

Message from Dominic Po (Baptist Church of Western Chicago)

Greetings from your Karen brothers and sisters in Christ of Western Chicago!

By the grace of God, we the Karen people living in the Western Chicago suburban area have the opportunity to join together and worship our Holy God in our own native tongue, Karen language. We feel that we are especially blessed because ninety percents of our members have arrived here only in 2007, but we are provided with a beautiful church to hold our weekly regular worship services and a pastor to nurture us spiritually.

We praise God for our special blessings, the Pastors, Church Council and Members of the Baker Memorial United Methodist Church, who not only have allowed us to use the church premises but also have been anxious and excited about building a relationship with our Karen community in their dedication to the furtherance of the Kingdom of God. Because of their whole hearted support, we could start our regular Sunday worship service and children Sunday school classes in their church, on June 3, 2007.

Starting with less than thirty attendances, our congregation has currently grown to over a hundred. The growth of the congregation is due to the transports provided by the World Relief Organization and other individuals who are very compassionate and want to make the world a better place by sharing their blessings. In addition, on May 9, 2008, we are informed that the Great Rivers Region General Board of American Baptist Churches has accepted our Karen Baptist Church of Western Chicago as a Mission Church. We have been overwhelmed by His wonderful blessings throughout the year and as the time has come to celebrate our first anniversary, we would like to praise and worship our Lord with all our Karen brothers and sisters and everyone who has helped us build our Karen community in Illinois.

We cordially invite you all to join our special first anniversary Karen worship service which will be held on Sunday June 8, 2008, in the church Sanctuary from 1 to 2:30 pm, with food reception to be followed in Wiley Hall.

May God bless you all!

In HIS service,

Dominic Po