

## Keng Xiong

*Keng lived in a village called Cave in Thailand.*

***What is your name?***

I'm called Keng.

***How old are you?***

I am 14 years old.

***Where were you born?***

I was born in Thailand.

***How long have you been living in Thailand?***

Ten years.

***Where in Thailand did you live?***

We lived in a village called Cave.

***What's everyday life in Thailand like?***

My life in Thailand was to go to school, and then after school I would come home and help my parents work.

***What are the differences between the schools in Thailand and the schools in America?***

The schools in Thailand have more rules than here in America.

***What kinds of rules were there?***

One of the rules was that when we got to ninth grade, they made us cut our hair really short.

***How many languages can you speak?***

I know a couple of words in English, but I also know how to speak Thai.

***Which language do you think is harder to learn?***

I think the English language is harder.

***In the Hmong tradition, are there things that you dislike?***

Yes, the Hmong people control the kids a lot and they spank them.

***Do you think the Hmong traditions the American traditions are better?***

I think the American traditions are much better.

***Why?***

The American people here don't try to control the children's lives, and the kids here don't get spanked a lot.

***How old were you when you left Thailand?***

I was 13 years old.

***Did you know any people in America before you came?***

Yes, I knew some.

***Who did you know?***

I knew my sister and my brother.

***Who helped you and your family come to America?***

My sister.

***Why did you want to come to America?***

They wouldn't let us stay in Thailand anymore, so they made everyone leave. We didn't have a place to stay, so we came to America.

***Did you have any problems on the airplane?***

There weren't any problems.

***When you got to America, what was your first impression?***

I thought that I should study hard to know English first, then do whatever I want to later.

***When you first got here, were there any problems?***

Yes there were, because we couldn't remember the roads, so we didn't know how to get places.

***What do you think about inter-racial dating?***

I think it's okay.

***Why do you think it's okay?***

It depends on what the person's heart wants. It's good, too, because some people do like other people who are not Hmong. You can't stop them, so it just depends on what the person's heart wants or desires.

***What do you think about Hmong people getting married at a young age?***

It's not really good because the age is not right.

***What do you think about the Hmong American kids?***

I think that they are good because they are intelligent and they have a good education.

*"They wouldn't let us stay in Thailand anymore, so they made everyone leave. We didn't have a place to stay, so we came to America."*

***What are the differences between the stores in Thailand compared to the stores in America?***

In America stores are better because there are more things to buy.

***How different is the weather here compared to the weather in Thailand?***

The weather in Thailand is much hotter than here and there aren't any air conditioners.

***How different are the clothes here compared to the clothes in Thailand?***

They are not very different. You wear them the same way.

***If you could go back to Thailand, would you?***

Yes, I would go back.

***Why do you want to go back?***

I would like to go and see the old places and friends.

***Do you have anything else that you would like to say?***

No, I don't have any thing else to say.