



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



JULY 2018

## OVERCOMING PERSECUTION TO SERVE OTHERS...

*"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*





Christian Freedom International (CFI) built a school on desolate land near a former refugee camp. Victory Bible Academy 2018 graduates

## RISING ABOVE PERSECUTION TO BE VICTORIOUS...

Years ago, Christian Freedom International (CFI) built the school on desolate land near a former refugee camp. The camp had housed thousands of Karen Christians who escaped Burma's horrific ethnic cleansing campaign. But Burmese soldiers made cross-border raids and attacked them *inside* the camp.

Benaiah (pictured right) was a boy when his father, a farmer, was killed by Burma's army. His mother fled with him and his siblings to an overcrowded refugee camp. At 24, he enrolled at CFI's school to focus on Bible, journalism, English and maintenance trades. He graduated this year and will use his skills to help rebuild Karen villages. Pray for Benaiah, that God will use him as a journalist and builder to expose and restore.

He is overcoming persecution to serve others.





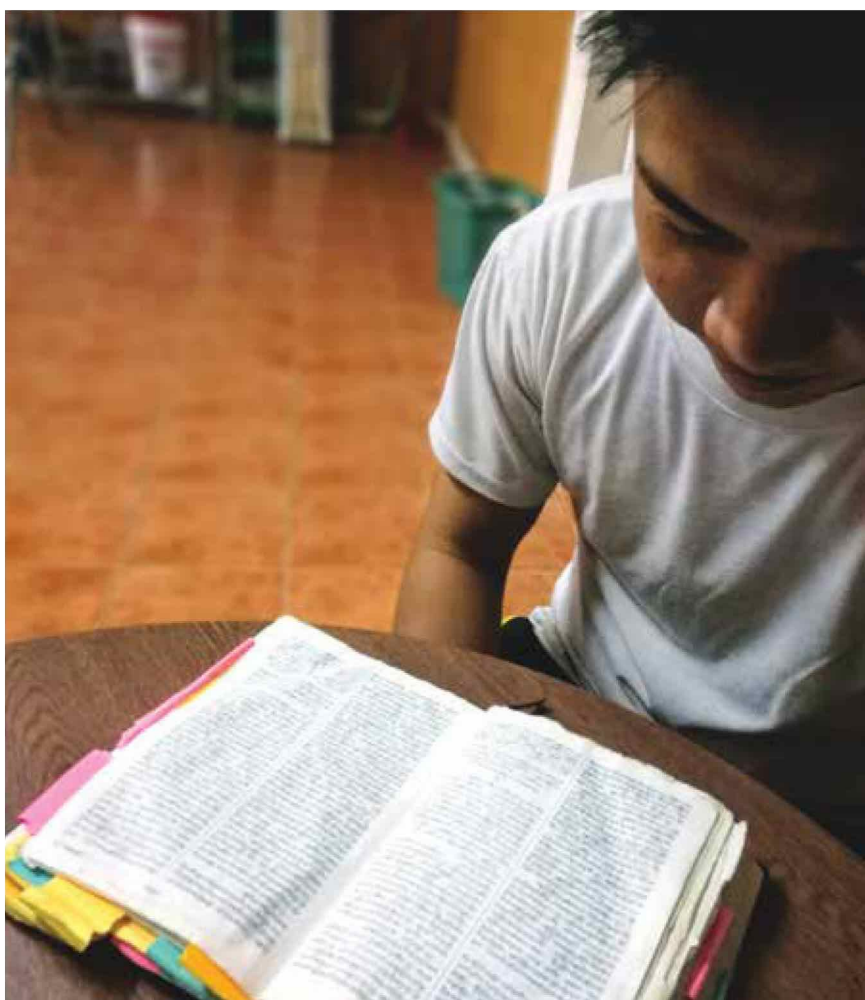


**Students at Victory are disciplined to be future leaders of their people.**



▼ Lay Lay Say graduated and now teaches at Victory. He bravely leads mission teams into Burma – even during military attacks. Pray for Lay Lay Say – he is eager to return and be a pastor in that dangerous country.

▼ Students repair a church wall that was hit by a car. They added the cross.







