

# BORDER NEWS

## NEWS FROM THE CHRIST CHURCH BORDER KAREN MINISTRY



### This Issue:

- Nurseries
- Reflection by Rev Norman
- Donations from Webster University
- Christ church visit
- Australian Aid and Sustainability
- How to donate

### Happy New Year & Thank you

*We would like to wish you a very happy and blessed New year. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support for this worth cause.*

### The Nurseries in Mae La Camp

We are Thankful that all the students and teachers in Noh Bo are Covid free now. However, Mae La camp still has covid. There are three Nursery Schools which are supported by Christ Church Bangkok in Mae La Refugee Camp. They are; Emmanuel Nursery School which has 120 children, 6 teachers and one cook. St. John’s Nursery school has 57 children, 4 teachers and one cook. Trinity Nursery School has 110 children, 5 teachers and one cook. During the 2021-22 Academic year, all three schools started on 8 June 2021, and all schools were running regularly even during covid.



## A short reflection By Rev Norman

Sue and I visited Noh Bo on the 6<sup>th</sup> January, the Epiphany, when we remember the Magi bringing their gifts to baby Jesus. The last time Sue and I visited was in April 2020, in fact this was the last time when there had been any visits from Christ Church, all due to Covid-19.

We were picked up from Mae Sot in the newly acquired minibus that Christ Church had just bought from a university in Bangkok that was relocating to Singapore.

We were warmly welcomed by Candle Paw, the head teacher Tamla and Doctor Margaret together with lots of boarders, about 60 of them, the rest of the children will be returning over the next week or so to bring the cohort to just under 200 students.

I led an assembly; I gave all the boarders gifts and in turn Sue and I, together with a Christ Church member Esther, received gifts. The Academy children sang beautifully to us and we shared in translated prayers.

We then toured the compound, I was really struck by the amount of effort that has been put into sustainability projects, pigs, 100 chickens, lots of fruit and vegetables growing all around the grounds. A fishpond that until recently contained lots of fish, before they were sold off.

There was a lot to be thankful for, no evidence of Covid now, although the Academy had been devastated by previous infections. There is a lot to do, and recovery is going to take time, but my sense was that there was a lot of good will - the Academy is in a process of change and transition as she adapts to new ways to operating.

We then visited Mae La camp, redesignated as a camp for displaced people not refugees, a not insignificant change in status. The teachers and a selection of children met us at the gates, we were not allowed to enter the camp, we exchanged gifts again - it was for me emotional, these little God given treasures who have very little giving me gifts!! - the words of the Christmas carol came to mind, 'what shall I give Him, poor as I am....' I have experienced this feeling before, that I was not the one giving the gifts but the one receiving the gifts.

Thank you for your prayers and support, for this is undoubtedly a work that would please the very heart of God.





# Thank you, Webster University!

## Santa finally made it to Noh Bo!



Webster University is re-locating to Singapore and we are thankful for their donation especially the computers, desks and chairs.



The Students were delighted to receive gifts from Rev Norman, Sue and Kanchana.

They were given fruits, sweets and practical items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, bed linen, blankets, calendars, masks.



We were able to purchase a replacement Van for the volunteers to use at a discounted price from Webster University.



### 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”

**CHRIST CHURCH VISIT:****Visit to No Bo Academy on January 6, 2022**

I'd always planned to see this project but never could find appropriate dates. This opportunity presented itself when Rev Norman and Sue arranged a quick trip, with a full day in the Noh Bo Academy. I anticipated a rough road ride from Mae Sot to the Academy but it turned out to be quite smooth, along with an unplanned stopover, at an elephant area, we fed them bananas and stretched our bodies. It was a welcome diversion. In less than 2 hours we arrived at the Academy and I was amazed at its size, comparable to a number of football fields encircled by hills, low long structures were spread around on the fringes. It was attractive and inviting.

Norman had prepared food items and toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, fruit and sweets for each boarder present, I brought bed linen, blankets, calendars, masks, and sundries. Noh Bo is called "Nong Bua" in Thai and located at Thai Songyang district of Mae Sot.

We went into a hall with a line of sinks for washing and sanitizing, good looking youngsters sat on benches patiently as we sat on stage, along with the local Karen priest. The students sang beautifully. speeches included report from the head teacher and then Norman spoke, followed by Sue and finally myself. There was warm appreciation for Christ Church and the Joneses for their heartfelt affection for Noh Bo. Sue was praised for her counseling and consolation during a tragic event at the Academy last year. I spoke as being Thai and a Christian, teacher, mother and grandmother, we were given gifts and handshakes by everyone present, which was touching.

