



**AID TO THE BORDER**  
 AMOUNT DELIVERED  
 CURRENT SITUATION  
 PARTNERS ON THE  
 GROUND  
 KAG VISIT



**OUTREACH & EVANGELISM**  
 CHRISTMAS OUTREACH  
 WORSHIP WORKSHOPS



**UPCOMING EVENTS**  
 2023 FIRE CAMP –  
 MAE SOT & CHIANGMAI  
 WORSHIP CONFERENCE

# ASIAN TRIBAL MINISTRIES NEWSLETTER



## ATM April Update

We are so excited to share our most recent newsletter coming out of 2022 and now well settled into 2023. Last year had it's fair share of ups a downs – visiting teams, a wedding in the family, catching Covid after managing to avoid it for 3 years, miraculously pulling off Fire Camp against all odds, and finally our Christmas outreach – and this year has been just as exciting so far. We have been taking the time to pray about the direction God is leading us in and what this next season will look like. So after such a long wait, thank you for taking the time to read up on what's been happening and what's next to come.

Isaiah 43:18-19 NIV

*18 "Forget the former things;  
 do not dwell on the past.  
 19 See, I am doing a new thing!  
 Now it springs up;  
 do you not perceive it?  
 I am making a way in the wilderness  
 and streams in the wasteland.*

# Aid to the Border

In raining season of 2022 we had to stop making aid trips due to how dangerous the roads become during that time of year. This down time allowed us to attend Gabriel and Daphne’s wedding in Singapore and shortly after, Autumn was able to make a long overdue visit to Australia, the first trip back in the 3 years since the pandemic hit. Unfortunately, on arrival back to Thailand our entire family tested positive for Covid. Maybe it was a hidden blessing as it forced all of us to take a breather before the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year hit, which proved to be very busy. Due to this, our first trip back to the border with aid was not until February 2023. However, Pastors Timothy and Rebecca were not idle and despite great risk to themselves, were able to fly into Yangon to meet and petition for peace. This work is continuous and it is a nearly impossible task to bring all parties to the table to talk of peace, however, they have both been tirelessly working, believing that we will one day see peace in Burma.

We are so grateful to the Karen Action Group who not only sent funds when we sent out an urgent cry for aid, but also brought a team to come and deliver the supplies with us in person. Several areas along the border are still being targeted by Burmese fighter jets and innocent civilians are caught in the crosshairs. David and Beryl Lewis along with James, Claire, Josh and Jared King came all the way from the UK and traveled a further 4 hours on winding roads to Pastor Weerachai’s house, where he detailed the tireless efforts he and several others have been making to get much needed supplies to the people despite the dangers to themselves. This trip we were able to provide enough food and mosquito nets for over 40 families and even had enough left over to buy treats and toys for the children.



KAG has stood alongside ATM to help the Karen people along the Thai/Burma border for over 30 years and we are forever grateful for the continuous friendship and support that has been freely given by those who have come in person and for those who pray and give and join

with us in one heart. Even after 70 years of conflict, we truly believe that God has a plan to see the Karen people and all of Burma see peace and prosperity and to see the country made whole. In the world’s eyes it may seem hopeless but with God all things are possible. Please continue to stand with us as we use whatever we have in our hands to help the innocent casualties of a senseless war.

Coming into April, this newsletter is currently being written from the border here in Mae Sot as we brought more funds given to us from our wonderful friend Glenys McDonald from Australia, which allowed us to get desperately needed sacks of rice for another area along the border that has been recently attacked. Thank you for your generosity and your valued friendship.



The situation along the border remains dire. We have been trying to keep up with the constant need for food and provisions for those fleeing and trapped along the border but it is an ongoing need. Our contacts along the border areas continue to work tirelessly to get the aid to the people and do what little they can to help in any way. Please pray for them. For those working on the ground and for the people who are suffering in this war. Only God can bring a stop to this. War is so deeply ingrained into the hearts and minds of the military groups on all sides. Pray that God will raise up new leaders with a genuine heart to come to the table and talk for peace, not with any hidden agenda or corruption, but with a heart for the people and the nation of Burma as a whole.



