

# BORDER NEWS BORDER NEWS

## NEWS FROM THE CHRIST CHURCH BORDER KAREN MINISTRY



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### Noh Bo celebrates Thirty years!!! (1991-2021)

Noh Bo academy opened its door on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 1991 with 52 students. There were no buildings, and the classes were held in the church grounds. 31 years on, we have almost 190 students, 18 staff, 6 classroom, an ICT room, sewing room to enable (the suitability projects), Volleyball courts, football pitch, girls and boy's dormitory and most recently a pigsty, chicken coop, fishpond and different agriculture projects scattered around ( map on page 7). The celebrations were postponed to this year due to the pandemic, celebration started with a Thanksgiving service led by the bishop followed by speeches, intricate Karen dancing, and the magnificently harmonised singing.



*Dear Sponsors: thanks to you we have been able to support Noh Bo Academy for 31 years. So many students have gone onto ministries, become community leaders, teachers and medics. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!*



Christ Church team visit all projects within the Karen Ministry:

**Noh Bo visit** : With 200 gifts in hand, the Christ Church team visited Noh Bo Academy. It was a beautiful sunny morning , and the children gathered for assembly in their Sunday best in a multitude of colours, embracing us in a hall made of wooden beams and a corrugated metal roof. The hot air rushed through the gaps and the children greeted us with beams of smiles. There was music and traditional Karen dancing kitted in beautiful outfits, followed by a glorious feast of native food which was all part of the thirty-year celebrations. All the students were given apples, toiletries and sausages as a special treat. It has been a challenging few years for the teachers and for their contribution, hard work, and dedication throughout the pandemic, they were gifted with shirts and scarfs.

This was the first visit for the new Vicar Matthew and his wife Guen. Okey, the church administrator, had camera and video equipment in hand to make a documentary on Noh Bo. Globe who is an architect was eager to meet contractors to discuss the volunteer house. Chris was enthusiastic to see, understand and discuss how the sustainability projects had taken root and blossomed over the past few years. The travel restrictions due to the pandemic led to Chris and Richard (an alumni student) to guide the Noh Bo team online. Consequently, they wanted to meet the staff in person and make new plans for the sustainability projects.



**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 supports 3 Nurseries in the Mae La refugee camp :

Mae La camp visit

On Tuesday, the 14 th of June, a group of five members from Christ Church Bangkok travelled to MaeLa. After staying there overnight, we travelled by minibus to Noh Bo Academy, the Christian Secondary school for Karen refugees, which we have supported from its beginnings. At the school’s Thirty Years Anniversary Thanksgiving Service. Matthew was asked to give a spiritual talk to encourage the staff and students. I was impressed with the politeness and good attitude of all the students. Their singing spiritual songs and hymns and the traditional dancing was excellent. The classrooms looked colourfully painted, but the furniture is very basic and old and there appeared to be a shortage of suitable books and equipment. The library building needs some care and attention. There were no fans or aircon. Speaking to a senior student it seems that many books are too difficult for the students to read, and as it is airless, the library is hardly ever used. The boarding houses are kept clean, students sleep on the floor, as there is almost no furniture. We enjoyed meeting the students, some of whom spoke very good English and the teachers, who are all Christians, many of whom are very young. I was encouraged to hear about the new sustainability ideas, which are being implemented. Some students care for the gardens, growing vegetables and others care for their chickens. Students all have jobs to do, such as helping in the kitchens or cleaning. The children obviously love sport. Their volunteer teacher does a great job training the football teams. They have a good football pitch, plenty of footballs and a volleyball net. This game is popular with the girls and boys.

Nurseries and the Orphanage at Mae La Refugee Camp

We visited the three Christian nurseries we fund. They are well run, and the staff seem very enthusiastic and committed to give a good start to their little pupils. Although the food is very simple, the children at least have a regular lunch. I was touched by the children’s earnest looks when they prayed. At the orphanage our giving is also being well used to provide for teenagers, who otherwise would have no one to care for them.

By Guen Matthew



## Mae La camp visit continued.....

After 5 years we were finally able to obtain permission from the authorities and visit Mae la camp where we supported the three nurseries and orphanage. As other humanitarian crisis takes center stage the plight of the Karen community loses the attention of the NGO's, therefore a significant drop in fundings. There are only a few nurseries are left in the camp.



## A Charity Cook Book By Sue Jones:

## “Feeding of the 5000”

Before leaving Bangkok earlier this year and with the help of many others we finally managed to produce a Cookbook to raise funds for two projects at Christ Church. All the money raised from the sale of the 500 books we had printed will be given to these two long term projects that Christ Church have supported for many years and this is possible because of the generous donation for print costs given by CCBK members. So every Baht/Pound given goes straight to the projects. I think to date over 70,000Baht/ 2000 pounds has been raised and we hope when the remaining books are sold the total should be at least double that figure.

