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**A Visit to La Salle Study Center (LSSC), Chiangjiao, China.** LSSC in Chiangjiao, China was the last of the LEAD ministries I had not seen so there was some excitement leading to the visit.

I met David Liao on November 10 at 7:00 in the morning in front of the Wan Chai MTR station where buses to Meizen were waiting. After about an hour's ride we crossed the border. All passengers went down from Hong Kong side passed through HKG immigration, boarded the bus, disembarked again and passed through China immigration. From there it was another five hours to Meizen and then another 1 ½ hours by taxi to Chiangjiao. All in all, including stops, the trip took eight hours.

The Center is in a village that's nestled in a valley and surrounded by mountains and is about 4 – 5 degrees cooler than Kowloon. There is a lot of space especially for farming and there are several ancestral houses many of which are abandoned.

LSSC is an English language center and caters mostly to primary and secondary students. Thus classes during the school year are conducted on weekends, from 730 to 1130 in the morning. On weekdays there are English classes in the evening but only for adults. David does the teaching on weekends and is assisted by a group of committed volunteer LSSC alumni who arrive on Friday night and stay in until Sunday morning. There is also a summer and a winter program where students stay in for 4 – 6 weeks and have intensive English classes.

On weekdays David is kept busy doing community work and developing the village. He is also putting together a farm in a tract of land about 1.2 kms further up in the mountains (see pic). Hopefully whatever income his produce generates will help run LSSC. Already he has a piggery with about 60 heads and will be ready in time for Chinese New Year.

I stayed for two full days, the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, and saw David at work. I met his core group of committed volunteers. Many of the LSSC alumni have gone on to universities but come back to help in some way. I traveled back to Hong Kong on the 13<sup>th</sup> in time for a meeting with the LEAD Leadership team.

I wish to thank David for the warmth and hospitality during my whole stay.

**Sector of Thailand 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.** The Brothers of the Sector of Thailand have decided to postpone their 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee celebration from 28 November to the 19<sup>th</sup> of December due to floodwaters that is forecast to partially submerge Bangna at the end of the month. We continue to keep the Thais in our prayers as they make efforts to divert floodwaters back to the sea.

Fraternally,

**Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC**

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