

GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR



Their village was burned and they are now in hiding.

BURMA

March 8, 2009



Thirteen-year-old Hsa K'Tray Saw some months after the accident.

Hsa K'Tray Saw's Loss

The village of Lay Kee in northern Karen State, was attacked and burned down by the Burma Army on August 15 and 16, 2007. Everyone fled the village, and the Burma Army put landmines in and around the village. Three months later, some of the villagers returned from their hiding places to see what remained in their village. Hsa K'Tray Saw, a 13-year-old boy (grade 2 in school), came also with his family. While his mother searched for vegetables, he sat on a log, idly tapping the ground with his machete. As he was hitting the ground with the machete, it hit a landmine that the Burma Army had placed there. The mine exploded in his face and he was blinded in both eyes and wounded in his face and upper torso. His 8-year-old sister was also wounded in the explosion.

He was taken to a local mobile clinic a long days' walk away, but after basic treatment they said they could not help him.

We met him several months later in an IDP (internally displaced people) hide site. He was bent over and shuffled dejectedly with his head down as his older brother helped him walk. Seeing his damaged eyes, his hunched-over little body and his crushed spirit, I felt very sad. I talked to him and prayed with him. After I looked at his eyes I told him that I did not know if we could help and that he might never see again, but that we would try. I held him close and talked and prayed. I stood up to talk to the medics and someone asked me how I felt. I could not answer. I started to cry. I knelt back down with the boy and composed myself.

I said, "I feel very sorry this happened. I feel very sad for this boy. As a father with three children myself, it hurts me very much. But it is not just about being a father and caring for this boy, it is about a 13-year-old boy who can't see and who is afraid and

hopeless in a hiding place, high on a cold mountain. It is about the dictators' army who placed the mines, burned his village and continues to attack his people. This is wrong and words will not stop it. It takes prayer and it takes action."

I stood up again and looking at the boy I said, "Son, we will try our best to help you. Maybe we can or maybe we cannot but we will try. No matter what, I want you to know that God loves you and is with you and God suffers too. And, I want you to stand up straight. You are still strong, with working arms and legs. Even if you never can see again you have many things you can do. Stand up straight and be the man you are."

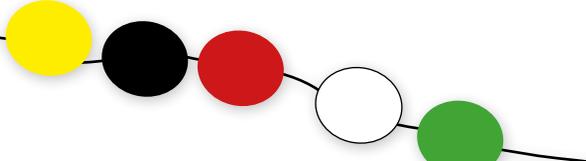
I then put my arm around him and began to walk him around the top of the ridge. As we walked, he squared his shoulders, and walked erect and, like every Karen, with agility and sureness of foot.

After finishing the eye examination, we all decided it was worth the effort to send him to Thailand to see if he could be helped. It took many days of walking, and with help from the Karen National Union (pro-democracy Karen ethnic resistance) he was brought to a hospital in Thailand. Neither Thai nor American eye experts could restore his sight so Hsa K'Tray Saw was enrolled in a school for the blind in Mae La refugee camp. He is there today and we are committed to helping him accomplish the many things he still can do.



Hsa K'Tray Saw receiving medical treatment after being blinded by a landmine on November 16, 2007.

From a Relief Team Leader



GLC

Good Life Club

The Good Life Club program is based on the words of Jesus in John 10:10, "The thief comes to kill and destroy; but I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly!" The word abundant is so big and full...only Jesus can truly meet all of our needs in an abundant way. In whatever ways we are able, we hope to bring love and faith, along with tools for a good life, body and soul. These include teaching Bible lessons and healthcare, songs and games, and giving a school pack for the teachers.



GLC relief team playing with children at an IDP site in Karen State, December 07

**"The thief comes to kill and destroy;
but I have come that you may have life
and have it abundantly!"**

GLC mission at IDP site, Karen State, December '07.



Kachin relief team member and kids, December '07.

