

Many thanks to Andy Steel from Plant A Tree Foundation, Irene Miller, GM from XL Results Foundation and all who arranged and participated in the weekend adventure supplying 500 seedlings to the Baan Unrak School and Children's Home in Sangklaburi, Thailand. It was an enthusiastic group that travelled to Sangklaburi to assist in planting the seedlings around the site of the new home. The trees will serve as a boundary line and windbreak, prevent soil erosion, provide shade and beautify the surroundings.

Baan Unrak was established in 1991 by the Neo Humanist Foundation. We arrived around 4:00pm and were given a tour which included housing quarters, a weaving facility, the school and playground. Baan Unrak, or 'House of Joy,' founded by Didi Ananda Devamala from Verona, Italy, and Norwegian Didi Ananda Anuraga, provides a home and education to over 100 orphaned children and employment to single mothers. It is staffed by a dedicated team of locals and foreigners, including many volunteers. For some wonderful insights from two people who are right in the middle of it all, go to <http://steveandsandy.blogspot.com/>



Dave Rogers

taken to an extreme becomes a weakness — WOW, what a thought! Is the orphanage and school doing 'too well'? Baan Unrak has recently attracted contributions from a 90+ year old widow from Europe who heard about the wonderful service being provided by the two Didi's. This has enabled Baan Unrak to expand operations, add some key resources and move to a beautiful new setting. The added success has led to a new set of challenges, however, such as some in the community being jealous and

some situations where families with five or six children are looking at the home and school as a place to drop some or all of their kids. This had led to new challenges for the administrator who is tasked with adding additional structures to the system that include clear and concise operation and guidelines for who can be admitted.

5) Experiencing the Adventure with my five-year-old son Justin was a special treat. Observing his initial

PLANTING SEEDS


1) Put your Stake in the Ground — Take action, and if it has attraction and traction, people will rally around the cause— PATT members Andy, Chris and Neil chose the weekend of May 27/28, let people know, then inspired volunteers to make the seven-hour bus trip from Bangkok to join the adventure.

2) The Highlight of the weekend was being part of a team of 15+ adults and 80+ kids working together planting trees, laughing, smiling, and contributing to the lives of children and women in Sangklaburi. It was amazing to see everyone work together. There was learning, sharing and cooperation with few altercations — one bloody nose and a few grumbles about the heat — by mainly us expats!

3) The Power of Attraction — The co-founders of Baan Unrak, the two Didis, have been doing this service since 1991. Their ability to focus on the small and essential things like feeding the kids, bathing them, providing clean water and children's education has created an environment that is fun, light and enjoyable. The kids laugh, play and are a treat to be around. To find out how you might contribute, contact Steve at <http://steveandsandy.blogspot.com/>

4) With Each Success Comes a New Set of Challenges — Too much attraction: Any strength

shyness with the other children and then his building of friendships with Laura and Olly; his initial hesitation with the seedlings and then his curiosity and care with the seedlings and pride in "planting 17 trees". His willingness to overcome his initial fears and explore new experiences at his own speed was inspiring. He accompanied Neil in the truck and was charged with passing out water to everyone. It was a role he loved as he drove around and yelled at the top of his voice, "Water — water everyone." People rushed towards him and Neil and I noticed the thrill for him in sharing water with people who really appreciated getting the cool, thirst-quenching water. One of my most memorable moments was observing Justin with the water, and wondering whether his relationship with water shifted right there on that truck! From his reaction, I had a feeling that he became aware how incredibly precious H2O was to the people he was passing it to, and how precious H2O is for all of us! WOW — what a lesson to share!

Thanks to all the folks who invested the time and effort to make the tree-planting day in Sangklaburi a MAGICAL Experience! 

Dave Rogers is keynote speaker, author, and Chief Coach of the XL Results Foundation. For more about Dave's explosive motivational talks, personalized coaching programs and speaking topics including Leadership - What It Takes to be #1, visit his website at www.daverogers.net or contact Dave at dave@daverogers.net