I am delighted in the 30th year since the ministry at Noh Boh began, that half the proceeds of the book will help towards some of the exciting new developments that Noh Bo are hoping to fulfil. Not least the kitchen and Dining areas where hospitality and meals are served daily

As the book is very much focussed on Hospitality, a key theme in the Gospels and in our 45 years of Ministry I hope you may feel able to help achieve our goal to sell all the books which take you through all the people we have met during our ministry and got to know over the sharing of meals and fellowship. The book contains 100 recipes shared by family and friends over a lifetime.

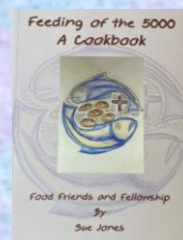
Books can be purchased at Christ Church in Bangkok or through contacting me directly at; [jonesuepudsey@gmail.com](mailto:jonesuepudsey@gmail.com)

I can send books by post within the UK.

Suggested donation to the funds are 500 ฿ or £ 15 UK .

Every Blessing

Sue Jones



Fund raising event: The Pipe Organ Concert in Christ church Bangkok

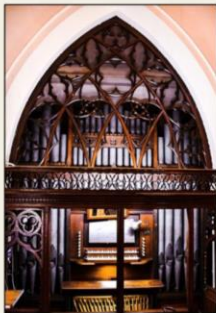
The Charity organ concert/recital was titled: 'A Celebration of Pipe Organ Music was held in Christ Church Bangkok' on 28<sup>th</sup> May in the church building to raise funds for the Karen Ministry. Karen Ministry which takes care of Noh Bo Academy, the three Nursery schools and the Orphanage in Mae La camp This charity concert was organised to celebrate the pipe organ at Christ Church which was built in 1900 furthermore this organ is the only pipe organ in Thailand.

The concert featured the works of J.S Bach, G.F Handel, Andre Campre, Johannes Bahms, Sigfrid Kart-Elert and other notable works of other composers, played by the organists of Christ Church Bangkok namely: Matt Balaban, Okey Okafor and Robert Costin. It was the first ever Pipe organ concert in Thailand and was well attended. Raised nearly 30,000 ฿ All donations from the concert goes in support of Karen Ministry. By Okey



A CELEBRATION OF

PIPE ORGAN MUSIC



Featuring the works of Bach, Handel, Karg-Elert, and others, performed by Christ Church musicians

**Matthew Balaban, Okey Okafor, and Robert Costin**

**Free to the public**

Donations are welcome in support of Noh Bo Academy (Karen Ministry)



Volunteer house project:



Old house

A well-built volunteer house is crucial for our work at Noh Bo. It allows volunteers from overseas to work for months, expands the range of people from Christ Church that can safely work on projects, and can be even rented for short periods to generate funds.

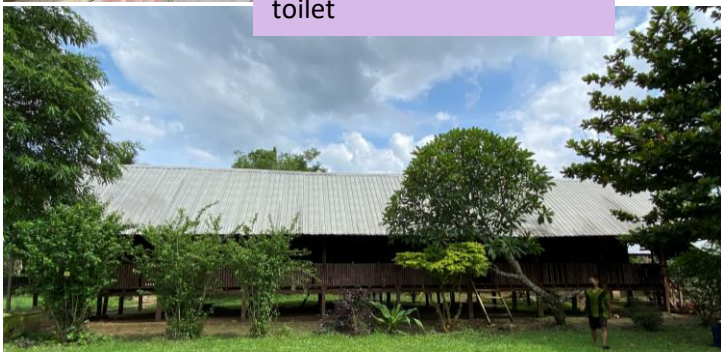
The current volunteer house is uninhabitable in the long-term. It is without running water and its wooden walls are infested with termites; the exterior bathroom is not well lit for the night. Attracting and keeping volunteers is difficult because of these issues.

Dr Sarah and Chris R sketched out a rough drawing for a new facility on a visit in 2019. This was the beginning of the dream. Then Roderick from Christ church created architectural drawings for us. Everything came to stand still when covid hit. Globe who an architect and a new member of the PCC member, will draw the elevation drawings and essentially help coordinate with the contractors and builders. We are thankful to the donors who will facilitate this dream into a reality, we will be able to start rebuilding and are soon. On this trip Chris and Globe, met with the contractors went through the plan. There was a foundation service held on site and we would appreciate your continued prayer for this project.



