

BORDER NEWS BORDER NEWS

NEWS FROM THE CHRIST CHURCH BORDER KAREN MINISTRY

**This Issue:**

- Easter Greetings
- Christ church visit
- Anglican Australian Aid & Sustainability
- Visit from Passion Project
- Volunteer House update
- New Academic year
- How to donate

Greetings from Noh Bo

Christ church Graduation ceremony



Dear Sponsors, Thank you for your continued support and thanks to you we have been able to support Noh Bo Academy for 33 years. You have made a marked difference in the children at the 3 nurseries, orphanage and Noh Academy. May the Lord richly bless you for your generous heart



Christ Church Vist in January & March 2024:

The following are my thoughts regarding the Noh Bo Academy where I spent 2 days towards the end of last January with a group of 6 volunteers from Christ Church.

Approaching the Academy we were met by the student body and the staff dressed in their native dress lining the entrance. We were given beautiful vests that they had made for us. Then we were escorted to their assembly hall to be entertained with a rousing performance of Karen songs and dances. It was wonderful. Afterwards we spoke to the assembly and delivered some much appreciated donations from our Church.

Next we toured the grounds and the facilities. The location is well suited for its mission but some facilities seriously need upgrading. The food prep, food storage and dining hall need immediate action and plans are to complete these projects while the students are on summer break next month. New dormitories and library are needed and plans are being finalized for that as well. Also, a new volunteer/training building is in the planning stage.

We talked with the staff and students in small groups over the course of our visit to get ideas as to what Christ Church can do to best support these students. At one point our group split up to speak to the students on a 1 to 30 or so ratio.

I found that, despite the longtime great turmoil, these students have suffered and endured that they are not only, motivated, they are disciplined, curious, polite and take great care in looking after each other. They have solid dreams to be productive members of society i.e., doctors, nurses, teachers, accountants, pilots, soldiers.

I am proud of the history of people of Christ Church in helping their fellow Christians of the Karen people. We have given them hope with the opportunity that Noh Bo provides. We have much more to do! This was my first trip and I plan to return many times in the future. In fact there is a trip during the middle of March which I will go with another group, including our Vicar Matthew, to attend their annual school graduation ceremony. We will again deliver donations from Christ Church as well. In addition, we have requested permission from the Thai government to visit the nearby Karen refugee camp including some nurseries and an orphanage. Thank you for your attention and interest. Jim Stuart



CCB KAREN MINISTRY MISSION

"To provide spiritual and practical support working towards a greater degree of self-reliance to the Karen community living in the Thai- Myanmar borders"

Sustainability update – supported by the Australian Anglican Aid



The old Kitchen, storage and washing area



The new kitchen and dining area which includes a new hand washing area for the students. A temporary kitchen area has been set up as the building work is still in progress

Renovation of the kitchen, storage and dining area.

Every year during the rainy season the Kitchen, storeroom and dining room experience flooding which has led to a multitude of problems. The kitchen and washing area also did not meet the food hygiene and health and safety standard, therefore prioritising the need to get this up to the standard during the school holidays.

This year thanks to Australian Anglican Aid we were able to demolish the old building and to raise the ground level to prevent flooding and to build a much larger multi use facility. Better lighting has been installed to enable the student to use this building for late night study.



'Passion Outreach Project – Visited Noh Bo

Passion Project: Experiencing Passion with Rugby:

Passion Project gives opportunities for individuals to experience Life passion through ball scrambles, physical Collision running and tracking. They are known as "Gpassioners" the charity is based in Japan.

Mr HiKaru and friend traveled from Japan to introduce Rugby to Noh Bo Academy. He said *"I appreciate for the time to volunteer and introduce this game to the students. It's really beautiful time for me. I felt kids in Noh Bo have a passion. They try playing rugby even though they've never played. That's an important skill to master uncertainty, new challenge unsure things in our life, I hope students want to develop more passion for the game. We would love to have the students Japan. However I understand in their situation and maybe challenging to achieve, Gpassioners is a rugby team which make an opportunity for changing a life. So I'm going to keep challenging this project with passion. Until we meet again...."*



Fire Safety training : The local fire marshal and team came to train the students and teachers on Fire Safety Training. Noh Bo has purchased 4 fire extinguishers and the local community leaders donated a further 7 fire extinguishers.



