

Kawthoolie Karen Baptist Bible School and College

Date- 9.1.2009

Dear Co-workers in Christ

Subject- Report of Mission Trip to the Internally Displaced Karen People

Related to the subject mentioned above, firstly we would like to give thanks to our Almighty God for providing opportunity and opening the door for us to go for the mission trip to the area where Karen people live as internally displaced people. Secondly we also would like to extend our gratitude to our dear co-workers in Christ who constantly assist us with your financial support and prayer support.

This year by the grace of God, our bible school (KKBBSC) could send out two gospel team to the internally displaced Karen people. The first gospel team consist of fifteen students and two teachers by the name Thra Thurhtoo and Thra Kaynay Ywah, being sent to Klerlwehtoo district. The second group consist of seventeen students and three teachers, being sent to Mergui-Turvoy district also known as Brigade (4). The names of three teachers are, Thra Teetoh, Thra Eh Poe and Rev. Say Oo. We started our gospel trip on 2 December, and we came back on 2 January. Therefore, the duration of our trip is about one month.

In this gospel trip the activities that we involved are:

- (1) We preach gospel to the non-believers. What I can say is that, non-believers are very receptive to the gospel. They are very zealous to hear the word of God.
- (2) We conduct bible study to the believers. Believers in the internally displaced area, they are like sheep without shepherd, they are thirsty for the word of God. It is very hard to appoint the shepherd to take care of the sheep in this kind of situation. Because the place where the believers live, full of danger and uncertainty. It is very hard to search for the people who can risk their life for the sake of the gospel.
- (3) We baptize new converts. This time there are four new converts. Two of them derived from non-believers' family and the other two derived from believers' family.
- (4) We conduct marriage ceremony.
- (5) We conduct holy communion. Believers in internally displaced area, could partake the Lord supper only once a year that is due to scarcity of ordained pastor. Even some of them for years did not have chance to partake holy communion.
- (6) We distribute medicines to the sick people. Due to lack of money and long distance we could take with us only few medicines. What we have we give them all. In this kind of situation something is better than nothing.
- (7) We distribute some donation (money) to pastors, evangelists, teachers, and the needy people. All people who live in internally displaced areas, physically live a very poor life. Most of them face with scarcity of food, and with no medical care.

It is very joyful when we see that internally displaced Karen people received us with great joy and with an opened hearts. Even small things that they have, they want to share with

us. Lives in the internally displaced areas, what I can say is that, it is full of danger and uncertainty. Their main occupation is, shifting cultivation. In human point of view life is very hard. But amazing thing is that, internally displaced Karen people are not dehumanized by the hardship and difficulty. Even though they live difficult life, we can see in their faces, they are full of joy and kindness. I can see that, the presence of God goes with internally displaced Karen people. In human point of view, their lives is full of hopelessness and darkness, but spiritually these people are enjoying God's immanuel. I got to meet with an old man who shared to me his wonderful testimony. I was really touched by his amazing testimony. In his testimony, he told me that, it happened in the year 1997, when Burmese military army invaded Karen land. Many Karen people who lose their land entered into Thailand and became refugee. But this old man due to his love for his mother land, refused to come to Thailand, and as a result, he had to hide himself in the jungle. In the jungle to feed his family he had only twelve baskets of paddy. In human point of view, it is beyond possibility for twelve baskets of paddy to be enough for the family for the whole year. But in God's point of view it is just opposite. God feed this old man and his family with these twelve baskets of paddy. With these twelve baskets of paddy this old man even was able to share with his many friends. This reminded me of the way God fed His own people in the wilderness. What I can sense is that, God is still with internally displaced Karen people in spite of everything. Once Jesus told His disciples, "I live therefore you will also live". Internally displaced Karen people surely will continue to live, that is because Jesus lives. That is what I learn in this gospel trip. Jesus Christ is the only living hope for the internally displaced Karen people.

The only absolute covet from our dear brothers and sisters in Christ, it is not your material nor financial assistance, but we covet your constant prayer for internally displaced Karen people. Please pray that God will destroy the demonic power that works in the hearts of Burmese military leaders. If the demonic power had been destroyed all the citizens in Burma will surely live a life of peace and joy. This demonic power cannot be destroyed by means of physical assistance. Of course physical assistance can meet only some of temporal needs, but what internally displaced karen people need is lasting peace and prosperity. This lasting peace in Burma cannot be ushered by means of neither financial assistance nor military assistance. This lasting peace can be ushered only by means of God's intervention.

In His Service

Teetoh
KKBBSC
Mae La,
Karen Refugee Camp