Lunch was delicious and plentiful. We then toured the grounds, visiting the black-skinned pigs, chickens, emptied fishpond, areas of vegetable cultivation. What was obvious was the lack of an adequate water supply. I saw classrooms brightly painted and comfortable enough, as for the dormitories, they are by gender and I found them to be rather unprotected by the weather, moreover underneath I saw a large dugout area, which I was told was a bomb shelter.

We then headed back to Mae Sot, stopping at 3 nurseries: Immanuel, St John's and Holy Trinity, tiny tots with teachers stood waiting and were given bags of goodies, the vicar and Sue received presents and prayers were said. In conclusion, I was pleased to represent Christ Church as a Thai person.

Praise be to the Almighty for what has been achieved for the Karen community, I hope to return again.

By Kanchana Esther Srifuengfung



**THESE 3 LARGE CONTAINERS HAVE BEEN MOVED AND GUTTERS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED TO COLLECT RAINWATER. WE NEED TO INSTALL MORE TANKS**



### A boy from Noh Bo !!!

We have been delighted to welcome 'Believe' or his Karen name Polo, to our church staff. Believe took up the position of assistant groundman in Christ church late in 2021 and he is proving to be a great addition to the staff.

Believe was a student in Noh Bo Academy in the 1990's graduating in 1999. He still fondly remembers many of the staff, Tony and his brother Andrew from Australia, in fact Tony is waiting to return to Noh Bo from Nepal, (Tony heads up the sports activities in Noh Bo), also remembered are Lynn and Stig from Norway and many others.

Believe has been living in Bangkok for the past 20 years and is married now with two children a boy and a girl. It's great to have him with us



**We need your help for Water supplies:** The Lack of water seemed the central concern in everyone's mind in Noh Bo.

There is a severe lack of water available onsite for both daily use and agricultural purposes, as the existing pump and piping system is heavily blocked. The bore hole wells, the pipe system that pump water from the underground are old, severely blocked or broken.

In addition, the water from a nearby river is unsanitary and is running low resulting in severe scarcity of water during the dry months. Furthermore, clean water for cooking and drinking is a challenge.

The idea is to install gutters around the larger buildings to channel rainwater during the monsoon season into large water tanks at several points. Secondly, building an irrigation system to channel the water to the vegetation.

We are looking for funding to install more gutters and channel rainwater during the rainy season into large tanks which can be used for vegetable and fish farming.





**AUSTRALIAN AID AND SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE!!!**



**Chicken's have finally arrived !!!**



We are delighted to say the long-awaited chickens have arrived. We now have one hundred chicken. The students had an opportunity to help build the chicken coop and prepare it. The chicken are in the pen and there are around 80-90 eggs per day

Fish farming has completed one cycle of raising fish. Some fish were sold and others eaten by the students. However more sustainable use of water needs to be explored, to conserve water when raising fish.

Agriculture is doing well. The students are growing long beans, ladies' fingers, Morning glory, Roselle and turmeric for use.

The aim of the projects is to promote self-reliance and to educate the students towards a potential livelihood.

We are thankful to the Australian Anglican Church for funding the sustainability project in Noh Bo.

**Building Interdependence through Greater Self-Reliance: working towards a better Future**  
 Sustainability was the buzz word as CCB sought to respond to requests from stakeholders for Noh Bo Academy to demonstrate increasing levels of self-reliance and participation in sustainable programming. This is also aligned with the CCB Karen Ministry Subcommittee's 5-10-year strategic plan for our various Karen projects, with a particular aim of supporting greater independence for Noh Bo operations. Our hope was that these projects will take root and be nurtured at Noh Bo

## What your donations can do

The work of our Karen Ministry continues, and we have a full budget for 2022. 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:

### HOW ARE WE MANAGING OUR FUNDS?

WE ARE FOCUSING ON THE STUDENTS' ESSENTIAL NEEDS AND MAKING CUTBACKS WHEREVER POSSIBLE. WE ARE ALSO WORKING ON GROWING VEGETABLES TO REDUCE FOOD COST & HOLDING FUND RAISING EVENTS TO RAISE MONEY....

*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.*



**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](mailto: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

