

Wat Huay Pong

Wat Huay Pong is a Thai Buddhist temple located north of Chiang Mai in the mountains of northern Thailand. Wat Huay Pong is a result of Phra Vichien's visions during the late 1980's. It is



located approximately 70 kilometers north of Chiang Mai and ministers to two local



villages. The Wat has steadily increased in size and function, from a few original wood structures to a three-leveled site (the actual Wat including Phra Vichien's quarters, the temple, and the work area at one level, just outside the Wat proper are the patients, guests, and groundkeeper at another level, and a little further away at yet

another level are the nun / nurse's room and additional work areas). There is constant activity at the Wat with spiritual duties, site maintenance, medicine production, patient care, and much more. Local individuals are usually treated during the day and go home with their botanical medicine, and then replenish the medicine on a weekly basis, or as needed. Patients traveling a great distance often stay in one of the four very simple patient's lodgings available at the clinic. There are even a few small isolated structures available for monastic patients. Most days see several long-time patients picking up medicine and discussing their status as well as the occasional new patient.



The clinic could, but does not, routinely handle general medical problems such as infections, labor, injuries, etc. The clinic specializes in and has governmental approval for addiction treatment and treatment of those suffering from terminal illness (or other serious problem usually past the point of conventional treatment).

Phra Vichien's results have been quite remarkable over the last 12 years. In addition to the medicinal quality of the herbs administered, the results are also due to the overriding spirituality that permeates the Wat. Through his work, Phra Vichien helps develop inner strength and



spirituality in his patients. While not charging money for care, he does demand that patients are active participants in the healing process and usually have specific duties in their treatment regime.

In addition to all the work mentioned, Phra Vichien is away from the Wat for a portion of at least two days each week. For years he has given weekly teachings at a poor local primary school (often supplying the children with some food to take home to their family). He also travels in order to meet and supply medicine to some of his patients in



the local cities of Chaing Mai and Chaing Rai. At times he is also traveling to Bangkok to see patients or to attend conferences on spirituality, HIV, or other topics.