

WINTER 2017

# karenaid news

Serving displaced people living near the Thai-Burmese border through healthcare, educational and welfare projects



## Future of work on the Thai-Burma border and the role of karenaid

The recent tragic news of the Rohingya has highlighted the plight of ethnic minorities within Burma. Their situation does not often hit the headlines, or remain there for long, but in fact it has been an on-going crisis for many decades for groups such as the Karen, Karenni, Shan, Mon and others in southeast Burma. If you would like to know more, there is an excellent overview on the website [www.burmalink.org](http://www.burmalink.org).

On the Thai-Burma border, the refugee camps are reducing in size as people are sent back to Burma to an unknown future. The funding available for the border area is limited as international funds are now being redirected to within Burma. However, there is still an urgent need for support along the border for these disadvantaged, poor and displaced people. Mae Tao Clinic in Mae Sot is one such example, and is under threat due to decreased funding. This clinic is the base for the eyework which Karenaid sponsors, so lack of funding may have a big impact on our work.



One of the jungle medical clinics

Healthcare provision in southeast Burma is varied and is not yet fully organised. Currently, small health clinics are being set up in isolated areas. They are usually run by a "medic" who will have received one year's training in basic primary care. They do a fantastic job, but further treatment is often unavailable, or out of financial

reach of much of the population. One of our partners, BCMF from Mae Sot, undertakes regular trips to support these clinics with eye screening and wheelchair assessments. Karenaid also runs a couple of eye clinics. We have recently heard from Dr. Scott Murray, who left Kwai River Christian Hospital in March, that he has just returned from a useful trip to the jungle where he was training young Karen people to become Village Medics.

**Thank you for your continuing support of karenaid and the people we seek to help.**

Prayer points

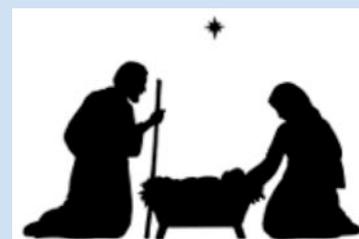
Thank God for:

- continued good health and safety of the eye team
- Scott and Nok Murray as they have made a good transition into new roles in Chang Mai and for Scott as he makes trips into the jungle in Burma

Please pray for:

- all the ethnic groups that one day they may live in safety in Burma.
- funding for Mae Tao Clinic in Mae Sot that it's future may be secured.
- the development of a network of health clinics in the Burma jungle.
- the residents of the Safe House as plans are being made for it's long-term future.
- wise decisions regarding the future of karenaid

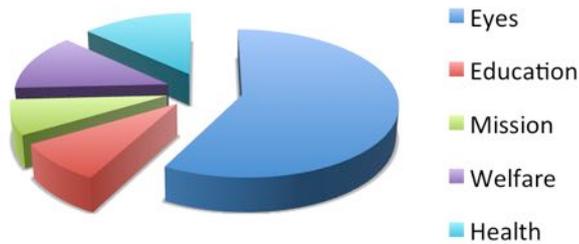
**We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Very Happy Christmas.**



**For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son**

**John 3:16**

## How your donations have been allocated



## EYES

Eye care is the emphasis of our work along the border. The eye clinic at Mae Tao Clinic (MTC) in Mae Sot sees around 12,000 patients each year referring over 3,800 to Dr. Frank Green. He performs over 1,800 operations annually for treatment of cataracts and glaucoma. Most of these were performed at MTC. Eye surgery was also undertaken in more remote locations. A typical cataract operation costs £30. We are very grateful to Frank for his dedication and commitment. We also value Goong, a local Thai nurse, who helps coordinate the eye work.

## EDUCATION

Karenaid supports small education projects in Burma, such as Tewado, providing teachers salaries and resources. We also support Mrs. Ruth Green as she gives teacher training and personal one to one tuition to enable students to attain international qualifications.

## MISSION

Karenaid provides some backup support for 2 Bible Schools. Kho Loh Traw has 28 students on a 4 year Karen Theological course. Ban Surin Karenni Bible School has 47 students studying Christian Theology.

## HEALTHCARE

We support primary care and HIV treatment in a rural area. Without the HIV medication, these patients would die, as sadly far too many others still do. These patients have no other source of this medicine available. Currently, our contribution is keeping 12 people alive. Medicines cost £15 - £24 per month.

Up to recently, we were also providing some healthcare through Kwai River Christian Hospital, but since the restructuring, we are now just supporting the Safe House in this area (see Welfare).

## WELFARE

Alongside the primary care and HIV treatment in the rural area, we also fund a feeding programme. The food, mainly rice but with some cooking oil, salt and eggs, provides a basic safety net for families struggling to feed their children. It is not meant to provide a full diet and thus does not remove the need for the parents to continue providing for their children. Children are measured six monthly as a measure of chronic nutritional status to help decide where to target the food supplies available.

In addition iron, vitamin B1, vitamin A and medicine for worms are provided regularly to prevent the common anaemia and vitamin deficiencies. Any other illnesses such as malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoea are treated as needed. About 15 families, mostly with 4 or 5 children, are currently supported regularly.

**The Safe House** near Sangkhlaburi. Karenaid is reassessing its role in this particular project. Recent changes to the local facilities and the withdrawal by funding partners, mean we may no longer keep this as a project we can support.

For more details on all these projects, please look at our annual report on the [www.karenaid.org.uk](http://www.karenaid.org.uk) website.

We are now focusing our support on fewer projects to ensure that the finance goes to those most in need and where karenaid can offer specific help. Apart from finance, one of the challenges we face is being able to visit some of the more remote projects. These need to be undertaken to verify written reports we receive and also keep us compliant with Charity Commission directives. In the past, a member of the eye team was able to undertake this role, but that is now more difficult.

Over the next few months, karenaid will review all the projects to ascertain the ones it can realistically support next year. We aim to update you with our conclusions in our Spring newsletter.

## easyfundraising

.org.uk

When you make an online purchase with one of the 2,700+ participating retailers, as a thank you for shopping, the retailer provides a donation for you to give to your chosen good cause. If you enter karenaid as the cause name then we will receive the donation. **But don't forget to check your privacy settings to prevent unwanted emails.** Retailers include Amazon, John Lewis and eBay.



If you would like to fundraise for karenaid through an organised event or your own challenge, you can create your own fundraising page. Go to [www.btplc.com/mydonate](http://www.btplc.com/mydonate) or search btmydonate and follow the instructions. It is very easy. Alternatively, to donate online, choose "Donate to Charity" and enter "karenaid".