Volunteer house project: Update

The old volunteer house was demolished, and the wood salvaged



We are now able to complete the initial planning and commencement of the new Volunteer House to replace the existing guest house which is now too old to cope with current requirements. Our aim is to provide a safe and comfortable living space especially for the long-term volunteers. This facility will be used for both volunteers and a place for Christian retreat. We had to make some changes to the original design to ensure the project is affordable. Post Covid the cost of building materials have gone up.

The old volunteer house has been demolished with great care with the purpose of recycling the materials that can be salvaged and used again.

We are in the process of informing the local community leaders of our project and hoping to start, very soon, by placing a contract for the erection of a safety fence around the proposed new building. We would greatly appreciate your prayers as we navigate through this project.

A new home for a young Family:

We are excited to announce the arrival of a new addition to the Karen family. Theodore Pita Lynn was born on the 12th of March 2024. Some of the salvaged materials were used to build the Sustainability officer Smile and his family have a new home. Smile has been instrumental in our development plan. He oversees the developmental, farming and agricultural projects, and we are thankful for his dedication and commitment to Noh Bo.



New academic year 2024 begins :

Due to the ongoing persecutions in Myanmar, there are more displaced children who are in need of education and therefore we had to increase our capacity from 185 to 220 students. In preparation for the students coming for the new academic year, we have renovated the water tank area, relocated the library for easy access to all student and renovated the kitchen dining room area.

Preparations for the new Academic year in Noh Bo Academy :



Relocating The library :



Thank you for your donations:
A one-off bonus was paid by a donor to all the staff to show appreciation for their commitment to Noh Bo, along with a brand-new drum set . The students are so excited to use the drum kit.
The charcoal cookers have now been replaced with gas cookers which are much safer and cheaper to use. We received another donation for the new gas cookers and gas cylinders. Our heartfelt thanks to both donors



What your donations can do

The work of our Karen Ministry continues, and we have a full budget for 2024. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Here is a picture of how your donations can help.

Mae La Camp Support for a Nursery

School student	1,600 baht per year
Support for a nursery school teacher	6,000 baht per year
Nursery School food supplement	2,200 baht per month
Caring for an orphanage child	5,120 baht per year

Noh Bo Academy Students and Staff

Day Student	8,000 baht per term
Boarding Students	12,000 baht per year
Teachers (13, including Principal)	Average salary 3,500 baht (\$75) per month
Staff (1 office – 3 cooks - 2 supervisors)	Average salary 2,500 baht (\$46) per month

Noh Bo Food and Nourishment

The largest portion of the budget is food - essential in a boarding school for refugees. We need 65 large bags of rice each month for 10 months, at about 850 baht per bag.
The school also spends about 46,000 baht a month on fresh produce, giving an annual food bill of approximately 927,500 baht (\$31,000).

Education Materials

Each year supplies of paper, exercise books, text books, pens, markers, etc. are 40,000 baht (\$1,333). Arts, crafts and sewing materials are extras and depends on special donations

Uniforms

Noh Bo students take great pride in their uniform.	
Annual cost for students is	18,000 baht (\$600)
Teachers uniforms per year	9,000 baht (\$300)
Sport kits per year	10,350 baht (\$350)

Utilities

Electricity approx	4,700 baht (\$156) per month
Gas bottles at	300 baht (\$6) per month.
Water at	300 baht (\$6) per month
Internet provision is expensive –	2,675 baht (\$93) per month

Health and Wellness

Toiletries for students cost about 40,000 baht (\$1,333) a year.
Medicines, dental and hospital bills average 3,000 baht (\$100) per month.
Blankets are needed in the cool season – 100 baht each for 100 students – 10,000 baht (\$333)



HOW TO MAKE A DONATION:



We are working on our 10 year strategic plan. This year we hope to renovate the kitchen and start on the volunteer home.

We also have plans create accommodation for the teachers, to build a new dormitory for the boys . We have a joint venture with the alumni students to build the sustainability shop, which can be used as a learning tool and to sell some of the sustainability items.

Cheques made out in foreign currency attract very high transfer fees in Thailand (\$60).

Cheques in Thai Baht are no problem.

Electronic transfer is best!

Please email us on accounts@christchurchbangkok.org to let us know when you make a payment, so that we can ensure that it arrives and issue a receipt.

Bank Account for Karen (New) A/C:

Siam Commercial Bank
A/C Name: Christ Church English
Branch: CP Tower
A/C No: 168-225-876-6
A/C Tape: Saving A/C

SWIFT code: SICOTHBK



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!!

Your continued prayers and financial support are needed more than ever! We send a heartfelt ‘thank you’ for the past efforts and hopefully, for your future support, as we struggle to reach the levels of funds we had pre virus.