Kids Packs

Small comb and a mirror
1 box of children's chewable vitamins
2 children's toothbrushes
1 fingernail clipper
1 small toy
1 picture of you
1 postcard from your city or state with a Bible verse

Mom and baby packs

Small fingernail clipper
Multi-vitamins for mom
Pediatric vitamins (not needing refrigeration)
2 outfits for baby, including cap, hand mitts, shirt (not a onesie) and socks
1 teether
1 picture of you
1 postcard from your city or state with a Bible verse

Shipping information

Thank you for your help in sending the packs to us. At this time, it is still not possible to send charitable bulk shipments to us. Please send standard household/gift size boxes with the description "household/personal goods" on the customs form.

Send packs standard airmail (USA: not to exceed 79 inches length/width/girth) to **Christians Concerned for Burma (CCB), PO Box 14 Mae Jo, Chiang Mai 50290, THAILAND.** Mark the package: *GLC*



FAITH AND PERSECUTION

"We have been captured, our churches burned, but we will not give up."

From a Relief Team Leader

Burma Army troops attacked Kaw Kae village in June 2002. Villagers were forced to watch their pastor being tied up and beaten. Then their church was burned to the ground. The pastor was taken prisoner for 4 ½ months before he was released. Just two months later a relief team visited, took pictures and prayed. We also asked others to pray. We wrote a letter to the pastor and gave money to his family so they could send him food in prison.

Now, on this mission in April 2008, we came back to the same area. The pastor was waiting for us and thanked us for our prayers and help at the time of his captivity. He said that he wanted

little food or water for five days. Every day three Burma Army soldiers beat the pastor's head with a pistol. During the day they would tie him outside in the sun and wrap his head in plastic. They also cut his ear with a knife and cut the skin on his throat as they questioned him and threatened to kill him. During one of the nights while he and the two others were tied to the posts below the church, he said that one of the men was able to work his ropes free. But the pastor said, "Don't try to escape. If we three escape what will happen to those up in the church?." So they remained tied until the Burma Army moved the villagers out of the church and then burned the church down. The pastor and the two men

Every day three Burma Army soldiers beat the pastor's head with a pistol. During the day they would tie him outside in the sun and wrap his head in plastic.

to stay on as the pastor in this area so that people wouldn't lose their faith. He said that even though he expected to be captured again and the village attacked again, he was happy to be the pastor and glad to lead his people forward. Now, when I saw him for the first time, I went and embraced him and said a prayer of thanks. I also thought of all those who had prayed for him when we first sent out the message of his capture in 2002. The pastor and people of Kaw Kae village are now rebuilding their church.

From this village we went on to the village of Ti Da Blu, where another church had been burned down, also in 2002. We talked to the pastor who told us that the villagers were forced to go into the church by the Burma Army while he and two others were tied to the posts below the church.

The villagers were held captive like this with

were then taken away and held for 4 ½ months in prison.

We had come by this village in 2002 as we were accompanying 96 people who were fleeing a forced relocation site and trying to get to a refugee camp across the border. Then, the people of this village were in hiding and we spent one night with them.

Now at Ti Da Blu village, the church has been completely rebuilt next to the burned church. When we asked the pastor why they kept the burned pillars of the church clear of jungle growth, he said, **"We want it to be as a memorial to what happened. This is my home, this is my congregation and it is my duty to serve my people as a pastor. So I will stay. If we have to have to suffer we will suffer together. If we are free we are free together."**



Pastor Happy Htoo at site of burned Kaw Kae church, April '08.



Pastor See Pa Thru (Praise) at burned and new church at Ti Da Blu ,April '08.

Pray

For all who are persecuted for their faith in Burma.

That the Christian Church will be strengthened in its ability to shine the light of God's love and truth in Burma.

For the pastors, who are often singled out and attacked by Burma Army soldiers when they first enter a village.

For strength, wisdom and hope among people of all faiths who live under direct control of the military dictatorship in Burma. Pray that they will be unified and encouraged by their efforts to serve one another through love and perseverance.

