



HOW 25 CHICKENS TRANSFORMED A FAMILY

by Kalie Lowrie

Soontorn Inthayok is a day laborer and part-time guard in northern Thailand. The 49-year-old provides for his older sister, who is mentally disabled, and his son. He also overcomes a personal disability to bring home earnings of about \$300 US per month. While Soontorn works extremely hard, his monthly expenses are often more than what he earns.

Soontorn was elated when he was selected to participate in the Chicken and Cattle Farming Project of Social Development and Service Unit. He received training on budgeting, preparation and how to care for chickens and was then entrusted with grant money to begin a small chicken farm. He used the funds to build a chicken coop on his property, as well as to purchase the needed equipment and feed to care for 25 chickens.



“When we first started to raise chickens, we used the eggs for family use in cooking,” Soontorn said. “Every 3-5 days we collect more than 10 eggs; we have plenty of eggs to fry and boil. We do not have to buy eggs at the market anymore.”

Soontorn’s family now has plenty of eggs for consumption and enough to sell to friends and neighbors. Some of the chickens are used for eating, adding much-needed protein to their diets, and other eggs have been shared with his church and neighbors.

Participants in the Chicken and Cattle Farming Project are selected based upon greatest need, with preference given to those with disabilities who have need for additional income. Churches recommend people in their communities for consideration and oversee the projects for the three years.

The Texas Baptist Hunger Offering supports this project, with 100 percent of the funds given directly to support local families.

“Without the Hunger Offering, this project would not be able to happen,” said Hunter Huff, staff member for SDSU. “The lives of the participants are changed forever and they are able to see the love of Christ through the actions, care and love of local believers. The funds are making a huge difference in the lives of many people who society has forgotten. The participants are truly the ‘least of these.’”

