

## Shan Refugee Camp

Hundreds of thousands of Shan from Shan States of Myanmar have taken refuge on the mountains between Thailand and Myanmar since 1988 because of political and racial suppression. However they are not considered as refugees and are not under UN protection and provision. They are considered as IDP (Internally Displaced People). When I first visited the camp in 2002, there were about five hundred refugees living in the camp. But today there are three thousand refugees scattered all over the mountains in small houses. They are survived under generosity of the people who know and see their plight and sufferings. They are not under sponsorship of any organization. I have the opportunity of meeting with camp leaders for future development and management of the camp.

There is a small primary school, a makeshift hospital, orphanage home and a nursery in the camp to provide some basic education and health care to refugees.



When I first visited the camp in 2002, I went there as a medical doctor with a medical team to provide them dental and medical services. I did not have a chance of preaching gospel but just to show them the love and concern of Christ to refugees through our action as Christian mission team. Later in 2003, 2005, 2007 and 2009 I have opportunity of preaching gospel to them. The head of the camp opens up the door for us to preach Good News. Then they allow us to build a church. Now we have four churches, mainly for La Hu Christians, in the camp. There is only one Shan believer among three thousand people. How does this Shan believe and accept Christ?

Two years ago he fell from height and injured his back resulting in total paraplegia of his lower limbs. He is confined to bed most of the time. Later he can move around on his wheel chair provided by a church. He starts to read the Bible and listens to gospel in Shan language broadcasting from FEBC every morning. A La Hu Christian medical worker also witnesses to him whenever he is free. A year ago he accepted the Lord and was baptized.



I spent three days and two nights in refugee camp. They took care of me very well. They offered me the best food they could afford. (I accidentally bite a small stone from the food and got part of my molar tooth broken). They gave me absolute freedom to preach gospel to people. In the evening, under heavy rain, we got together in La Hu pastor's home and had evening worship and fellowship together. Many children and women came in the darkness of the night under the rain. There was no electricity in refugee camp. These La Hu Christian refugees have hope and joy in the Lord because of their faith amid poverty and hardship.



There are three Shan refugee camps on the border of Thailand and Myanmar. There is a small hospital in each camp to provide basic medical care to refugees. Health care workers need some basic medical knowledge and training to be able to offer medical help. The trainees use to come to this camp from other camps and get training and teaching. I have opportunity of teaching them some basic medical knowledge when I was there for two days. They are glad to hear the medical teaching in Shan language given by native Shan. Seldom they have qualified Shan medical doctor come to teach them in Shan language. Most of the times they need translator to translate from foreign teachers.

Thanks for your support

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Shan Missions