



The Mirror Foundation Hope for Inmates Project

September 2, 2014

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Three times per month the staff and volunteers at The Mirror Foundation spend one-hour at the Bangkok Remand Prison located in the Trokkam District visiting with approximately 30-40 selected inmates. The project director develops new interactive games in which both inmates and staff/volunteers participate.

Gregg Tyler Milligan joined the volunteer group on September 2nd, 2014 during one of the Hope for Inmates project monthly visits.

The project director split the inmates in groups of three persons each, gave them a large blank sheet of paper, assorted magazines, glue sticks and pens. The task was to find pictures within the magazines, paste them to the large sheet of paper representative of “What Pictures Would Hang in Your Dream Home?” In addition, each group penned their group-name on the top of the page (Flower, Rain, Happy, and Paradise, etc.).

However, before the activities, the director of the project asked Milligan to address the inmates with a few words while a translator stood by. Milligan said, “I am honored to be here among all of you. Thank you for inviting me to share this precious time.”

After this particular project, the staff/volunteer kicked-off the Karaoke and many inmates took turns singing both sad and happy songs.

One particular song performed was a Credence Clearwater Revival hit, “Stuck in Lodi Again.” Milligan recognized the song and was welcomed by the vocalist to join in – the two sang a rousing duet together while the crowd cheered.

Milligan played the tambourine, maracas, and a tiny drum while dancing to all of the songs sung by the inmates.

The last two songs were:

1. A Thai ballad sang by an inmate appearing to be in his 80's with spinal problems so severe he walked with a cane and complete bent at a 45 degree angle. While sitting in a chair center stage he sang a song that all Thai mothers sing to their children while nursing. It was sad and sweet and brought tears to everyone's eyes.

2. The last song was a very fast-paced traditional Thai song which was the old style and very joyful. The volunteers and inmates danced while Milligan again played the tambourine. Milligan took time to dance with one of the inmates, who was kind enough to teach him "How to Dance Thai Traditional Style."

Wrapping up the session were inmates who took the microphone and thanked the foundation staff/volunteers. One in particular wept while he asked for all of the volunteers to "Please Come Back" along with "You Bring Light into the Darkness." A message that the volunteers could not agree with more.

Milligan's singing partner took time to thank him profusely for his love and kindness. They shook hands and would not let go for several minutes while the Thai man asked Milligan come back. He spoke English fluently, having lived/worked in the U.S. state of Texas at one time.

To summarize his day with the project, Milligan says,

"I did not see prisoners today, but good men with grand hearts who once were lost, but now are found. Mercy is always so easy to give when asked and forever plenty."

The following picture gallery is of Milligan with the group of staff and volunteers celebrating his birthday together after the Hope for Inmates project.

The volunteers surprised Milligan with a birthday cake and also a new t-shirt bearing the Foundation's logo.

Also depicted is some additional time in the late afternoon where Milligan taught some brief English lessons to Mirror Foundation Faculty and Staff.

As stated by Milligan when recapping the day:

September 2, 2014 [my birthday]

My Birthday! What a wonderful day spent with all my friends at The Mirror Foundation. They surprised me with a birthday cake and new t-shirt. I then helped quickly load-up a truck and we were off to welcome and spread happiness to the men at a nearby prison. Staff and volunteers played games and sang Karaoke. I even sang "Stuck in Lodi Again" by CCR with one of the inmates. He had a wonderful singing voice. My first time ever singing to a Karaoke Machine. Afterwards I taught an hour of English. The best time I ever had in prison and teaching English.

PICTURE GALLERY:



















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