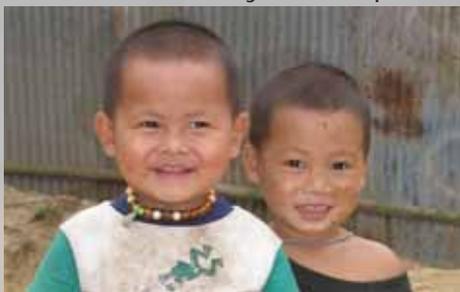


hope for a better life

two young men stepped out of the ordinary

By Dominique Becht, Marc Jenni and Daniel Siegfried



When I first met Daniel and Marc at UBS a few years ago nothing would have indicated the special interests both of them were nourishing nor that these interests would eventually completely change their careers and lives. But both of them stepped out of the ordinary, the care for money and the 'good life', embarking on a fantastic journey full of idealistic passion, professional realism and a sense for the real needs of children in poverty. A "Child's Dream" was born! Let Daniel and Marc explain to you, what they developed:

CHILD'S DREAM IS CONNECTING TWO WORLDS.....

'Why are you doing this?' Although we have been asked this question hundreds of times over the last couple of months since we resigned from our banking jobs, it is still the most difficult one to answer. Firstly, because the answer encompasses many personal experiences and feelings that are difficult to put into words. And secondly, most people simply cannot spare enough time to listen to a very detailed answer. Therefore, we often respond by saying 'Because it feels right!'

After visiting the troubled area of the 'Golden Triangle', it was getting increasingly difficult for us to find the motivation for our previous jobs, until we decided to abandon our accustomed lifestyle and safety net. In July 2003, we moved to Chiang Mai, which would serve as the base for our quest to help the less fortunate in our society, especially children.

WHY DO WE FACE SUCH AN UNBEARABLE SITUATION IN THE 'GOLDEN TRIANGLE'?

This area does not only combine the

cultural heritages of Thailand, Burma, Laos and China, but also each country's individual problems - thus creating a humanitarian 'super-crisis'. The 'Golden Triangle' is a poisonous underground market place, where two of the least developed countries (Burma and Laos) meet two of the most booming economies in the world, China and Thailand, and their business partners of the West. In addition to the continuously increasing wealth gap, the omnipresent corruption fuels this sickening trade with drugs, humans and anything that money can buy.

Wherever a humanitarian crisis arises, children are affected the worst. With the parents either dead, in prison for drug trafficking or in prostitution, these children do not know where to go and are extremely vulnerable to exploitation. Most of them are ethnic minority children with no belongings and no rights.

While on one side of the border, the Burmese junta is still abducting children to serve in their army (Burma has currently about 70,000 child soldiers in the State Army alone), druglords push children into addiction in order to abuse them for smuggling their goods over the border, on the other side of the border, organised child prostitution gangs are awaiting them. For most kids it's like walking through a foggy field full of land mines.

HOW WE HELP?

There are many projects providing a safe heaven for children along the border. However, we realised that charitable funds are spread unevenly among various projects, often resulting in an inefficient use of funds. With 'Child's Dream', our own

charitable society incorporated in Switzerland, we aim to help improve this situation by selectively supporting projects, which are in dire need for help. In order to ensure an optimal use of funds, we provide infrastructure directly to the projects concerned, rather than giving money to cover running costs, and supervise the construction at the site.

CHILD'S DREAM

'Child's Dream' has been tax-exempted by the Swiss Tax Authorities. Everybody involved in 'Child's Dream' works on a voluntary basis and no salaries are paid. Please visit our webpage:

www.childsdream.org for more information or join our evening talk at the Swiss Club in Singapore.

FACTS ABOUT THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

'The Golden Triangle' is an area not just famous for its incredible landscape and beauty as a major tourist destination, but it is also at the core of many a humanitarian crisis such as human trafficking, drug smuggling, child prostitution and the spread of HIV/AIDS:

An estimated 670,000 people are HIV-positive in Thailand, among those infected are 21,000 children aged between 0 and 14 years

It is estimated that 60,000 to 200'000 children in Thailand are abused for child prostitution

It is estimated that about 1,000,000 children are still engaged as child workers

(Unicef, Thailand at a glance, data as of end 2001)