



AMOR XV EXPOSURE
October 16, 2009

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October 15, 2009

A. Meaning

An exposure is a specific period of time given to experiencing something and a process of getting in touch with a world that one wishes to know about more closely, usually for a specific purpose.

B. Objectives of AMOR XV Exposure

1. To visit and briefly experience the differences involved concerning leadership at various levels of importance and seniority. Real leaders are those who use their power to benefit the community and to bring peace and happiness to all rather than for personal benefit or satisfaction.
2. To examine the facilities available at the different centres and to familiarize oneself with the environment and circumstances where the centres are located. To discuss relevant matters with project or program beneficiaries and if possible, to observe their lifestyles and the manner and extent they carry on with their lives.
3. To acknowledge the values derived from these experiences and to recognize the challenges that call us to move beyond the limits of gender, culture, race and religion, as well as other boundaries to make responsible responses in our little sphere.

C. Places of Exposure

1. The International Center for Buddhist Studies (Nakhon Pathom)

The Venerable Dhammananda is the first fully ordained nun in Theravada Buddhism in Thailand. As associate professor, Dr. Chatsumarn Kabilsingh, taught at Thammasat University in Bangkok for 27 years. She is internationally known for her work on matters concerning women in Buddhism and environmental conservation. She has written and translated more than 60 books into Thai and among these are the Lotus Sutra and "Freedom in Exile" which is an autobiography of the Dalai Lama. She is the director and abbess of the Songdhammakalyani Temple which is an international training and educational center for Buddhist women.

She is quite well known among Catholic priests and religious bodies in Thailand. The Lux Mundi Major Seminary has invited her to speak many times as a professor and specialist in Buddhist matters. Organized visits and exchanges with her have been made possible at the Songdhammakalyani Center where she resides.

GROUP 1 N (The International Center for Buddhist Studies (Nakhon Pathom)

- 1. SR. YUPA SUPASRI, IJ (Thailand)**
- 2. SR. INNAMMA YERUVA, JMJ (India)**
- 3. SR. CHA, YOUNGIM (Korea)**
- 4. SR. JEONG, BONG MI (Korea)**
- 5. SR. EDNA MARY MACDONALD, FMA (Australia)**
- 6. SR. FRANCISCA TAN, RC (Singapore)**
- 7. SR. HU SHU-CHIN, FI (Taiwan)**
- 8. SR. PRATUM SINGMUCHA, SHB (Thailand)**
- 9. SR. NUCHARA THIANGNGAMDEE, SHB (Thailand)**

2. University of Life (Mae Klong, Samut Songkhram)

The program of the University of Life or the Academic Curriculum for Local Development is the result of the collaboration between the Department of Law of Ramkhamhaeng University, Bangkok and the Development Institute of Local Community and the National Network of local community organizations. It was officially approved by the Ramkhamhaeng University's Commission on June 2005 and started more than 70 learning centers in 12 provinces all over Thailand for undergraduate and graduate degrees. Mae Klong is the only center in Central Thailand.

Thai Education often uses a ready-made formula for success and prosperity. People are not taught enough methods and process of thinking. People do not think about the aim of their existence and the results of their achievement. Rather, they succumb to follow and copy other successful ideas which tend to weaken local communities who wait for outside support. Since local and national development has no solid base, cheap labor accounts for successful economic gains of the "few". Hence, many programs don't last long and new programs come up very easily. Thailand has many resources both human and natural. Educational institutes are not the only places of learning. Everywhere learning is possible and learning resources are available.

Hence, **The University of Life has its aim in personal development and building up a solid local community through thinking processes that promote changes.** It is a "dare to go beyond"....!

1. to go out from materialism, consumerism, hedonism and debt-accumulation (GDP) to GDH – Gross Domestic Happiness – happiness as its indication of success

2. to go out from superficial life that is weak and without soul, without clear goals and inspiration to a solid learning that will

cause transformation, starting from within, with a new awareness and changes in one's behavior – bringing about a rearrangement of one's life's discipline, to be more one's self and to be able to solve the local community problems

3. to go out of individualism and competition towards building closer local relationship and solidarity aiming at local collaboration to discover local, natural and human resources emphasizing production for the need of the family, the local community and their network; their priority is primarily to survive... and then to be rich

4. to go out from attachments to academic degrees, institutes, positions, high salaries and migration to cities (which partially cause family, local community and church disasters and other problems) to more choices for their ways and places of learning and work without feeling inferior, collaborating to build up a solid, local community.

