken out and put in a wooden box at the end of each day. Such a variety – more than our shopping centers!



Sister Ann Catherine enjoying the beauty of Thailand



May 6, 1980 – Tuesday

Lord, as I stand on the boarder of Thailand to see Burma and Laos and as we drive along the Mekong River, I can't help but think of all the history here. All is calm, quiet, and peaceful as the people go about their daily chores. Again, the Buddha Temple high, hidden up in the remote mountain area – a Temple surely over 1000 years old.

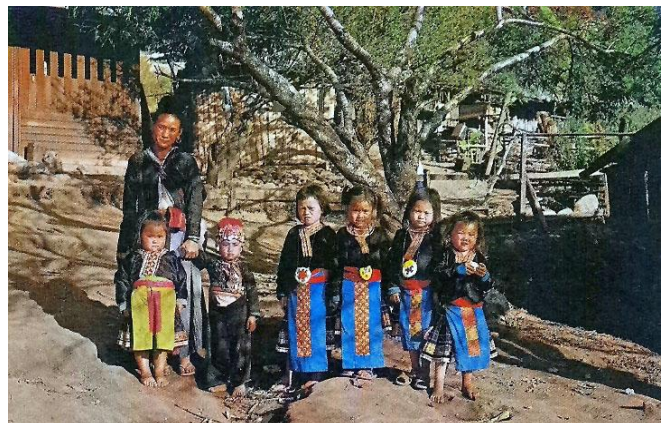
One's thoughts can only turn to you as we witness the great mountains of Laos, yet there is a land that suffered from war. I'm so glad I came to this part of Thailand for now I saw the sea, flat land, mountains, and rivers.

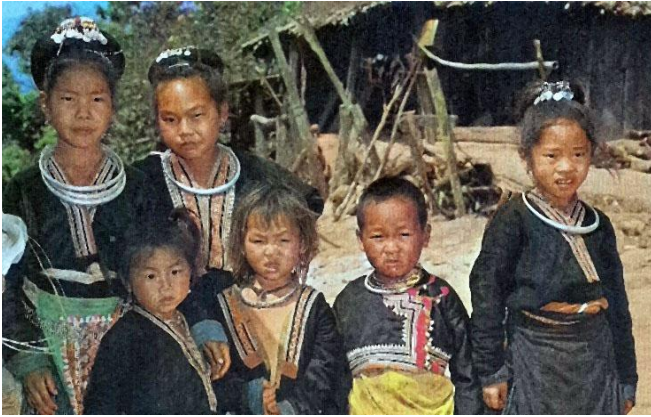
May 7, 1980 – Wednesday

The Mao Village hill tribe – extremely fascinating

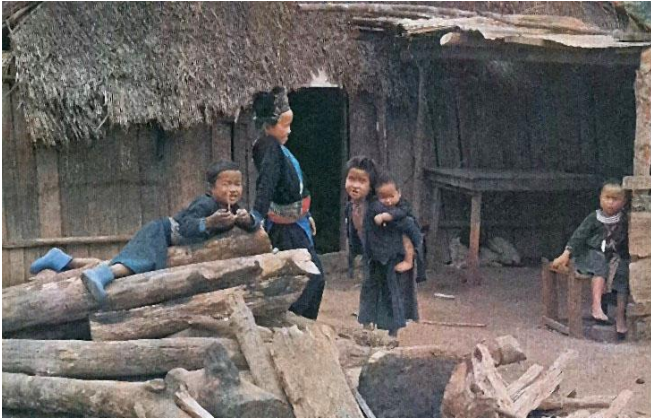
Lord, here we see poverty in another way. The people carry out their work as in primitive times. Very poor, unkempt surroundings. The tribe is hidden in the mountain accessible only by a narrow road. The King's summer home is near by and when they are there, the queen visits the tribes.

The industries – the people work in such quiet peace – no pressure. It is beautiful, delicate artwork – lacker ware, Thai silk, etc. One senses peace and calm as we watch the people work!





Changmai in North Thailand



Beautiful Hill Tribe Mao women and children dressed in native clothing



Post card photos

May 8, 1980 – Thursday

Night bus from Changmai to Bangkok to Home

Reflections about Ted

Ted was probably a model for all of us. He loved his family and let everyone know it – why not. He was a gentle but wise man who quietly did his work – yet he touched the lives of many.

I am so glad I took this trip for Thailand is a beautiful country and one must see it to appreciate its magnificent nature. Most of all, the people are so friendly, always smiling and happy. I am sorry Noolek cannot come now but I do hope she carries the baby. I will have many positive things to tell her and Dr. Supapodok.

May 9, 1980 – Friday

I took a tour of all six feeding centers! Went to Vietnamese camp.

Lord, how I missed my people! The feeding centers are going so well, very organized, many children! The Khmers are doing all the work now. In the tents are the most malnourished. I am so pleased with the feeding situation.

At the Vietnamese Camp, the people were so happy to see a Sister! Important to wear a habit! We were served a delicious Vietnamese dinner – we were special guests. Their one request – bread and wine for Mass. It is difficult to believe people can be without what we take so much for granted – I will send some to them.



May 10, 1980 – Saturday

Lord, the real heroes of this story are the beautiful people who live through the horrors – the 14-15-16 year old orphans who are alone, the mothers whose husbands are killed, and the people who desire freedom.

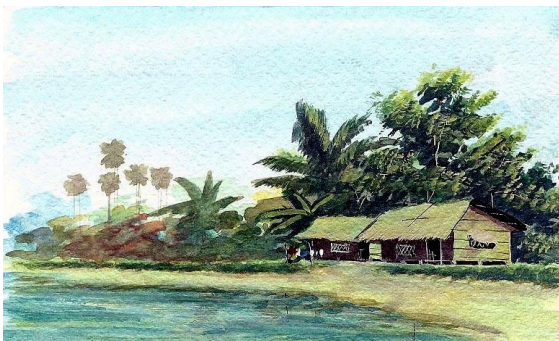
My heart broke to see the “mother” and grandmother give up the malnourished child – who knows the real story behind each person!



