

A Festive Day in Thaleba

Each year on the 6th of February the ‘world’ comes for a visit to the village of Thaleba. This year it was a group of 11 foreigners who joined us (from MIA) to bring the donations for the various projects. All the students and many villagers stood at the side of the road and welcomed us with mettā chants.



The **Mettā Clinic** in Thaleba provides health care for people from 8 villages and is open every weekend on Saturdays and Sundays. Last year altogether 5261 patients were treated. Since its inauguration five years ago it could expand the free treatment for elderly people. Now about 300 elderly people (aged 70 and older) from the 8 villages are eligible to receive free treatment as well as a bowl of nutritious rice-porridge on the opening days of the clinic. The grandmothers and grandfathers, as they are lovingly called by everybody, are most frequently treated for asthma, heart disease, or high blood pressure.

If people are bitten by a viper (and there are many of them in the fields), they can get the life-saving anti-venom in the clinic. Last year, two farmers were bitten by a viper and thanks to the anti-venom they are still alive!



The official ceremony for offering the donations for the various projects in Thaleba took place on the grounds of the Mettā Clinic. While the old folks sat on the ground, the foreign visitors were happy to sit on chairs!



This year **Mettā In Action** donated financial support for the **Mettā Clinic Fund** with an extra amount of money for the anti-venom, for the **Education Fund** (supporting 5 university students and kids from poor families), and for the **Water Project**. Included in the Mettā Clinic Project is the monthly financial support of 9 ‘homeless’ people. These are villagers who do not possess house and fields; in other words, they are very poor.

As part of the water project (see update from last year) they installed a good water filter system that produces safe and enough drinking water for all the students at the school in Thaleba.



Left: the water pump in the Mu River



Right: purified drinking water for the school



Left: water filters

Like every year the villagers brought plenty of locally produced food for lunch. We all enjoyed the various curries, the deep-fried beans and vegetables, and the local deserts.





Impressions
from
Thaleba



Across the Mu River is the village of Kyaugone where Sayadaw U Khema is the abbot of the village monastery. Last year we donated the water tower, this year we offered some financial support towards solar panels.



Left:
The new water tower

Right:
Sayadaw U Khema
receiving the MIA-
danā offered by Ayya
Virañani, Mimmi, and
Ariya



It is so heartening to know that the generous support from so many people around the world continues to flow, thereby keeping one of the most basic virtues – generosity – alive.

With mettā
Ariya Baumann