

Christian Freedom[®] International



JUNE 2018

FROM OPPRESSION TO FREEDOM: LIFE AS RESETTLED REFUGEES

"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



"I will put my rainbow in the clouds to be a sign of my promise to the earth."

Genesis 9:13



WELCOME TO THE FREEDOM INN...

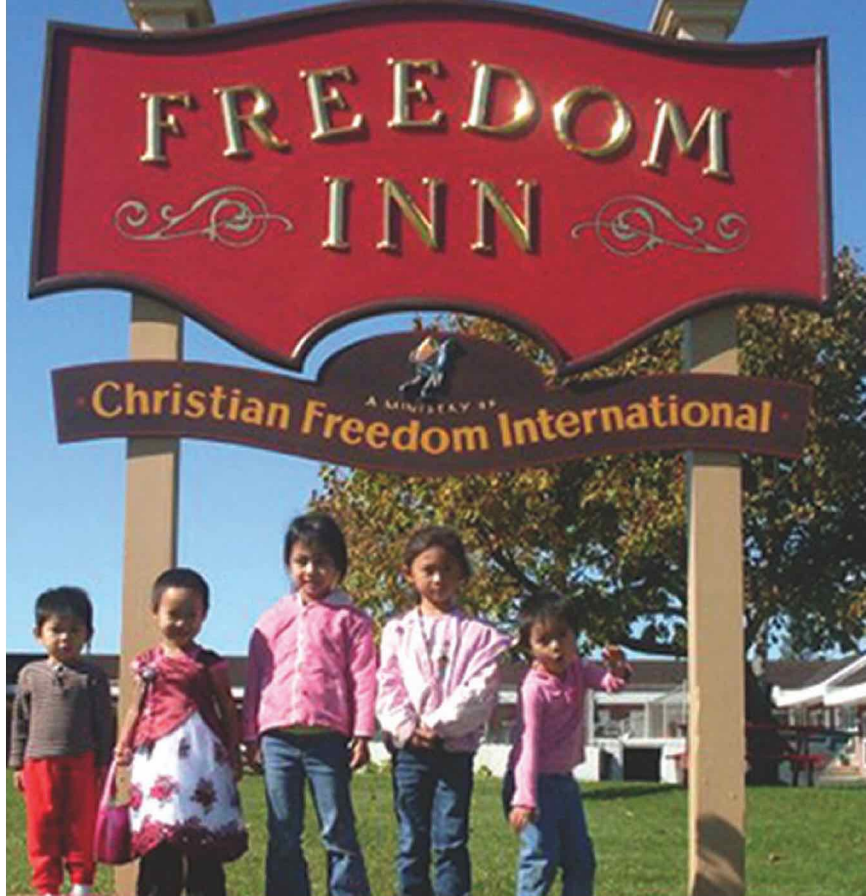
Hundreds of thousands made it to refugee camps in Thailand only to live in squalor, kept behind barbed wire by the Thai military.

In 2006, the U.S. recognized the Karen (most who are Christian) as a persecuted ethnic group. Thousands got asylum and were scattered throughout the U.S., separated from each other, some in dangerous inner-cities.

Several contacted Christian Freedom International (CFI). As children, they had been sponsored in CFI's schools inside the refugee camps. Now, feeling lost and alone in America, they needed rescuing again.

CFI bought a motel in Sault Ste Marie and remodeled the rooms into small apartments. Karen families moved in. The motel became an American-style Karen village.





The pool in front of the Freedom Inn was drained and fashioned into a vegetable garden (pictured below) for the Karen to use and enjoy.

The front lawn hosts birthday parties and Vacation Bible Schools. The office is a community center for English classes, Sunday School and potlucks.



HELP



KEEP OTHERS INFORMED ABOUT the PERSECUTED CHURCH

PLEASE

PASS THIS NEWSLETTER
ALONG WHEN YOU ARE
FINISHED READING IT.

NEW U.S. CITIZENS!



Freedom Inn residents gain their U.S. citizenship.

Aye Thee Da, a Karen refugee, wins a Spelling Bee contest. The trophy now adorns her home at Freedom Inn.



Jack Kinney, aka Santa Claus, is caretaker of Freedom Inn and its residents.

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Christian Freedom[®] 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.



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June 2018

"Give, and it will be given to you." Luke 6:38

Dear Friend of the Persecuted Church,

Aye Thee Da beamed as she held her trophy for the camera. The girl, a refugee from Burma, won first place in a regional Michigan Spelling Bee contest. The trophy now adorns her home at Freedom Inn. It's a victory shared with those who helped her - a mix of Burmese Karen refugees and American volunteers.

"Her mother helps my disabled wife," said Jack Kinney. "And my wife helped Aye Thee Da train for the spelling bee."



Freedom Inn - a remodeled motel in upper Michigan - brought them all together.

Aye Thee Da's family escaped Burma, one of the world's most repressive regimes. Freedom Inn residents - Christian Karen refugees - tell of the Burmese Army raiding their small villages, burning crops and homes and churches, raping women, beating men, conscripting boys as porters, planting landmines. Families fled into the jungle, running during the night, hiding and sleeping during the day.

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(Over, please)

The front lawn hosts birthday parties and Vacation Bible Schools. The office is a community center for English classes, Sunday School and potlucks. "It's our Great Room," said Jack.

Jack ran a Christian coffee shop in town to pastor those who dropped by. One day he heard about the newly-arrived Karen refugees and sought them out. Soon after, he bought the house next door. Now he's the Director of Freedom Inn and caretaker for its residents. Just turned 80, his CFI friends raised money for a motorized cart so he can get to his flock during the long snowy winters.

CFI crafted a tutoring program for the Karen - some who had little or no education - to earn U.S. citizenship. People drove hundreds of miles for the training. Today, all but two of the Freedom Inn residents have gained their citizenship (and the final two are working on it).

From the time they moved in, the Karen found work. Caregiving, refurbishing ink cartridges, kitchen staff at the golf club, gardening for older folks and the city, farming and butchering chickens.

"They've done more for me than I have for them," said Leslie Askwith, a devoted volunteer helping Freedom Inn families get used to life in America. She teaches English and citizenship, drives to medical appointments, gives guidance counseling - and is an honorary member of the Karen people.

"Their love has enriched my life," she said.

Former CFI President Jim Jacobson and his family lived at Freedom Inn in its early days, before moving on from Michigan and CFI. Those rooms will now accommodate CFI's missionaries to the Karen in Thailand during their summer break.

"This building is a blessing to the community," a City Hall official told Jack.

Please pray for the Freedom Inn. Pray for the Karen families to be able to keep their employment in the small economy of Sault Sainte Marie, and that any others around the country who need this community will join us. Pray for them to grow deep in their faith despite the challenges of the U.S. culture, and continue to be a blessing to others.

Your donations help Freedom Inn to be a catalyst for refugees and Americans to serve each other - and an example for refugee assimilation in the U.S.

Thank you!



Wendy Wright
President

P.S. Freedom Inn residents pay rent, but it doesn't cover the mortgage. Repairs, utilities, taxes and insurance creep up every year. Rent from the small rooms cannot cover the costs. A gift to CFI helps Freedom Inn be a refuge for refugees to become proud Americans.