GROUP 2 U (University of Life -Mae Khlong, Samut Songkhram)

1. SR. MALIWAN PARAMATHAWIROTE, SIHM (Thailand)
2. SR. NGUYEN KIM-NGA (Cambodia)
3. SR. AGNESE CHILETTI – Xaverian (Thailand)
4. SR. MARY OLIVIA SALDANHA (India)
5. SR. YULITA MARIE NANIK, SPM (Indonesia)
6. SR. RITSUKO OKA, Franciscan Sisters of “Militia Immaculatae” (Japan)
7. SR. JOHANNA WANIDA THAVORN, LCU (Thailand)
8. SR. NORA RADOMKIT, SHB (Thailand)
9. SR. CHAVALA VECHAYANT, SHB (Thailand)
10. SR. MARY GRACE DE GUZMAN, SFIC (Thailand)
11. SR. FELICIA BOONLOM PANTHONG, LCU (Thailand)

GROUP 3 U (University of Life -Mae Khlong, Samut Songkhram)

1. **SR.SUJITRA KONGOU, LCU (Thailand)**
2. **SR. MARIA VICTORIA GONZALEZ de CASTEJON, RSCJ (Italy)**
3. **SR. KRISADEE CHUENCHOMNOI, SHB (Thailand)**
4. **SR. NAPHA KHAMSEEYA, SJA (Thailand)**
5. **SR. KANYARAT DUHAE (Maepon, Thailand)**
6. **SR. ANNIE SONCHAROEN, SPC (Thailand)**
7. **SR. THEODORE HANNENFELD, OSU (Thailand)**
8. **SR. THANYA SUETRONG, La Salle Sisters (Thailand)**
9. **SR. MARIA LAU, IJ (Singapore)**
10. **SR. WANG HAI QIN (China)**
11. **SR. HUANG HAI QING (China)**

GROUP 4 U (University of Life -Mae Khlong, Samut Songkhram)

1. **SR. TERESA SOMSRI SUMET, SPC (Thailand)**
2. **SR. RAE BERRY (New Zealand)**
3. **SR. PARVEEN DILDAR JABOB (Pakistan)**
4. **SR. MARY CARMELLA RAJADURAI (Sri Lanka)**
5. **SR. NIU YANHONG, MIC (Taiwan)**
6. **SR. THERESA TRAN THI KIM, LHC -Da Lat (Vietnam)**
7. **SR. ANNE LEE KIM CHI, LHC- Kiet Tam (Vietnam)**
8. **SR. PHAM THI BACH TUYET (Vietnam)**
9. **SR. MARIA SOMPONG THABPING, SIHM (Thailand)**
10. **SR. ANNA RITA MICELLI Sisters of Charity (Laos)**
11. **SR. LUCIA MARIA NONGKRAN SRIMANEE (Thailand)**

5. The Royal Chitralada Project (Bangkok)

Having visited his subjects in all regions of the Kingdom, His Majesty the King is acquainted with their many problems and struggles especially in agricultural occupations that are respected as the backbone of the country. Determined to solve the problems, His Majesty the King initiated the “**Royal Chitralada Agricultural Projects**” within the compound of his residence, Chitralada villa. Since 1961, the Royal Chitralada Projects have been implementing a diverse range of agricultural activities for experimentation and demonstration purposes. In addition, the projects operate on a non-profit basis.

In the implementation of the **Royal Chitralada Projects**, emphasis is placed on implementing His Majesty the King’s initiatives called “**Sufficiency Economy**” that encourage the villagers to become self-sufficient and improve their long-term quality of life. Moreover, issues regarding optimal utilization of the natural resources and agricultural input available in Thailand as well as agricultural by-products and wastes are also emphasized. The projects rely on scientific and technological progress in conducting studies, research and experimentation. They are full operational in order to promote and disseminate the knowledge of demonstration of simple methods suitable for individual farmers and all people who are interested.

GROUP 5 R (The Royal Chitralada Project Bangkok)

1. **SR. NORMA ESPERAS, DC (Thailand)**
2. **SR. JYOTI PRECY PINTO (India)**
3. **SR. MARGARETHA GULTOM, SCMM (Indonesia)**
4. **SR. CHRISTINA SRI MURNI, FMM (Indonesia)**
5. **SR. KIM SOOK HEE, RSCJ (Korea)**
6. **SR. OH, SUN BOK (Korea)**
7. **SR. MICHELLE LOPEZ, RGS (Thailand)**

8. SR. SUPAPORN CHOTIPHOL, RGS (Thailand)
9. SR. SUTISA UTALUN, RGS(Thailand)
10. SR. ROSA SUPHA THONGAMPHAI, SIHM (Thailand)
11. SR. FRANCOISE JIRANONDA, SPC

