

BORDER NEWS BORDER NEWS

NEWS FROM THE CHRIST CHURCH BORDER KAREN MINISTRY



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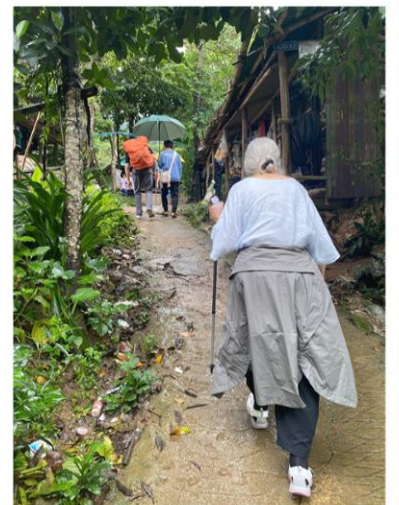
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Cannon Daryl and Sandy Fenton visit Noh Bo, two nurseries and the orphanage...

A trip to the Karen Ministry is life changing. The beauty and sincerity of the students and their welcome, the sparseness of their existence in a clearing in the forest, the dedication to their studies, their delight in sport in a muddy field, are both a joy and a piercing to the heart. You owe it to yourself to go if you possibly can. Until then you can pray, the most important thing you can do.

These students need miracles. They need access to university training, both the visas and the funding. They need a continuous flow of those willing to teach and to mentor and to supply. They need healing from memories of trauma and they need a deep sense of the presence of the Lord with them and His hand on their lives. They need prayers for protection from the Enemy who most certainly does not want this redemptive work to continue. The work of Christ Church there is a light in a dark place. The more of us who can go and become more involved will make that light even brighter., and it will bless us as a community. Go with your English word games and your paper maps of the world and your favourite encouraging Scriptures. Go with your own testimony of faith in Jesus . Go ready to have your heart filled to the brim with love for these children. I promise you will return changed.



Update On Our 10 Year Strategic Plan for Karen Ministry

Four Target areas of sustainability development include:

❖ Food Security:

Chicken farming and Pig farming continues to provide both nutritional benefit and modest income. Agricultural activities contributed positively to student nutrition.

❖ Water Management:

Explore additional clean water supply solutions ensure better health & hygiene. Continue to increase and implement rainwater harvesting systems, with further work planned to expand water storage and **Infrastructure (Shelter):**

Incremental improvements to accommodation, classroom facilities and communal areas, aligned with long-term development goals.

❖ Education: Accreditation, increasing access to recognised educational pathways. Continue to improve the curriculum



Growing their own vegetables chicken and pig farming projects continue to provide nutritious food for our students while generating a modest income for the school. Growing our own fresh vegetables also improves student nutrition

Better nutritional food



Better Infrastructure

We are continuing to improve the boys' and girls' accommodation and hope to upgrade the classrooms



Better water supply



CCB KAREN MINISTRY MISSION

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

Help Us Bring Clean Water to 250 Students at Noh Bo Academy Learning Centre



Will you partner with us to bring the life-changing gift of clean water to the students of Noh Bo Academy?



❖ Clean water should never be a luxury. It is a basic human need.

For the 250 students and staff at Noh Bo Academy Learning Centre, access to safe and reliable water remains a daily challenge. Water is needed for drinking, cooking, bathing, handwashing, laundry and sanitation—yet the community currently relies largely on public river water, which is often unsafe and unsanitary.

During the dry season, the situation becomes even more difficult. Water shortages can disrupt daily life at the school and place additional pressure on students, teachers and staff. Something as fundamental as having enough clean water for drinking, washing and preparing meals cannot be taken for granted.

We believe that every child deserves access to clean water and the opportunity to learn and grow in a healthy environment.

That is why we are seeking sponsors to help us provide a **safe, sustainable and reliable water supply for the 250 students at Noh Bo Academy Learning Centre.**

Your support could transform daily life for this marginalised community. A reliable source of clean water would improve health and hygiene, support sanitation, reduce the risks associated with unsafe water, and give students and staff the security of knowing that this essential need is available every day.

