

# Christian Freedom<sup>®</sup> International



## SHARING GOD'S GRACE AMIDST PERSECUTION:

*"Remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering." Hebrews 13:3*

APRIL 2018





## “THOSE WHO WERE PERSECUTED WOULD NOW MINISTER TO THE PERSECUTED AND OPPRESSED.

The teachers and students asked to speak to Joe and Marnie, the directors of their Bible school, last December. They had spent months preparing for mission trips across the border into Burma/Myanmar to villages hidden in the jungles.

Now these young adults were ready to put their training into action. Those who were persecuted would now minister to the persecuted and oppressed. Who better to reach Karen people than other Karen?

They identified the needs: Elderly who are isolated and home-bound in their huts. Youth, with no hope for a future, turning to drugs and alcohol, and to gangs for security in a land that at any moment can be strafed by gunfire. Societies that are dependent on foreign aid and disillusioned by corrupt governments.

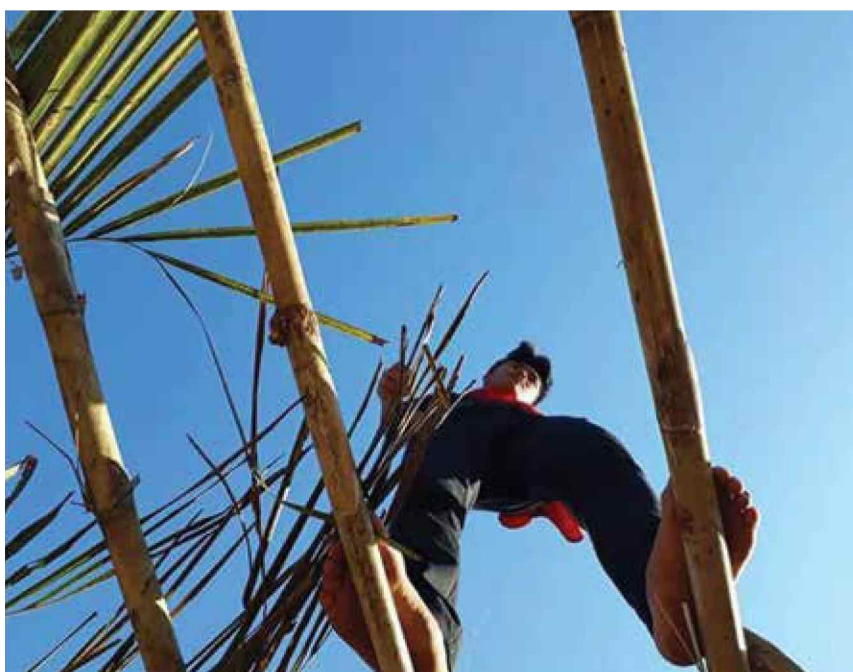




Two teams sacrificed 3 weeks of vacation to journey through Burma's treacherous jungles to the lonely, poor and oppressed.

Money was tight. They caught fish and picked fruit. They stayed in local homes.

They partnered with other Bible schools and village church leadership. They led music, preached, told stories and played games. They repaired toilets, fixed roofs, farmed, cleaned schools and homes. They won trust.



The students were eager to share the good news of grace, the story of Jesus.





**HELP**



**KEEP  
OTHERS  
INFORMED  
ABOUT  
*the*  
PERSECUTED  
CHURCH**

**PLEASE**

PASS THIS NEWSLETTER  
ALONG WHEN YOU ARE  
FINISHED READING IT.

“GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND  
STRENGTH, AN EVER-PRESENT  
HELP IN TROUBLE. PS. 46:1



**CONTACT US!**

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The Karen students at the CFI Bible Institute's hearts are for their people, to spread the blessings they've received at CFI's school. They want to be a part of their country's healing.

Please pray for their continued strength and safety and for God's healing and protection over His people in Burma.

**Christian Freedom**<sup>®</sup>  
International



Christian Freedom International is a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). Members of the ECFA are held to the highest standards of financial responsibility. Gifts are used for the project identified unless our Board of Directors, in good faith, determines that the changing situation in the Persecuted Church requires applying them to another urgent project. Your gift to Christian Freedom International is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



# Christian Freedom<sup>®</sup> International

April 2018

*"And behold, the tears of the oppressed, and they had no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power, and there was no one to comfort them."  
Ecclesiastes 4:1b*

Dear Friend of the Persecuted Church,

The teachers and students asked to speak to Joe and Marnie, the directors of their Bible school, last December. They had spent months preparing for mission trips across the border into Burma/Myanmar to villages hidden in the jungles.

Unnoticed by the outside world, Burma's brutal military regime is still attacking villages. They're burning homes and tearing up farms. They may be clearing the way to truck in military equipment and seize control of Christians and others' land.

Most of the Bible school students are from a near-by refugee camp, filled with Karen people who fled the oppressive government that persecutes Christians. Others heard about Christian Freedom International's school and trekked from their villages and through dangerous territories to get Bible and vocational training.

Now these young adults were ready to put their training into action. Those who were persecuted would now minister to the persecuted and oppressed. Who better to reach Karen people than other Karen?

They identified the needs: Elderly who are isolated and home-bound in their huts. Youth, with no hope for a future, turning to drugs and alcohol, and to gangs for security in a land that at any moment can be strafed by gunfire. Societies that are dependent on foreign aid and disillusioned by corrupt governments.

Many villagers lack church leaders. Some have pastors that visit once or twice a year. Missions teams visit but fail to connect people to local churches for discipleship. In Buddhist-majority villages, oftentimes all that people hear of Christianity are rigid rules.

The students were eager to share the good news of grace,

*(Over, please)*

the story of Jesus. They mapped out the villages. They would visit the elderly, build relationships with youth, and nurture villagers' relationships with local churches. But as the trips drew near, reality hit. There wasn't enough money. The trips would be cancelled.

Disheartened, the teachers and students came up with a plan. "Can we give up our Christmas party? And use our money we've saved from the sales of our market-projects," they pled with Joe and Marnie.

The Christmas party allowance came from CFI's sponsors who gave a little extra with their usual giving. Their savings came from the students' hand-crafted items that they sold at local markets on weekends.

Problem: Solved.

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Money was tight. They caught fish and picked fruit. They stayed in local homes.

They partnered with other Bible schools and village church leadership. They led music, preached, told stories and played games. They repaired toilets, fixed roofs, farmed, cleaned schools and homes. They won trust.


And they went where foreign missionaries cannot go.

On the first days of the trip, Joe and two missionaries (from U.S. and Canada) were told to leave by the military. Tensions were high and military action was expected in the area. Foreigners would cause more problems.

But the Karen teachers and students forged on despite the threats. They want to be a part of their country's healing. And they didn't depend on CFI's directors - they did it themselves.

Nine of the Bible school students graduated on March 3. Please pray for their future, for returning students, and for new students who begin in June.

In Christ,

  
Wendy Wright  
President

P.S. On a trip into Burma, we ran into a missionary who publishes dual Karen/English Bibles with a glossary of terms that are unique for Karen speakers. It's the best item we could provide our students in the new school year. We plan to accept more students - up to 40 total - and fill the dormitories to capacity.