GROUP 6 R (The Royal Chitralada Project Bangkok)

1. SR. RATANA SRIVARAKUL DC (Thailand)
2. SR. JOYCE MEYER, PBVM (USA)
3. SR. MARIE MONIQUE RUNGKANOKKUL, SPC
(Thailand)
4. SR. NUTJARIN SOMMAI, LSS (Thailand)
5. SR. MARIE BERNARD WONGWAI, SOLT (Thailand)
6. SR. CATARINA CANDIDA DA SILVA- Xaverian
(Thailand)
7. SR. CYRIL PLIANBAMRUNG, SPC (Thailand)
8. SR. MYRNA EUGENIA MALUYAO, RA (Thailand)
9. FR. MAHARSONO PROBO, SJ
10. SR. LANDUAN SRICHAROENKUL (Maepon, Thailand)

GROUP 7 R (The Royal Chitralada Project Bangkok)

1. SR. NONGNUCH RUANKUM, OSU (Thailand)
2. SR. MARIE JU JU AYE (Myanmar)
3. SR. ELIZABETH MAI PAIN (Myanmar)
4. SR. NOELENE PATRICIA LANDRIGAN (New Zealand)
5. SR. ALICE TAN (Malaysia)
6. SR. YANG YI-HUA (Taiwan)
7. MS. VIRGINIA SALDANHA (FABC-Laity)
8. SR. MARY WALTER SANTER, OSU (FABC- Consecrated
Life)
9. SR. ESTRELLITA LANTIN, SFIC(Thailand)
10. SR. SUPHASINEE KIJTHANEE, SHB (Thailand)

4. Klong Toey Slums (Bangkok)

The Presentation Slums Mission, Bangkok The Education Project

To assist children today to help themselves and their families tomorrow.

The Education Project supplies children and young adults from Klong Toey and other slum communities in Bangkok with school uniforms, shoes, socks and a bag. Many students also receive assistance with school fees, books, Insurance and camp fees. In the past three to four years the Education Project assisted over 600 students per year. Assistance is provided to underprivileged students from the age of about 3 (commencing pre-school) to undergraduate students in their 20's.

Some students need just a pair of shoes while others require much more assistance. Two students have been given 100% financial support thus enabling them to continue their studies without undue stress with regard to food, clothing and shelter. The majority of students assisted through the Education Project are at Kindergarten, primary or lower secondary school levels with a growing number enrolling in Vocational and Poly Technical Schools. Each year a small number of students opt to continue to Year 12 some of whom will in the future enter University. Up to the present at least nine students have graduated from university. The Education Project provides an opportunity for children and young adults from Klong Toey and other slum communities in Bangkok to gain an education which is vital if they are to come to an understanding of why they are poor and how it is possible for them to break out of this seemingly never ending cycle of poverty.

Fares and Food Project (2xf)

The Mission is concerned with the total development of each child as far as that is possible. This is an important project. The money spent helping children gain a place in school and to keep them there is of no value if the students do not have the means to travel to/from school. It's also very difficult for a student to concentrate on learning if he or she has not had anything to eat all day. Many students need to buy a bowl of rice before starting school each morning. Once in school, they often need to buy their lunch and drinking water as well.

Infant Milk Programme less formally known as: "The Milk-Run"

This is a life support for many families and runs every fortnight. " Sister Joan started this project in 1992. At first, she knew the women to whom she gave the milk and would walk to their homes. She now supplies over 200 babies with milk at a cost in excess of 30,000 baht (A\$1200) every fortnight".

The Baby-kits Project

This project provides essential items for new babies born into slum families. The baby kits contain items such as feeding bottles, nappies, baby powder and lotion, a small mattress and pillows, towels and mosquito net as well as toiletries for the mother. Often, the new mother cannot afford to buy these items.

Health Care Needs

Ailments range from the common cold, fevers, diarrhoea to more serious illnesses such as sugar diabetes, high blood

pressure, various cancers, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and so much more. Many hours in any week are spent in the hospitals, local clinics and in homes too supporting the sick, their families and meeting the various needs.

Elderly Care and Support

Most slum dwellers are young to middle aged. Older people are in the minority; however, they are most certainly present. Often, they can be very poor and depressed, especially those without family. They are in need of the occasional visitor dropping in to check on them.

It is also the elderly and children who often are in most need of assistance with regard to medical care.