Love and new life in the midst of war



Two relief team leaders, Saw Sun and Naw Paw Blu, married February 14, '08.



Two relief team medics, Naw Di Htoo and Gideon Bani, married April '08.



Relief team members Deh Htoo and Kan Ya Paw, married November 30, '08.



Baptism of one of five relief team leaders during training, December 07.

The Brutality Continues



Sick man in hiding in Toungoo District, Karen State.

Over fifty years of civil war have left Burma one of the poorest countries in the world. The military dictatorship attacks its own people, killing thousands, and leaving millions displaced. Many in opposition are either imprisoned or killed. In most of the country there is a false peace due to the dictators' ability to control dissent; however, in some ethnic areas the regime's army is still attacking the people. There are over one million internally displaced people, more than 80,000 of whom have been displaced in the last two years, and over one million refugees who have fled the country.

The photos on these two pages illustrate the ongoing brutality perpetrated by the Burma Army on civilians in different areas of the country. Please pray for these victims of war, and for the dictators who are responsible for the atrocities.



Burma Army troops from DIV 88 being transported in Toungoo District, Karen State, '07.



Women from Thaton District forced to carry bamboo for Burma Army, August '08.



Burma Army soldier patrolling in Htoo Ler forced relocation site, December '07.



Young girl who just had her foot amputated due to stepping on a landmine in Karen State, Spring '07.



IDP family in hiding in Toungoo District, Karen State, April '07.



A family smoking opium in a Lahu village in Eastern Shan State, July '08.

Burma is one of the main producers of methamphetamines in the world, and is number 1 in Southeast Asia. Burma, behind Afghanistan, is the number 2 producer of opium/heroin in the world.



IDP mother and child from Ler Wah fleeing attacks of Burma Army, December '07.

Shining Moon



Shining Moon, an ethnic Karen Free Burma Ranger team leader, died on May 20, 2008 from complications of acute malaria. He was 26 years old and was a team leader, district coordinator, Good Life Club counselor, member of the Karen National Union, and the Karen Youth Organization. He was single. His family live in a forced relocation site in Burma.

Shining Moon on his last mission to Karen State, April '08.

Shining Moon was the leader of the three Toungoo District Free Burma Ranger teams in northern Karen State, Burma. He coordinated and led these teams in helping bring help, hope and love to people under attack in one of the most oppressed areas in Burma.

Shining Moon was one of the first to regularly infiltrate into Burma Army-held areas and to send out high-quality images and reports of human rights abuses by the dictators. His images and reports have been broadcast all over the world. He was a fearless leader and was always at the front line helping people under attack.

Shining Moon also worked in areas and cities under complete Burma Army control and carried out missions to gather information, put a light on the situation and build relationships and hope among people under oppression. Along with being an outstanding leader, Shining Moon was a man of compassion and selfless service who spent most of his time living with people displaced by the Burma Army.

He was wonderful with children and my own three children have lost a favorite uncle. In April at the wedding of two of our medics, Shining Moon ran through a refugee camp with our two-year-old son laughing and shouting on his shoulder. When my five-year-old daughter learned that Shining Moon had died, she cried for him, saying, "Oh Shining Moon, oh Shining Moon, I miss you."