By sponsoring this project, you can help provide more than just water. you can provide health, dignity, hope and a better future.

Together, we can make a lasting difference. One drop at a time.

- ❖ We are looking for sponsors who may be willing to support the construction of two new wells.
- ❖ We need approximately 200,000 TH BAHT for one well

Pipe organ concert raised 19,000 Baht

Annual Pipe Organ Performance

On Saturday, 25 July 2026, Christ Church Bangkok hosted the fourth concert in its annual pipe organ performance series, showcasing Thailand's only pipe organ, built in 1905.

Featuring musicians **Okey Okafor** and **Matt Balaban** on the organ and soprano **Ashley Moyles**, the programme included works from the Baroque period to more modern compositions, alongside hymns that invited the audience to participate.

The concert not only celebrated the church's unique musical heritage but also raised awareness and financial support for **Karen refugees in Northern Thailand** through donations. We look forward to continuing this special concert series in future summer seasons.



The SILC ladies Trip to Noh Bo



SILC members Julie, Sashena, Bao, Meg & Chris visited Noh Bo in June



Reflections from a Visit by the Samutprakan Ladies International Club (SILC)* Members of the Samutprakan Ladies International Club (SILC), a community of women based in Bangkok, recently had the privilege of visiting Noh Bo Academy.

Our day began with the morning assembly, where the students' singing, confidence, and respect for one another immediately left an impression. We spent time distributing supplies, touring the school grounds, learning about the academy's future plans, and facilitating workshops on conversational English and social media safety.

While these activities were valuable, it was the students themselves who made the greatest impact. Despite the adversity many have faced, we encountered young people who were calm, gracious, respectful, and eager to learn. Their genuine eye contact, attentiveness, and appreciation for education reflected a maturity and resilience that was both humbling and inspiring.

We were particularly moved to meet former students who have returned to teach and mentor the next generation. Their commitment not only strengthens the academy but also provides current students with living examples of what education can make possible.

Another aspect that resonated deeply with us was the academy's dedication to preserving language and culture. In a community shaped by displacement, maintaining these connections helps students retain a strong sense of identity and belonging. Most of all, we were inspired by the value that students place on education and by the culture that Noh Bo Academy has cultivated. It is evident that learning is viewed not only as a pathway to knowledge, but also as a source of opportunity, purpose, and hope for the future.

We thank the students, teachers, and staff for their warm welcome and congratulate them on fostering a community where education is valued, potential is nurtured, and young people are inspired to build brighter futures.

By Sashena



"We were particularly moved to meet former students who have returned to teach and mentor the next generation"

Volunteered during my summer holidays in Noh Bo... Megan Kim



Our time at Noh Bo was truly memorable, and we feel blessed to have met such wonderful students and dedicated staff. While there is still much to improve, including access to clean water and essential supplies, Noh Bo has created a safe and nurturing environment where students can thrive. The passion of the teachers and staff is truly inspiring, and we look forward to seeing the school and its students continue to grow.



This summer my mother and I were given the opportunity to visit Noh Bo Academy for three weeks to teach Pre-GED English and social studies. Immediately upon entering Noh Bo, we were greeted with such hospitality and generosity. These students who we just met were so quick to help and engage with us. And that was the true highlight of Noh Bo- the students' positivity and resilience in the face of adversity.

While Noh Bo has been running for a while, due to the current civil war triggered by the 2021 military coup in Myanmar, the number of students coming to Noh Bo for safety has increased. Prior to the coup, things were looking up and students could return or visit home. However, the military's refusal to accept the election of Aung San Suu Kyi has led to widespread fighting, targeting of ethnic groups, and forced military enlistment.

Noh Bo currently has around 300 students from grades 6-post 12 and 80 students staying at the dorms- with more students coming in through crossing the river along the border of Myanmar and Thailand. Despite the difficulty of the situation, students hold a lot of pride in their Karen identity. One of the students mentioned in one of our classes how many students don't know what's happening back at their homes in Myanmar and talked about the importance of learning about Karen culture through classes at Noh Bo. Part of the Noh Bo curriculum is learning Karen, Thai, Burmese, and English.