Family Food Pack

The elderly and the infirm are the main recipients of this project. The families included in this project are very poor, some desperately so. With the present world-wide economic problems their numbers are increasing. At times, they have no rice. They have nothing.

The Family Food Project supplies these families with basic food supplies of rice, cooking oil, noodles, eggs and fish. A family food emergency food pack costs approx. 240 Baht (A\$10). At the time of writing there are 55 people, mainly the elderly receiving the rice and the food packs.

GROUP 8 S (Klong Toey Slums – The Presentation Slum Mission, Bangkok)

1. **SR. WANTANA KITMONGKOL, IJ (Thailand)**
2. **SR. MAUREEN ANDREWS, mfc (Australia)**
3. **SR. PORNTHIP KEOKING, SIHM (Cambodia)**
4. **SR. KIDA MAYUMI (Japan)**
5. **SR. HAN, SUNG SUK (Korea)**
6. **SR. LAURA SANDRA YAPP (Malaysia)**
7. **SR. IRENE CHAMNANTHAM, SPC (Thailand)**
8. **SR. SUCHITRA NGAMWONG (Thailand)**
9. **SR. DONATA PEERAPONGPIPAT, LCT (Thailand)**
10. **SR. JOAN EVANS, Presentation (Thailand)**
11. **SR. ORAMAI KAMKRAUN, LCT (Thailand)**

5. Good Shepherd Project (Dindaeng, Bangkok)

The Good Shepherd Sisters mission is directed towards the most deprived and rejected in society, especially women and girls. The Sisters minister to those most in need irrespective of race or religion. Their services in Bangkok include:

FATIMA SELF-HELP CENTRE – provides opportunities for girls and women from nearby slums and government housing to learn basic skills that will enable them to earn a descent living. Dressmaking and needlework of all kinds are taught and the standard of work is high.

A DAY CARE CENTRE – takes care of children of women who work at the Fatima Centre and other small children from poor families in the neighborhood, who are at risk, providing education and nutritional needs.

BAAN SUKRUTHAI – a Mother and Baby home which caters to young women who are unable to handle their

pregnancies alone, often because of rejection by family or by the father of her child.

TEENAGE RESIDENTIAL TRAINING CENTRE – a residential school for young girls aged between 10-18 years, who have problems or are at risk in the community. The girls come from very poor families. Many come from broken homes and have a history of sexual abuse or rape. Here they can complete their education while receiving help and counseling in an atmosphere of love and respect. Practical skills are also taught. These include: dressmaking, hairdressing, flower-making, handicrafts, typing and computer. Some girls in residential care have serious medical conditions – HIV positive, STD's, and depression. They receive professional counseling for which the Sisters support financially. Also among the residential girls are very young single mothers and some extreme abuse cases.

GROUP 9 G (The Good Shepherd Project – Dindaeng, Bangkok)

1. **SR. BANGON CHANLA, St. Joseph of the Apparition (Thailand)**
2. **SR. SIBI VARIKKAMPLAMTHADATHIL (India)**
3. **SR. MARY THRESA PERERA (Pakistan)**
4. **SR. DON MARY PLACIDA MALATHIE DASSANAYAKE (Sri Lanka)**
5. **SR. CHEN CHEI-LING(Taiwan)**
6. **SR. THECLA TRAN THI GIONG, CND (Vietnam)**
7. **SR. JOAN GORMLEY, RGS (Thailand)**
8. **SR. SANGVAL VAPEETA, SHB (Thailand)**
9. **SR. MONIQUE MARIE-LISE BOUCHER (Thailand)**
10. **SR. YANEE PHANURAK, RGS (Thailand)**

EXPOSURE GUIDE QUESTIONS

1. Take note of all your experiences of the day: what and whom do you see, what do you hear, what do you feel, what touches you, what remains in your heart...

Remember to write down your questions, reflections and the possibilities you see during your visit to the area.

2. Reflect on and share your experiences.
 - 2.1 How did you generally experience the visit: the welcome, the orientation, the tour of the facilities, the interactive encounter with the people in that place?
 - 2.2 What did you find: most significant, most helpful in your exposure experience? Why?
3. In the future, reflecting on the situation and the needs of your own congregation and your country:
 - 3.1 In what ways can you use your power to encourage others to move beyond their boundaries, re: distribution of wealth, migration citizenship, generation gap, etc.?
 - 3.2. What boundaries imprison women religious today from using fully their capacity to help others, especially people who live in the margins of society, to move beyond so that they can live life more fully in and with dignity?
 - 3.3. In our modern society, here and now, in what ways do we see the movement of Jesus? How do we adapt it into our way of life?

MEMO

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