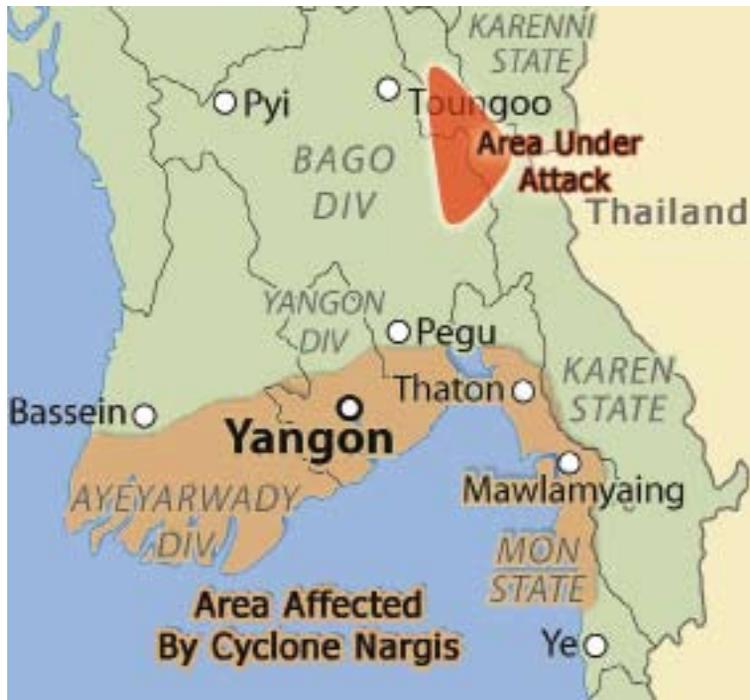
We all miss him terribly and are grieving his loss. Shining Moon was a Christian and believed his eternal home is in heaven. We believe that too and look forward to seeing him there. That hope and all the good memories and lessons we learned from him are a consolation for us.

As I reflect on what his loss means to us in every way, personally and professionally, I am convicted to be more careful about my time, to try to put people before programs or 'to-do' lists, to listen better, to wait longer, to take time to help and to take the time to rest and play.

To Shining Moon I want to say, "I am so sad my brother that you are gone. I know you are in a better place and that I will see you again because of God's love. I want to say I am sorry for not spending more personal time with you. At the same time I want to thank you for sharing your life with us and for all the miles we walked together, the dangers we faced, the joys we shared and the lessons of humility, cheerfulness, toughness, and that smiling 'can-do' spirit that you gave me and all those around you. We will go on for the cause of love and freedom and we will try to do it like you did, in the way of love, justice and truth. Thank for your example and how you lifted us all up. It is your country and we are only guests, yet you were like a servant to us. I love you Shining Moon and miss you so much."

"And dear God, thank you for the gift of Shining Moon in our lives and that all that is truly precious is safe in your hands. Thank you that although this life is fatal, it is not final. Thank you for Shining Moon, and as we miss him, help us to live up to who he was and what he lived for. I say this in gratitude to Shining Moon and to you God. I say this in your son's name, Jesus. Amen".

From a Relief Team Leader



Over 130,000 people killed, two million displaced by Cyclone Nargis that struck Burma in May 2008.

The dictators of Burma actively obstructed relief to the survivors while at the same time launching attacks against ethnic people in eastern Burma.

Aid organizations had a difficult time providing assistance. In spite of the obstacles to relief, indigenous networks in the affected areas were able to help many of the victims.

Thank you to all of you who helped those in need through these networks.



Victims of Cyclone Nargis.
(photo by Delta Tears)

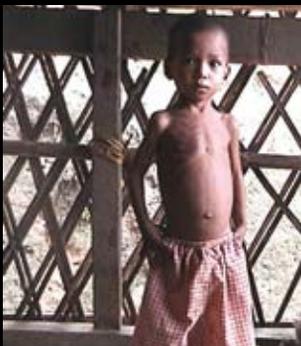


Families hiding from attacks in Eastern Burma.



Burned ruins of house in Luthaw Township.

In western Burma, there is a famine due to an infestation of rats. Here, too, the Burma Army continues its oppression instead of assisting the victims.



Malnourished child in Arakan State.



Victims of the famine in Chin State.
(photo by friends of FBR)



Chin villagers with some of the rats that are devastating western Burma.
(photo by MPP)



Saw Ko Nu crying for his son, April '08.

After he had composed himself he went down to the site of his son's remains and began to call for his son, saying, "Oh my son, my son, I tried my best for you. I planned many good things for you, but now you have no chance to enjoy them. Oh, my son, my son. Oh God. Oh my son, my son, you go ahead and wait for me." And then he stood up and said, "Oh God, Oh God, if you don't help me I can't continue on."