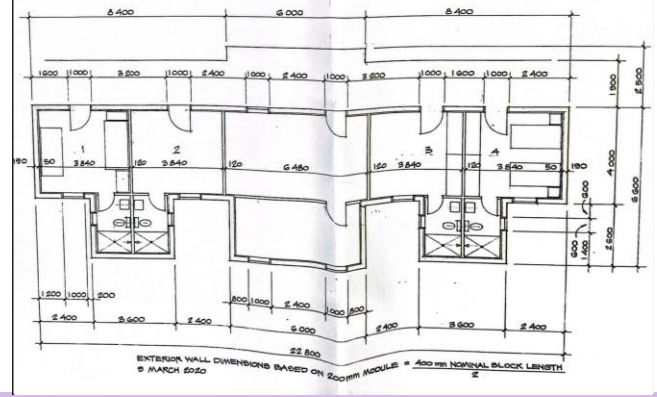
Bedroom and Outside toilet

Kitchen without any running water

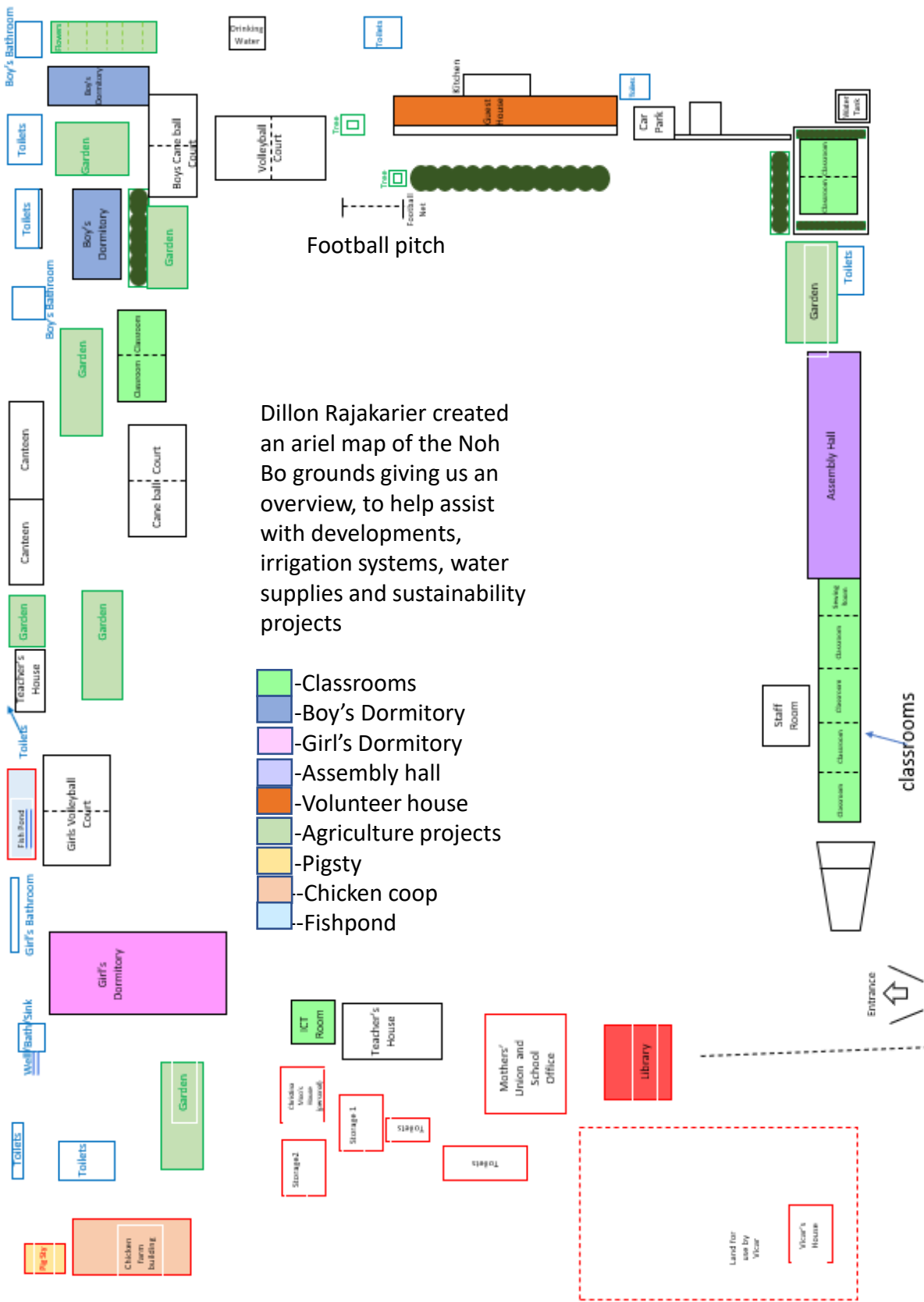


Meeting with the contractor, Globe and Chris

New plans for the house



Ariel map of Noh Bo:



Dillon Rajakarier created an ariel map of the Noh Bo grounds giving us an overview, to help assist with developments, irrigation systems, water supplies and sustainability projects

## What your donations can do

The work of our Karen Ministry continues, and we have a full budget for 2021. 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 schoolteacher	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:



*Thank You!!*

*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!!!