I taught pre-GED English and social studies to the 12th grade and post 12th grade students. Because students do not receive high school education credit from both Myanmar and Thailand, earning a GED diploma is one of the only ways for students to pursue higher education such as college and receive more job opportunities. To take the GED Test, students must travel from Noh Bo to central Mae Sot and study at a GED academy for a year. Studying at the GED Academy requires being selected for a scholarship which is why building a strong pre-GED foundation is extremely important for the students. So far three previous students have passed the exam and are attending college. During the summer they came back to teach the students showing how passing the exam can strengthen all of Noh Bo.

For my classes, I taught in the school's assembly hall and used their project. However, most classrooms don't have technological devices in their classrooms and many materials are outdated. Most classrooms included a whiteboard and desks for students. Many of the whiteboards were in poor condition and could not erase well. Within the faculty office, there was only one quite outdated computer and the teachers shared one usb-c chord to print out their teaching materials.

The students at Noh Bo are so dedicated to their studies and eager to learn as much as they could- many of them know education is one of their only ways to find better opportunities and show their determination in class. Within our 45 minute classes, I would start the first half with a game to get students excited- some of their favourites were Simon Says and Musical Chairs. As my students got more comfortable, they began to open up and advocate for themselves in class such as staying behind to ask questions and take extra notes. The students are extremely bright and seeing the gears turn in their head or their "a-ha!" moments were such a pleasure.



Football is lifeline :

Outside the classroom, students at Noh Bo enjoy football, volleyball and music. Their enthusiasm and support for one another is truly inspiring, whether cheering on their friends during a football match or gathering together to sing gospel songs accompanied by guitars and drums. Despite the challenges they face, the students' joy, faith and friendship shine through. One of the most memorable things about Noh Bo is seeing their smiles and laughter, as the school provides a safe place where they can learn, grow, have fun and simply enjoy being children.

My First Trip to the Karen Ministry by Ash

Armed with a freshly minted one year retirement visa, I arrived in Bangkok at the beginning of April. Back in London I go to Golders Green Parish Church in northwest London, which is actually the church where Archbishop Desmond Tutu began his career as a curate back in the 1960s. Christ Church, Bangkok seemed ideal for me – a large, vibrant and friendly church community in the heart of this exciting city.

From the start it was clear that CCB does not confine its activities to Bangkok. The notices at the end of each Sunday service soon made me aware of something called the 'Karen Ministry' and then, purely by chance, during coffee and cake, I found myself sitting at the same table as a lady called Chris. She told me she was running the CCB mission which has been supplying the educational, dietary and health needs of the Karen displaced people (in the Burmese border into N Thailand) for the last few decades. Then, last Sunday, after I'd been away for a few weeks, the church notices announced that there was going to be a Karen Ministry trip leaving midweek, and would anyone like to join? I had to act quickly. I got on the phone to Chris and she immediately requested a passport copy to allow me access to the camps (a full week's notice is normally required). I booked my flight to Mae Sot and two days later found myself at the Coffee Club at Don Mueang airport's domestic terminal, ready to meet the rest of our group. There were four of us in total: our priest the Revd Daryl, his wife Sandra, Chris and myself). We had all arrived very early so there was plenty of time to chat – I hadn't actually spoken with Daryl or Sandra before.



On arrival at Mae Sot, which is a large town surrounded by beautiful green hills, we were met by the cheerful and welcoming Nigel, who picked us up in his impressively large Toyota van. First on the agenda was shopping. One of the purposes of these ministry visits is to supply the Karen pupils with daily essentials such as personal hygiene products, educational materials and also high protein food items to supplement their primarily rice and vegetable based diet. We pulled up outside Makro and shortly afterwards the van was being loaded up with a couple of hundred or so exercise books, pencil sets, bars of soap and small shampoo bottles, as well as several large tins of tuna and catering packs of frankfurters. Then followed a two hour drive – punctuated by several passport inspections at military checkpoints – to our hotel for the night, which is near the Karen settlement.