A Father's Grief

On Christmas Day 2007, a Burma Army patrol shot at Saw Ko Nu while he was fishing near his orchard. He managed to run away, but above him on a hillside rice field was his 13-year-old son Wilbur Htoo and 25-year-old nephew, Saw No Maw.

Wilbur Htoo had survived a Burma Army massacre in 2002 by hiding under the dead body of his grandmother. Relief team medics removed a bullet from him, but five years later tragedy was to overwhelm this same family.

After escaping the shooting, the father kept running and hearing no more shooting thought that his son and nephew, who were about 500 yards away on higher ground, had escaped. But when they didn't turn up, the father went looking for them. He found their burned bodies in the rice field they had been working. When he looked at them closely, he saw that they had not been shot, but had been captured and tortured to death. The tendons on their ankles were cut open, they had been disemboweled and had their throats cut. Their bodies were set on fire but only partially burned.

When we talked to the father, we were hurt in our hearts to learn that he had already lost his wife and three of his children in the 2002 massacre. Now he had just lost his son and his nephew. We were shocked to learn that his son was the same Wilbur Htoo who had survived the massacre in 2002 but now had been tortured to death. We also met Naw Moo Dah, 22, wife of the dead nephew. She had a nine-month-old baby who became sick and died two days after her husband was killed, so she is now alone.

The father said he would take us close to where Wilbur Htoo and his nephew had been killed but he could not bear to go to the exact spot. We took a small team and went with him and as we got close to the killing ground he began to talk about his son. We passed through an orchard they had both been working on and he pointed out the fruit trees his son had helped to tend as well as the field house they had built together. After passing through the orchard we had to climb a hill to where the rice field was. At that point he decided he would go with us all the way.

In the rice field we found the partially buried remains of his nephew and the place his son was buried. When

he saw them, the father began to shake and call his son's name. I held him in my arms and he began to cry. All I could do was pray and try to comfort him. After he had composed himself he went down to the site of his son's remains and began to call for his son, saying, "Oh my son, my son, I tried my best for you. I planned many good things for you, but now you have no chance to enjoy them. Oh, my son, my son. Oh God. Oh my son, my son, you go ahead and wait for me." And then he stood up and said, "Oh God, Oh God, if you don't help me I can't continue on."

One of the team members talked with the father while the rest of us reburied the nephew and covered his remains. We then gathered together with the father and held a memorial for the two who had been killed. We prayed, sang the hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy" and said the Lord's Prayer together. All this time the father joined us in silence. But when we closed with the song "Hear Our Prayer, O Lord," he joined in and sang with us. We asked for the justice of God, and that God would bless this ground. The father turned to us and nodded his head, as if to say, "It is finished."

We know this is a wound that will never heal. I told him that I have three children myself and I think I would be crying and in pain my whole life if I lost them. We also told him that we believe that his son and family are safe in God's hands and that one day we will be reunited. Now we are still on this earth and we have our duty to do what is right and good and to love each other. As we walked down the hill it seemed to me that he felt satisfied that we had together done the best we could do.

We want to thank all of you who stand with the people of Burma in the midst of these atrocities. We ask you to pray and to think about what we can do together to help make Burma a better place and in the meantime how we can comfort and help people like this man who has lost most of his family.

God bless you, From a relief team leader



Ten of the twelve massacred in 2002.

How long, O Lord, must I call for help,
but you do not listen?
Or cry out to you, "Violence!"
but you do not save?
Why do you make me look at injustice?
Why do you tolerate wrong?
Destruction and violence
are before me;
there is strife, and conflict abounds.
Therefore the law is paralyzed,
and justice never prevails.
The wicked hem in the righteous,
so that injustice is perverted.
Habakkuk 1:2-4

Pray

Pray for all the parents who have lost their children due to the Burma Army attacks.

Pray for the children who suffer the most in the conflict.

Pray for a change in the hearts of the Burma Army soldiers and leaders.

Pray for a political solution to the armed conflict.