May 11, 1980 – Sunday (Mother’s Day)

New Mother General!

Mother Mary Carla – I remember her well from our trip last year. Lord, we are so richly blessed for she seems to be a very prayerful dedicated woman. I am so grateful for Mother Pia’s and Sister Anne’s frequent letters of encouragement and for all the Community support.



Hand painted by refugee

May 12, 1980 – Monday

Wounded soldier shot by Thai.

Lord, the horrors of war, the suffering of these people. This young man was shot in the knee, (half his knee is missing) then stabbed in the head and buried for dead – had gone into the Thai Village for trading. He was covered with sand from the burying – had dug out of the grave.

I fear for the many who try to go to Khao I Dong on their own – the land is mined and how would the Thai soldiers know their motives. Sadness – many in Khao I Dong now want to come back because they miss their families who are still in Cambodia.

*“Ambulance” taking refugee
across border for more care*



May 13, 1980 – Tuesday

Lord, bless the Irish maidens!

Really enjoyed working with them probably more than anyone else – so dedicated. Their OPD had a great party for them – meats, salad, drinks, and snacks! The OPD was decorated with greens and beautiful posters handmade by the Khmers. The parties add a special spirit to the camp, for they bring much life to a very depressing situation. I will never forget the faces of these dear children – often wonder what is going on in their minds. We went out with the girls for their last night. They had such a big, special party for us.



May 14, 1980 – Wednesday

Lord, I am so grateful for this mission experience.

I have met a wonderful interpreter who went from quarter to quarter so we could tell the people about the feeding centers and our nutrition problem. I have been asked to give a class in one of the quarters.

My nutrition class at the hospital is going well. Gentleman from OPD 3 is teacher – extremely dynamic. He speaks with a constant peaceful smile. The students have been so attentive for over an hour. Basic nutrition – dehydration – diarrhea – malnutrition – breast feeding.



May 15, 1980 – Thursday (Ascension Thursday)

Visited Kao I Dong – the dedication and talents of people, O lord! A child had just died in the intensive feeding center – one year old, looked like an old man, so thin. The mother quietly cried, washed him and powered him well, then wrapped him in a blanket and took him out to be buried. At Samet, there was a kind of wailing all day – said this was for someone who had died.

Went to the Rehabilitation Hospital – fantastic. Thought I was with Paul at West Allis Memorial Hospital. It had all kinds of equipment for exercising, wheelchairs. All is made out of bamboo.



May 16, 1980 – Friday

Lord, thank you for Mass and the Capuchin Priest

We met a Suisse priest who lives only 10 minutes walking distance from our hut. His Mass was so prayerful, peaceful – there was something special about him – then found out he is a Capuchin! I felt like I was back at St. Ben’s! Lord, what a gift for my greatest sacrifice was not having daily Mass – then you send us the best! Thanks!

How could I ever complain of any sacrifice when I see how the people suffer here, how little they have and yet how happy, peaceful and calm some remain.

May 17, 1980 – Saturday

Went to Nong Chan – conditions deplorable!

People using old rice sacks and dead leaves for their homes. Dry, baked earth, home on home, very disorderly, river dried up, yet this whole thing could be washed up with a few good rains.

Masses of people in extreme poverty – what meaning do they have – what suffering!!

May 18, 1980 - Sunday

Lord, what will happen to our people. Now they are moving them back into the forest – back into Cambodia. Things seem to be getting organized and were peaceful in Samet. These people really have no land, no freedom. Give them courage and relieve their fears this evening.



May 19, 1980 – Monday

Again, the contradiction of life and death!

Lord, two beautiful births – little girls. The mothers come in off the streets, deliver in the same clothes they are wearing. All natural birth and not a whimper from the mothers. The babies are so alert, cry soon, so well formed!

Then a gentleman is brought to the hospital per oxcart – shot in the head and his brains literally coming out. He lives for more than an hour – appears to know what is going on but his right side is paralyzed. He dies in the ambulance on the way to Kao I Dong – utterly alone – the men who brought him soon left.

May 20, 1980 – Tuesday

Lord, what is the future of these people!

Home today because they are moving the camp. Samet looked so good these last few weeks – all cleaned up, orderly, no soldiers, the children full of pep, each of the quarter leaders taking pride in their people, the place if so peaceful.

Now these poor people who have constantly been moving so many years must move again- be uprooted from the little stability they had been experiencing. Yet, I believe these suffering are Your chosen people and you are leading them to a land of perfect peace! Someday truly we will all live in peace together!



*100,000 people moved
3 times in 5 months*





May 21, 1980 – Wednesday

Lord, the rains are here and so refreshing!

As soon as the camp is again stable, I have a plan for Public Health/Nutrition Information.

In each quarter and clinic, people will be trained in basic nutrition so they can go from hut to hut to tell families about the nutrition and to access the children. They would also do follow up care. Choosing the Khmers for this project would be up to the leaders – actually the full responsibility would be in the hands of the Khmers. All children under 10 should be fed.

May 22, 1980 – Thursday

Lord, I hope when I leave here, I will appreciate my Community of Sisters much more – they have been so supportive and I know it is their prayers that have helped me find peace.

Also, I really hope I stop complaining. Seeing those refugees being moved – driven from one place to another – I see how rich I really am – free to do as I please. So many faces look so sad and lonely – my heart breaks. No words are needed to hear their sorrow, despair, to see the pain they have suffered so long.