Noh Bo:

My First Trip to the Karen Ministry by Ash

Day Two at Noh Bo:

Our early morning start the following day aired some complaints about poor sleep: a very enthusiastic rooster had woken most of us up at 4.30am! Thankfully, it was only a short drive to the Noh Bo Academy where we would be spending the day. We were greeted by Smile, the academy's sustainability officer, who happens to be the son of the local bishop.

Noh Bo educates Karen students from primary to secondary school level. Roughly one third are boarders living within the grounds, with the remainder staying with their families nearby. Our visit began with a full school assembly at which we were introduced and said a few words about ourselves, with a teacher interpreting. Daryl spoke to the students about faith and Jesus, after which we all sang hymns and Christian songs. Then the students entertained us with a lively Karen dance, all dressed in national costume. Following this they presented us with gifts (I received a colourful traditionally woven shirt!) and we in turn distributed the supplies we had brought with us. Smile showed us all around the wooden buildings that made up the school facilities while Chris examined and provided advice on terms of maintenance and improvements, since her last visit. Meanwhile, Nigel and I had the opportunity to conduct a class, essentially giving the pupils a chance to practice their English with native speakers. I began with an exercise, asking each one in turn to come to the front and introduce themselves, talk about their hobbies and which country they'd most like to visit. Nigel continued by speaking to them about his own life. Overall, their standard of spoken English was good, and they seemed to enjoy the experience!

That afternoon, we began the long drive back to Mae Sot; the soldiers at the checkpoints didn't really bother us this time. The plan for the next day was to visit a couple of nursery schools and orphanage within the Mae La displaced people's camp

Day three: visit to Emmanuel & St Johns Nursery and St Johns Orphanage in Mae La Camp



Nurseries:



The morning began with some heavy rain, which stopped and started again throughout the day making the already tricky walking conditions in the camp (steep slopes, narrow, often unpaved paths) even harder. Luckily, everyone managed despite some noticeable fatigue by the end.

The two Anglican nursery schools, St John's and Emmanuel, look after Karen children under the age of five. They were lovely, happy and lively kids who were thrilled to meet us. They did a dance for us, we sang songs and Daryl asked them if they knew who Jesus was and why he is important. Then their faces really lit up as we handed out the colouring books and crayons. As we left, they all wanted to shake hands with us. Before our flight home we had a chance to eat at a celebrated vegetarian restaurant nearby. Nigel's Thai wife (he had first met her in Fiji) came to meet us there, and we all enjoyed the excellent and original dishes over good conversation.

For those who are interested in finding out more about CCB's Karen Ministry and possibly making a visit, speak or send an email to Chris on Chrisrajakarier@gmail.com who will provide more information.

What your donations can do

The work of our Karen Ministry continues, and we have a full budget for 2026. Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Here is a picture of how your donations can help. **Total 3 Million Baht**

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 -5000 baht per month
Staff (1 office – 3 cooks - 2 supervisors)	Average salary 2,500 baht 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:



Dear sponsors
Hope you enjoy reading the Summer edition....

We are deeply grateful for your generosity and for walking alongside us on this journey. Your support brings encouragement, opportunity, and hope, and we sincerely thank you for being such an important part of this ministry.

Chris Rajakarier (Karen Ministry -Chair).

Karen Ministry needs 3 Million Baht per year (approximately \$90,500)

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

Cheques in Thai Baht are no problem.

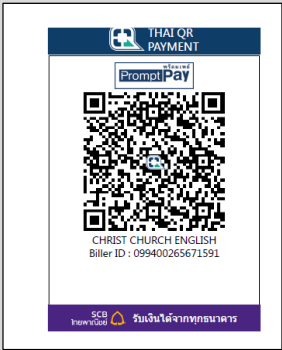
Electronic transfer is best!

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.