Saw Wilbur Htoo, killed by the Burma Army December 25, '07.



Relief teams and pack mules bring help to the displaced, December '07.

In spite of recent attacks by the Burma Army, including the killing and dismembering of villagers and the burnings of homes and a church, people continue to stay in their homeland and help each other. Here are photos taken during relief missions which show medical treatment and the distribution of Good Life Club presents, as well as IDPs participating in a Good Life Club program. Thank you for all that you do with us to help these people and to share life with them. Their faith inspires us and helps to keep us focused on the most important things in life.



Lahu children play with Shan relief team as medics treat patients.



Karen soldier, victim of a landmine, tries to protect the displaced during attacks by the Burma Army.

Fires of HOPE

Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with righteousness. For this God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even to the end. Ps. 46:10,14

Photo captions, top to bottom:

1. Shan, Wa and Lahu children in a relocation area of Burma, joining with the relief team on the Good Life Club program.

2. Doh Say, a Karenni Good Life Club leader, prays in Shan State.

3. Karenni relief team trainer, videographer and headquarters team pastor leads new relief teams during relief team training, Nov 07.

4. Lahu relief team conducts dentistry in Shan State.

5. Karenni medic gives dental treatment to Wa soldier of the United Wa State Army (UWSA), a proxy force of the Burmese dictators. In the past the Wa of the UWSA had attacked relief teams, after being ordered to do so by the Burma Army. We thank God for this opportunity for our medics to treat Wa soldiers and to develop friendships and some understanding between people that the dictators want to see divided.





Eliya treating patients in northern Karen State, December '07.

ELIYA

The First Ranger

Eliya (Elijah) is the Chief Medic for the Free Burma Rangers. His animal nickname is "Toew Plu" or "Mad Dog". He is fast, highly skilled and brave. He is a 37-year-old Karen Christian, and is married to "Cat," a beautiful and dynamic nurse. They have four children. Eliya is a gifted medic, trainer, champion kick boxer, artist, singer, cook, hunter and all-around athlete. He served as a medic in the Karen Army (KNLA) and is admired for his bravery under fire, mature decision making, ability to handle complex situations, and for his lifesaving ability. He is almost always smiling and his distinctive, booming laugh can be heard wherever he is present. He is unflappable under pressure, never gives up, prays with faith, shares all he has and is supremely talented. The following are a few short stories that give some insight into his character.

The First Ranger

Over 10,000 people were fleeing into Thailand during the 1997 Burma Army offensive. The border road we were on was clogged with families carrying all they had. I pulled my truck over to the side of the road and as I stepped out, a man emerged from the jungle. He was in full camouflage fatigues, with a hand grenade on his harness and a M16 in his hand. He had a warm and open smile and a bright red earring in one ear. He looked like a pirate. "Hello," he said in English, "My name is Eliya and I am a medic, can I help you?" I thought, "Man you are an angel—a pirate angel!" "Yes" I said, "I want to help the people who are sick and are behind."

Eliya looked at the four backpacks of medical supplies I had in my truck and stopping some of the fleeing people, said to three men in one group, "You can run away tomorrow, but now is the time to help your people. Come and help us, please." He gave three medical loads to these men, I picked up the fourth load and we went through the fleeing refugees and back to the border to help those we could.

After one week we were out of medicine and when we arrived back at the truck were presented with a man who had stepped on a landmine. His shattered stump was already severely infected and he needed to get immediate care at a hospital. We loaded him into my truck and Eliya tied his IV bags to the roof of truck so that the infusion could continue as we transported him out. The sun was just setting as we secured the landmine victim in the truck. Eliya turned to me and said, "My wife and son are somewhere back there in Burma. Now I have to go find them. Maybe next week I will be dead, ha ha". His teeth flashed as he laughed, smiled and shook my hand. I prayed with him and then he was gone into the night.

Note: Eliya did find his family and now he and his wife Cat have four children. Eliya was the first Free Burma Ranger and helps us to train and lead the 100 part-time and 48 full-time teams that, with the help of Partners and others, bring relief to people in Burma.

