

**Fourth Report on Short-term Mission Trip  
(12-19 November 2005)**

**Shan Refugee Camp  
15 November**

Why are there Shan refugees on the mountains between Myanmar and Thailand? Who is taking care of them? How do they survive?

Over 300,000 Shan and other ethnic people have been forced from their homes in central Shan State by the Myanmar military. The refugees of Shan State, unlike the Karen and Karenni from Myanmar, are not recognized as asylum seekers in Thailand and are not provided safe refuge and humanitarian assistance by UNHCR. As they are unable to seek refuge, the Shan people are forced to live in hiding on the Thai-Myanmar border. The absence of services and help make Shan refugees such as pregnant women, children, elderly and disabled persons more miserable. The Shan refugees live in constant fear of being arrested and deported to Myanmar.

There is a Shan refugee camp near Thoed Thai village, on the top of the high mountain between Myanmar and Thailand. When we visited them two years ago, there were only about 500 people but now the number of refugees increased to 2500, including about 90 orphans.

By the generosity of friends and churches we were able to buy 2520 Kg of rice for 2500 refugees, 96 big towels for orphans, 146 cans of milk powder for children under three year of age who were under-nourished and suffering from malnutrition.

The Shan refugee camp was out of bound area. By the arrangement of refugee camp's leaders we were able to go in and offered them help.

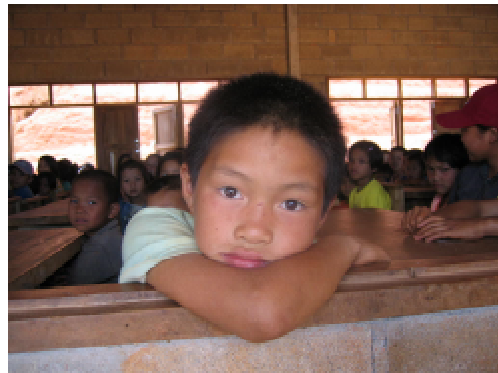


**Refugee camp .....40 minutes walk up and down the mountain**

No road for the car to drive into refugee camp. We had to walk up and down the hill for about 40 minutes. Once we got into the camp, a small pickup truck came to take us into the village. We started our medical and dental clinic immediately after we arrived there at 10 AM. Clinic was held in bamboo-school-building.



**Children at dental clinic ..... Waiting to see doctors**



**Surgical emergency for injured child ... a child at refugee school pondering**



**Orphans receiving towel ..... 2520 Kg of rice bought**

About two hundred people were treated at medical and dental clinics from 10 AM to 5 PM. A young child had a nasty fall and got big lacerated wound on his right arm. People brought him to our clinic. We did cleaning and suturing of the wound under local anesthesia.

As we were praying that the people would see the Love of Christ in our action, some of them were in tears as they felt our genuine love to them. The in charge of the school said in tears, "Thank you for coming to see us and offering your help. We thought no one in the world has known our suffering. Thanks for your love." We tried our best to make them feel that our God loves and cares for them. There were about 500 children attending primary school at refugee camps. Seven teachers came from different part of Shan States to offer their help in teaching basic Shan, English and Mathematic.

About ninety orphans lived in boy's and girl's dormitory. The children were as young as 1 year to 15 years. Their parents either died or disappeared during Myanmar military persecution. They were in tears when they received towels from us.

Matt 25:34-40

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’

### **One Evening at Refugee Camp**

For the first time we were able to stay overnight at refugee camp. We organized an evening gathering under a thatch-roof, presented drama, music, songs and Kung Fu exercise. Using our laptop computer and projector, we showed a video about ‘God’s Creation’. After the movie, a teacher approached me and asked if I could give him that VCD so that he could show to his students again. I was more than happy to give it to him. Pray that they may know the ‘Creator.’ We tried our best to make them feel that our God loves and cares for them. We want to see them smile in the midst of suffering and uncertainty. They sang their favorite Shan Karaoke together in joyful mood.



**Refugees watching video on screen (Story on creation)  
The white bed sheet from our guest house was good enough to be used as screen**



**Our team at the camp**

After evening program we were able to have a very quiet and peaceful night at 11 PM. Exhausted but rejoicing!

**Next report coming soon.....**