Another horrible side effect of war is the futures that are stolen from the children caught in the crossfires. Brave and motivated teachers are doing their best to keep up with educating these displaced children with absolutely no resources – no roof over their heads, no books, no pencils, and on the floor of the jungle. This is not a common thing to ask for when requesting aid donations, as usually we prioritize food, medicine, clothing and shelter, however, we would like to ask if anyone has it on their hearts to give specifically towards education materials so that these teachers can continue the work they are doing to provide an education these children in such a crisis situation. This is happening all along the border. We are so grateful for these amazing teachers who, where other people would want to break down, they have chosen to still give everything of themselves.



## Outreach and Evangelism

While the team from Karen Action Group was here with us we not only delivered a truckload of aid we also outreached to a remote village along the border, where the team was also invited to be a part of baptizing two new Christians in that village. They had wanted to get baptized for months and for many reasons it was put off and the week that we visited everything happened to line up and we are so grateful that in God's perfect timing we were able to be a part of this joyous celebration. After the baptisms we were invited to join in the Sunday service where the team shared testimonies and words of encouragement and prayed over the new church that is beginning there.

It was such a sweet time of meeting not only new brothers and sisters in Christ but also reuniting with several ATM graduates who embraced us with such warmth, sharing their memories of their time at the DTS as well as asking after many precious friends and teachers. We are so proud of all the work they have been doing there. One of our team members who is from this particular area commented on the fact that there was such a huge Christian presence and several churches that we passed on the way to the village for the baptisms and how unusual it was in this area. This is can only be attributed to the fact that these graduates have taken everything they've learnt and gone on to continue to spread the Gospel and the love of Christ in these remote areas.

In true Karen style, we were shown such hospitality and generosity, even from the first night we arrived. We were invited to a worship gathering in one of the local houses and shared a meal with the whole village gathered.

Most places here It's expected that the foreign teams coming in are the ones who bring gifts or funds to the local churches who have so little. What we experienced from this church was not only them giving us the very best in person but they went one step further and even gave a love offering to the KAG team to take back to the UK.

This group of Christians in such a remote and difficult environment truly shine the love of Christ and carry His Joy with them so evidently. Please continue to pray for them that God will pour out blessings and peace and health upon every member of their church.

On the way home we stopped to visit an old friend – Krusoe and his family. Krusoe worked with ATM for many years before he got married and has known David and Beryl for many years during that time. Praise God we were able to see him and meet his beautiful wife and children.



In December of 2022, returned to the village of Watu for their Christmas outreach, along with Asaph's Journal. As we've mentioned in previous updates, the road to this village is not an easy one but it was very much worth the drive in.

A big thank you to Marty Davey who gave towards purchasing 150 Christmas gift packs for the villagers who came. We were able to buy necessities such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, snack and treats and some blankets for the cold season as well.

In total we had 8 people from ATM's team and Asaph's Journal go on this trip, crammed into the one 4wd along with all the blankets and supplies as well as personal bags. It is a huge testament to the students who came with us, who not once complained about the long trip cramped in the back of the car, on dangerous roads, with dust and heat and cold. They came with a heart just to serve and outreach. One of the biggest obstacles for the 2 students who came with us was experiencing a language barrier when they have never had to face this before, and how to outreach despite it. Watu, being a Karen village, even though many there can speak some Thai, the main language is Karen. They didn't let it phase them and joined in where they could, even playing soccer in the rice field during the tournament.

Tim and Misty have been serving faithfully in Thaton, 2 hours north of Chiang Mai. They founded Asaph's Journal, which is a worship and ministry school that is sorely needed in Northern Thailand. Worship is something that is still a real struggle for Thai people and though it has not been an easy task for them, they have continued pushing through and the quality of the students they are raising up is very evident. They not only came with us on this trip but also 2 months before, helped us during Fire Camp. This was such a huge blessing and not a small task either. They continue to humbly give so much of themselves and we are privileged to have such good friends alongside us.

We are so grateful for the opportunity to go into this village and will continue to go and build relationships and spread the gospel as many times as we can. We still believe that one day soon we will be able to build a church in this village and see the light of God spread even further into the more remote villages past it which are still completely unreached.