His lower leg was shredded; the bone shattered and was only connected by a strip of skin to his upper leg. Eliya immediately took charge of the situation, organized our other medics and began to work on the boy, Saw Sa Lu. He controlled the bleeding from the stump, put in IVs and began to camp and suture off blood vessels and arteries. He comforted the boy, and prepared him for travel. Saw Sa Lu's life was saved and he was then carried four days to a mobile clinic.

Commitment

We were in a village in northern Karen State three months into a relief mission. We were waiting for more medical supplies and there were no attacks close to this village.

At the same time a steady stream of families fleeing attacks far to the north were trickling into this village. We had no medicines left so we treated them the best we could as we waited for the re-supply. One day as we waited, I was told that Eliya had just been called to look at one of the children of the fleeing families who was not well. When I arrived at that hut I saw that Eliya was surrounded by a crowd of people. I walked over to get a closer look and there he was with a small three- or four-year old boy on his lap. The boy had sores all over his face and had both mucus and pus draining out of his nose. As the boy was part of the group that had fled the attacks, he had not changed his clothes or

I have learned many things from Eliya and what strikes me the most is his relentless self-sacrifice, positive attitude and how he always puts the needs of others first. His courage and immediate action in difficult situations has helped to make me braver and his love has helped me to love more.

Landmine victim

We were with a group of over 800 IDPs who were hiding from a Burma Army attack on the northern Karen and southern Karenni border. Over 5,000 were displaced in the area and the Burma Army was still attacking. We went to a village that had been attacked to photograph the rice barns that had been burnt there. We were led by a villager who had been captured and tortured by the Burma Army, but who had escaped.

As we were filming the remains of his rice barn, there was a large explosion 200 meters from us. It was a landmine. 10 villagers had been walking down the trail back into the village after they heard the Burma Army was gone. The last person, a 17-year-old boy, Saw Sa Lu, had stepped on the landmine left by the Burma Army.

bathed in days. He was dirty, sick and scared. Eliya was talking to him gently and trying to calm him.

Eliya looked up at me and said, "This little boy was playing with a ballpoint pen and pushed it up his nose. The tip broke off and is now stuck far up his nasal passage. I will try to get it out". Eliya then unsuccessfully used a series of long forceps to try to remove the pen tip. After an hour of failed attempts he looked at the boy and the parents and said, "There is no other way," and smiled. He then bent over and put his mouth over the boy's nose and began to suck the mucus and pus out of the boy's nose. He kept sucking, hoping that the pen tip would come out too. In the end the pen tip was removed with a combination of sucking and probing. I looked at the whole scene and was amazed and grateful for Eliya's love and commitment.

Don't worry about tomorrow

We were moving with 96 people who were fleeing a forced relocation site. There were grandparents in their seventies, small children and one three-week-old newborn being carried by his sick and pale mother. The Burma Army was chasing us and had us surrounded by five battalions. At one point when the Burma Army was approaching closer we stopped to try to figure out a way through the Burma Army cordon.

Everyone was down low and keeping very quiet. The Karen soldiers were on a knee and formed a perimeter around the families who were squatting or lying on the ground. It was very tense and no one was smiling. I was kneeling beside the Karen (KNU/KNLA) and FBR team leaders making a plan when I looked up to see Eliya approaching. He was bent over slightly with a broad grin on his face. Still smiling he leaned over to me and very softly sang, "Don't worry about tomorrow, just really good today, the Lord is right beside you to guide you all the way; have faith hope and charity that is how to live successfully; how do I know. The Bible tells me so!"

Then he continued up the line of people on the ground, smiling and encouraging them in a soft voice. Everyone he passed smiled back at him and the whole mood on the jungle floor shifted. By prayer, the skill of the Karen soldiers and Eliya's and others can-do attitude, we were eventually able to get out of that situation and take all of the 96 people to safety.

