

Building Lasting Friendships

by Artitaya Sisawadi (Nan)



It was a sunny day, clear sky with a cool breeze when my son, Nikki, and I rushed to the RIS parking lot early one Saturday morning. There were several friends and families of RIS staff waiting to take off to Pak Chong, Nakorn Ratchasima - our annual field trip organized by the staff committee.

We boarded two Montri buses headed for Fountain Tree Resort: Cowboy & Adventure World as our first stop. There were various activities for us to join. Many friends started with the Go Karts and the ATVs. Children urged their parents or family friends to ride with them. At first, Nikki hesitated to ride, but he finally got in a Go Kart since he could not stand the sound of the racing speed cars. Then we went to the archery and ancient gun fields to try out our shooting skills, which my friends said was not easy at all! I just watched them play and could hear the joy of laughter and giggling all the while. The most interesting and drew everyone's attention

was the water balls. People can literally walk on water when they are in this gigantic water ball, but it is not easy! You must maintain balance and keep moving forward. Only a few friends tried these balls - they were exited before they got in, their faces turned red, the hair got disheveled and they were all out of breath when they jumped out of the balls. No, they did not walk - they rolled in the balls!

After having lunch and saying goodbye to Fountain Tree Resort, we headed to Primo Posto, Khao Yai. Primo Posto, meaning *The First Place*, reproduced the houses and scenery of Tuscany, Italy with vividly colored buildings and a winery garden in the back. The mountain of Khao Yai lay down far as its backdrop. We immediately started taking pictures, as the place has its own view with different angles. We enjoyed some Italian ice cream, good coffee and the amazing view in the warm *Tuscany* sun!

We left Pak Chong to Bangkok with an exhausted body but with heart and soul filled with happiness and joy. At work, everyone is busy with his/her responsibility, and we hardly see each other. The opportunity to travel and spent leisure time together, if for only one day, helps us to know each other better and builds strong relationships at work. Fr. Travis and Fr. Peter were waiting to greet us when we arrived back at RIS. On the way home, my son asked me "When will your next trip with your friends be, Mom?"