Continue to pray for Pastor Weerachai and the tireless efforts he makes to bring help and love and joy to these areas. He is a true evangelist who is also extremely humble and gives of himself completely. Pray for ongoing and consistent provision for him and his family and protection as he travels these treacherous





## Fire Camp



Fire Camp 2022 was such a confirmation of the hand of God that is on this camp. It seemed that everything came against this year and any sane person would have cancelled amidst all the obstacles. This camp, however, has been birthed from the heart of God for this generation. Every year it is an outpouring of His love and His promises and His Spirit on these kids and even though it was an impossible task, God still showed up and proved once again that with Him all things are possible.

It was such a step of faith for our team. In the weeks leading up to the start of camp we would say to each other, we still have no funds, we still have no people, no equipment, basically no way of pulling it off. Pastor Rebecca would just keep reminding us that God would show up. So we kept planning and kept pushing forward despite lack of budget and manpower. One by one confirmation of teams and people came in, Praise God. However, we still had no budget. The weekend before camp came and teams started arriving. We had the budget to feed and house the teams and enough in our hands to buy cooking equipment but still nothing to feed the campers or pay for the shirts or any other equipment incoming. Tuesday came and many of the youth started to pour in and we were reaching our limit, thinking 'we have no way of feeding them'. At crunch time, the funds cleared and we rushed out to buy food and all the remaining supplies we needed in the middle of the night. Praise God for His faithfulness. He is never late, but always precisely on time.

This was not the last of our challenges though. Even in the lead up to day 1, our worship team started getting sick, many losing their voices. Jacob powered through each set despite being the most sick and nearly passing out, but he insisted on continuing to play as his heart and passion was greater than the physical weakness he was feeling. This was the attitude of every person on the team. All these challenges only further proved that everything that happened was from God as we could take no credit. He does something different every year and this year He brought such a sense of joy and life and the camp was wrapped up with baptisms which then led into a time of dancing that no one wanted to end. This is what we are so desperate to see in the youth in this nation. The joy of the Lord breaking forth and chasing away every bit of darkness and hopelessness that the enemy has tried to use to consume them. The Joy of the Lord is my strength.

Thank you to the teams that came and stood alongside us. Pastor Peter, Jack, Naomi, Joffiah and Isaac from Life Inverell and Charlie, Daphne, Zoe and Masala from COH church. Thank you for serving so humbly, for sharing your hearts and leaving such a lasting impact on the youth here. For being so understanding and patient amidst the chaos but most of all for standing alongside us to continue this camp. For seeing no task as too little and for not only loving on the campers but also on our team. You were all an answer to prayer when we so desperately needed one.





## Upcoming Events

This year we have decided to hold Fire Camp 2023 in both Mae Sot along the border and in Chiang Mai. The Chiang Mai camp will be in October and the Mae Sot camp in November (dates to be confirmed). The decision to expand the camp to 2 locations is due to need for travel cards for those without documentation. For many of the youth that come to the camp this has made it very difficult for them to attend. It is also a very long trip for those coming from Mae Sot and puts them at great risk, having to transport so many kids in the backs of the trucks to come to Chiang Mai. Please pray with us as this will require extra budget as well as a suitable location.

We also need to raise funds for the regular camp we hold in Chiang Mai in the months leading up to October. Our ultimate goal is to renovate the middle hall at ATM so we can install permanent sound equipment and lighting which will cut down nearly 70,000 baht in sound rental costs every year.

We also have several outreaches coming up to Mae La Noi, Mae Sot and Wieng Pao Pao before the raining season hits. These outreaches will mainly be focused on follow up from Fire camp, worship workshops and praying over the leaders that are in the different areas.

## Current needs and prayer points

- Provision for Fire Camp 2023 Mae Sot and Chiang Mai
- Peace in Burma and for the fighting to stop along the border
- Good health and continued healing for both Pastor Timothy and Rebecca
- Pastor Weerachai and his work on the border and remote evangelism
- Provision for renovations of the ATM hall to become a permanent worship centre
- Provision for the monthly runnings of ATM to be able to continue the work

Hand in hand, you our partners, and our ATM team here on the ground, can and are making a DIFFERENCE TOGETHER.

All by God's Grace,

**ASIAN TRIBAL MINISTRIES TEAM**

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