Lessons learned

I have learned many things from Eliya and what strikes me the most is his relentless self-sacrifice, positive attitude and how he always puts the needs of others first. His courage and immediate action in difficult situations has helped to make me braver and his love has helped me to love more. He is a gift of God to our family, is a favorite uncle of my children, helping to carry them in the jungle before they could walk and treating them when they were sick. Our son, Peter Eliya, is named for him. Along with courage, action and love, I would like to share two things that Eliya taught me that I hope are useful to others.

Who do you serve?

When the first threat to our work came and when it looked like we might not be able to continue here, Eliya asked me, "Would you be sad if you could no longer work with the Karen?" "Of course I would be sad", I answered. Eliya replied, "Don't be sad. You are not working for the Karen. You are working for God. God can use you anywhere, and He will. You have helped us very much already and we will keep going. Don't worry for us, just follow God."

What is your duty?

When I met Eliya the second time, after he had found his family during the 1997 offensive, I asked him, "Why did you stay and help me and the refugees when your own family was at risk?" He answered, "In life we do not have control over everything. We have to do the duty God sets before us. I love my family and wanted to help them. But I did not even know where they were. However, I did know where the thousands of families who needed help were. They were right in front of me. I had to trust God and my friends to take care of my family until I had done all I could for the people in front of me. God would take care of the things I could not. Then as soon as I was done I went to find my family and was so happy when I found them safe. I want to follow God and I thank Him for all his gifts. You know I am not a very good man, and sometimes I do bad things, but I will keep trying and I put my trust in God."

God bless you, From a relief team leader



Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thess 5:16-18

Pray:

Pray for the 48 relief teams that FBR trains and supports. They hike into areas of conflict to provide material, spiritual and general aid to the victims of the abuse and exploitation of the Burma Army.

Pray for courage, wisdom and strength in all situations.

Pray that the relief teams will be able to bring love, help and hope to the most needy.



A family praying by candlelight in central Karen State on the Global Day of Prayer for Burma 2008.

Aung San Suu Kyi, leader for the pro democracy movement and Nobel Peace Prize winner who has spent more than 13 years under house arrest.

THE FOURTH MAN

God wants a relationship of love with each of us. How we respond has something to do with the kind of person we choose to be.

The first choice is the natural man who does whatever his impulses drive him to do. He does not care about society, laws or morality. He is selfish and only appears to conform to others when it suits his purpose. Under pressure, he will seek only to save himself.

The second is the social man who generally does the right thing morally and legally, wants to be good and to be well thought of, tries to obey laws and to help others. When under pressure he will save himself and his family and friends, but not more than that. He is moral until it costs too much.

The third man is the idealistic man. He is highly moral and under pressure will not give in. He is willing to sacrifice anything, including his life, for what he believes is right. However, he can be unbending in ideals and in the end can do what is morally wrong in order to achieve a perceived higher purpose.

The fourth or obedient man looks like the idealist except there is always room left for God to lead in unexpected ways. He has an open mind and heart to

God's leading that enables the obedient man not to be trapped by rigid ideals or dogma. This man is led by faith that God loves him and others, knows what is best and will lead him in every situation. This man also tempers his ideals with scripture, the counsel of others and a realization of his own limitations and sin. Trust in God allows him to be flexible in every situation—not flexible in personal or social morals but flexible to his own role. This man is obedient until death, even the death of his concept of right or wrong.

Jesus said, "By their fruits you shall know them." And that is the way you can tell the obedient man from the idealistic man. Because from the obedient man will come faithfulness, love, forgiveness, humility, courage, conviction, justice, mercy, boldness and joy.

We move forward with the people of Burma for freedom, justice and reconciliation, not on our strength or our own goodness, but because they are God's children. We want to obey God and allow him to use us, each one, to achieve his will.

Thank you and God Bless you,
Christians Concerned for Burma



Relief team member Naw Paw Blu carries patient who earlier fled Burma Army attacks, December '07.

Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.
Is. 43:1-2

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