The Karen flag

**DESPITE TRIBULATION,  
DISTRESS, PERSECUTION,  
FAMINE, DANGER, AND  
SWORD, "OVERWHELMING  
VICTORY IS OURS THROUGH  
CHRIST, WHO LOVED US..."**

**KEEP  
OTHERS  
INFORMED  
ABOUT  
the  
PERSECUTED  
CHURCH**

**PLEASE**  
PASS THIS NEWSLETTER  
ALONG WHEN YOU ARE  
FINISHED READING IT.

## CONTACT US!

P.O. BOX 535  
FRONT ROYAL, VA 22630  
1.800.323.CARE  
INFO@CHRISTIANFREEDOM.ORG

f CFIFREEDOM

t @CFI\_FREEDOM

y CHISTIANFREEDOMINTL

i @CFI\_FREEDOM

CHRISTIANFREEDOM.ORG



Mae La Refugee Camp near Mae Sot, Thailand



▲ Joe Scott and teachers prepare lesson plans.

"We believe that where you come from and what you have gone through are tools the Lord will use for His glory in building His kingdom," said Joe Scott, director of CFI's school.



▲ A Karen soldier guards against Burmese Army attacks in Karen State.

**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

July 2018

Dear Friend of the Persecuted Church,

Lay Lay Say heard about Christian Freedom International's school for people like him, Karen Christians who are targeted by Burma/Myanmar's brutal military government.

So he slipped away from his military-controlled town in Burma and traveled for days through jungles and across the border into Thailand. He excelled at school, graduated and was hired to train other persecuted Christians.

Now he teaches at Christian Freedom International's school and bravely leads mission teams into Burma - even during military attacks. Pray for Lay Lay Say - he is eager to return and be a pastor in that dangerous country.

**He is rising above persecution to be victorious.**

Benaiah was a boy when his father, a farmer, was killed by Burma's army. His mother fled with him and his siblings to an overcrowded refugee camp. At 24, he enrolled at CFI's school to focus on Bible, journalism, English and maintenance trades. He graduated this year and will use his skills to help rebuild Karen villages. Pray for Benaiah, that God will use him as a journalist and builder to expose and restore.

**He is overcoming persecution to serve others.**

Years ago, Christian Freedom International (CFI) built the school on desolate land near a former refugee camp. The camp had housed thousands of Karen Christians who escaped Burma's horrific ethnic cleansing campaign. But Burmese soldiers made cross-border raids and attacked them *inside* the camp.

Officials moved the refugees and destroyed that camp, burning it to the ground. It was known as "the land that no one wants." Some thought it was cursed.

At that time, CFI worked inside Thailand's refugee camps with schools and orphanages and built medical clinics in Karen State inside Burma. But more could be done to equip Christians with knowledge of

*(Over, please)*

the Bible and skills to serve others.

CFI built a training center from the ground up, with dorms, classrooms, kitchen, garden, water tanks, library, living space for staff, office, and rooms for micro-enterprise programs. Donors and volunteers keep it running.

First, it was an orphanage for Karen children. Then, as needs changed, it was re-purposed into Huai Kalok Bible Institute (HBI) - named after the local village.

**But the school is outgrowing its name.** Just like the land turned from desolate to lush gardens, the students are multiplying beyond themselves - by overcoming the discrimination and abuse that their persecutors threw at them.

Jesus said we will have tribulation in this world - but He has overcome the world (John 16:33). Despite tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, danger, and sword, "overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us," Paul said in Romans 8:37.

"We believe that where you come from and what you have gone through are tools the Lord will use for His glory in building His kingdom," said Joe Scott, director of CFI's school. "It is with this promise of Jesus that we step forward into the future at our school. Claiming the victory that Jesus has already secured for us."

**Welcome to Victory Bible Academy.** Where young Christian men and women, persecuted and outcast, learn to overcome and be transformed into leaders who serve.

You can help make this happen! Your gift will train, house, feed and equip Victory's students as they overcome persecution to be victorious. You can be a part of their success - and help them multiply to reach others for Christ.

For Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Wendy Wright". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wendy" and last name "Wright" clearly distinguishable.

Wendy Wright  
President

P.S. No student at Victory Bible Academy is charged a fee for their training. They rely on donations. Please help equip a Victory student by donating to CFI.

P.P.S. Want to visit Victory Bible Academy this November?  
Contact CFI for details at 800-323-2273 or [info@christianfreedom.org](mailto:info@christianfreedom.org).