

Speech of Thien Phuoc Institution for Disable Children Care

Phan Khac Tu

Catholic Priest, Director of Thien Phuoc Institution for Disable Care

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our organization, Thien Phuoc was established on December 30, 1999 according to the Decision 8128/QĐ – UB-VX issued by Ho Chi Minh city People’s Committee, started from my heart-felt aspiration in order to assuage chemical infected innocent children’s pain in Vietnam.

Thien Phuoc is a non-governmental charitable institution taking care of and bringing up children with severest diseases, most of them are living like botany, weak resistance that cause them always ill.

Those come to our institution, they will not forget real pictures of life of severely suffering pain, blind, deaf and dumb. They may understand and have sense in their subconsciousness, but they could not speak out and prized mouths open to feed.

How miserable it is with children with disable hands/arms, legs/foot and body, while they still have their normal mind/head and they are able to think. We have sought every ways and made our effort to educate and train them according to their own aptitude and remaining ability that help them happy to fall in line with the community, living unprejudiced and forgetting inferiority.

There are children, have disable hands/arms, legs/foot and body affected by Agent Orange but still clever and behave lively and well, can only subsist to thirteen like Bui Khac Chuong in Dak Lak. There have children able to hear but can not be able to speak and prized mouths open to feed like Liem, No, Yen,.. Some children with disable hands/arms, legs/foot and body, but have intelligent mind and can sit on wheelchair, can subsist till over twenty like Hai, Binh Queo, Thuan Cong

Though the war passed more than thirty years, Vietnamese people leaves war crime behind in order to smile unaffectedly and clearly with friends all over the world. But obvious reality of affected children’s suffered is taking place, day by day, in human kind’s presence. We cannot afford for receiving more children while there are hundreds request letters asking for sending children to us, because:

- Limited finance as we are self-operation
- Narrow housing due to lack of financial source for construction that can not enable us receiving more children

- Lack of equipments for physical therapy, therefore we can only have less than 100 children

In coming time, we focus attention on care at the community as it has good point of taking advantage of family's labour from grandparents, aunts/uncles and siblings. We will organize a group of doctors, nurses and caregivers going to each family in order to understand their situation as well as provide guidance to them in taking care of their children with the spirit that Thien Phuoc institution and families care for them together. This will create good conditions to help the children living in family's love. The institution will have plan to support monthly them money and materials, apart from care for. Compared with taking care in the institution, care for the children at the community has very big impact, in terms of both quality and quantity, piloting in district 12, district 8 and Cu Chi district in 2006, then will expand to the whole Ho Chi Minh city and all of the provinces wish to have a care centre like Thien Phuoc institution in Ho Chi Minh city.

For your imagines about care for children in Thien Phuoc institution, we would like to present all of you two poems made by Dao Truong San, vice-director of Sai Gon Tobacco Company, head of Agent Orange Save Children branch of Thien Phuoc.

- The first poem was written in the end of 2003 with title "Humankind's pain".
- The second one was written in the end of 2004 with title: "As mothers"