

# DeVine MINISTRIES

"Taking the gospel where it has never gone before"

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This month, our family has been enjoying the two blessings God gave us; Nadia and Ann. The two girls were welcomed into our home on the same day last month. A few weeks before the girls arrived, we made preparations by building an extra room in the house, ordering another bunk bed and wardrobe, and buying clothes for them; **we were able to get everything the girls needed because of the donations of our faithful partners.** The girls were of course so happy to have a bed and new clothes, and they thanked us for everything, in which I replied, "Thank God".

We had met the oldest girl, Nadia, only a few weeks before we had moved to Nong Bua Lumphu. She was living in the nearby orphanage, and we noticed that she was always there when the other children were at school. We asked the staff about her, and they said, **"She isn't capable of learning so we no longer send her to school."** The staff said she was thirteen and mentally 'not all there'.

When I began talking to Nadia and getting to know her, I found that besides her speech impediment, **she was completely normal.** It seemed people had given up on her simply because she couldn't speak clearly.

This bothered our whole family, especially after the orphanage made arrangements to close; the staff found homes for every child except her. No one was willing to take her. **We were overjoyed when the staff asked us if we would take her, as we told them we had wanted to all along.**

Nadia's name was Ning when she first met us, but after hearing how our oldest boy, David, changed *his* name, she wanted to as well. We explained to her that she didn't have to if she didn't want, but we also told her that because she is in a new home, has a new family, and a new life, she could choose a new name if she really wanted. She told us she would like to change it to Nadia. She didn't know where she had heard it, but she really liked it.



A couple weeks later, we received her birth certificate and found out she is twelve and will be thirteen in May. Nadia had always said her father died from liver failure due to alcohol abuse and her mother was working in Bangkok. Upon receiving her birth certificate and other paperwork, we realized that Nadia was told by the staff of the orphanage that her mother was working in Bangkok to keep Nadia from the truth; her mother had died a few years ago after having contracted AIDS. Nadia's grandmother, like her father, would drink daily, and one day got drunk, fell down the stairs and died. Her older brother was recently in a motorcycle accident and now cannot walk.

Nadia, despite barely knowing her mother and unaware of her death, had hope of seeing her again one day as she spent her days alone in the orphanage. Now we have taken her into *our* home and are helping her to put that hope toward a bright future and in a loving relationship with Jesus. Despite her tragic past, she is so affectionate and loves to give hugs. She is learning *very* fast and enjoys singing praises to God every day.



Nadia is one of the first to be in the Home of Hope and we know there are thousands like her that desperately need help. We believe **God will make a way for us to rescue them as well and bless them with the love of Christ.**

We knew the name Nadia was truly from God because Nadia means Hope.

We want to thank our partners so much for supporting us. **When you give, you are helping us rescue more and more orphaned or unwanted children.**

I was told by someone a few days ago that I should take a break; that I was only fifteen and spending my life helping other people was great and all, but I was still a teenager. This person said, "You need to enjoy life and go to the beach or take a vacation. You are too busy always working and caring for those four kids and you never do anything for yourself. You don't have a life of your own."

I think it is hard for some to understand that this *is my* life, it's not a job. It seems that some people cannot imagine that **I love what I do. I enjoy it with all my heart** and I'd rather do this every day than go to the mall or go on vacation ever again. I have found that when I am following God's call for my life, I never feel tired, unhappy, or discontent. God has called Ariya and I to ministry, which is to tell others about the Gospel, and help orphaned or unwanted children. *That* is what I love to do most in the world.

*"But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God."* Acts 20:24

God bless you all,  
Arisa and Ariya

**Click here if you would like to make a donation!**

(If you would like to give to a specific area in our ministry, please specify in the notes.)