

Mission Mercy: Service of Love

**“I desire mercy not sacrifice” Hosea 6 v 6 (KJV)
“Be merciful just as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6 v 36 (GNT)**

Mission Mercy Report

1 January – 31 December 2022

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MISSION MERCY

Mission Mercy started as a small group of Christ followers, desiring to work together with our Christian brothers and sisters in meeting the specific needs of the suffering people since 2008. However, this year by the Grace of God we have been able to expand our activities not only inside KNU areas but deep down inside our country's territories and so we are growing.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

We all know that the civil war of our country (Burma) broke out since it gained independence on the 4th of January 1948 between the then AFPL government and Burma Communist Party. Again, the Karen resistant movement had to start on 31st January 1949 between the Bamar dominated government and the Karen people led by the Karen National Union. The civil war spreading wildly with other Non Bamar Ethnic Nationalities fighting the successive Bamar chauvinistic governments and Bamar military dictators. After the Coup d' tat on 1st February 2021 the whole country has been fighting against the Military Council led by the Bamar Army.

Because of the civil war many peoples were suffering in many ways. Therefore, some Christian brothers and sisters prayed and thus Mission Mercy was formed in the year 2008 to help suffering communities who were facing terrible difficulties living in the front-line areas. To address these urgent needs, Mission Mercy started their first program called '**Care for Car** (Care for Communities At Risk); It was recognized that those facing extreme circumstances and displacement needed the following:

- a. Peace and knowing the way to salvation - Gospel
- b. Material and other kinds of support for their survival - Gift
- c. Protection for themselves and their families - Guardian

Thus, the '3G ministry' of Mission Mercy was started.

PROGRAM LOCATION

The program is primarily located within Karen State, Burma and especially in the conflict areas. During the Peace Process and before the coup, Mission Mercy was able to expand its activities inside our country within various communities.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

1. GOSPEL

1.1 JUNGLE HOME

Jungle Home is located in Kler Lwee Htoo district, Karen State, Burma. Following the 2008 offensive in Karen State, many children were left orphaned or lost one parent in the conflict. Thus, Jungle Home was started to help support those children affected by the conflict. Jungle Home is under the administration of local district leaders and the community and church.

Mission Mercy: Service of Love

Initially in 2008, Partners Relief and Development supported the building of Jungle Home and initial costs of Jungle Home.

Since 2015 the UK charity **All4Burma**, through Mission Mercy continues to provide a monthly stipend for rice to the students at Jungle Home. Additionally, a Christmas gift was given to Jungle Home to purchase food and essential supplies for the students. The team also encouraged the caregivers who take care of the children at Jungle Home.

1.2. MISSIONARIES

Since 2014, Mission Mercy has been supporting missionaries in Karen State, Burma. The missionaries usually come from the city area and wish to serve in the Karen communities inside Karen State. All4Burma through Mission Mercy provides a monthly stipend to 6 missionaries based in Karen State, and continually encouraged them spiritually throughout the year.

In addition, Mission Mercy has started supporting Mrs. Morris a stipend of 2,000 Baht per month. Mrs. Morris has been working with Light of Love Church in Mae Sot, since she and her husband fled from Lay Kay Kaw in 2021 following the Burma Army attacks. Mrs. Morris works alongside Light of Love Church and has been reaching out to the migrant communities through evangelism and bible studies.



1.3. THEOLOGY STUDIES

In 2017, Mission Mercy started a new program of providing small stipends to students studying for their Theology studies.

Naw Paw Htoo graduated from Bible School and is working as a missionary in Mae Kong Pae Village in Mae Sariang along the border area.

Naw Me Me is a bible school student and is studying at Kle Tho Kloe Bible School, in Mae Sot district and is in her second year. Partners Relief & Development helps support Naw Me Me with a monthly stipend of 2,000 Baht per month.



1.4. MUSIC MINISTRY

Mission Mercy previously supported music ministry summer training camps in 2015 and 2016. During the camp the trainees were taught how to play lead guitar, rhythm, bass, keyboard and drum accompanying with major cords. Mission Mercy saw how well the children responded to the music ministry leading to them actively participating in the church.

The music ministry continued by Saw Morris in Lay Kay Kaw, Karen State, Burma. Saw Morris reaches out to the youth through his ministry of music. He was actively involved in Htee Mae Wah Kee Church in Lay Kay Kaw and traveled to Kawkareik Township and taught music twice a week at Htee Ghu Thaw Church on Thursdays and Fridays.

All4Burma provides support to Saw Morris of 3,000 Baht per month.

In December 2021, Lay Kay Kaw was attacked by the Burma army. All the residents in Lay Kay Kaw and surrounding villages fled into the jungle and living as IDP's inside Karen State. Saw Morris and his family fled from Lay Kay Kaw and arrived in Mae Sot. In Mae Sot, they continued their ministry with Light of Love Church.



2. GIFTS

2.1. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Mission Mercy continues to actively assist with patient care. This involves taking patients from Karen State and transporting them to Thailand to get the appropriate medical care. Partners is involved in helping to support and provide medical for some of the patients within Burma and Thailand. Mission Mercy provides ongoing help for patients with long term illnesses and have been supporting patients who are unable to work because of their illnesses with rice and other essential supplies. Mission Mercy has also been providing hospital care for many patients coming from inside Karen State and along the border.

Through Mission Mercy, Partners Relief & Development has been providing long term financial support for over 5 years (3,000 Baht per month) to a stroke patient, Saw Poe Lah Lah in Mae Sariang. This income is a blessing for him and his family as he was left severely disabled following his stroke and unable to work.



3. GUARDIAN

3.1. EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

The early warning system consists of 2-way radios, solar panel, and re-chargeable batteries. This will ensure that villages have communication to warn each other if the Bamar Army is heading into their village or call for help if attacked or any emergency. In the past the early warning system has proven to save lives and prevent disaster.

3.2. PREPOSITIONED FOOD, MEDICINE, AND MATERIALS

To provide preposition supplies in the form of medicine, rice and shelter. Villagers will be able to store the preposition in hide sites in the jungles. The preposition will be used to provide internally displaced persons (IDPs) with essential medical, food and shelter supplies. It is important to have these supplies in place before villagers flee for their safety as they are only able to bring little supplies with them.

Medicine will provide essential medical treatment for IDPs hurt or illnesses. Getting medicine into the jungle takes weeks to get there. Due to the military coup it is impossible to get supplies from within Burma as the military has blocked all access to Karen State. The best route is cross border via Thailand. Medicine has to be purchased in Thailand, packed and put into boats to send across the border. From the border, porters have to carry the medicine to the hide sites which can take several days if there is no car road.

By having these supplies already in hide sites it essentially saves lives. The rice provides the IDPs with food and they will also gather jungle vegetables to eat. The shelter, in the form of tarps provide essential cover from the tropical rain.

This is called **“Preposition and Emergency Relief Assistance”**. For Mission Mercy and their partners inside even though the enemy is active in some areas our teams risk their lives to go and send these supplies in time and help the villagers beyond the enemy lines. This we call it **“Immediate Emergency Relief”** mission.

FUTURE PLANS

Mission Mercy expanded our ministry in the above activities. Since 1 January 2023 we have started expanding to help the communities deep inside the enemy territories. Therefore, please pray for the ministry and consider supporting it which we call, “**Community Impact Program**”.

On the 1st of February 2021 the Burma army declared a coup d'état and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement ceased. The whole country is against this and at first there were peaceful demonstrations. However, the Burma army cracked down brutally on the peaceful demonstrations and the main movement of **Civil Disobedient Movement** (CDM) started by civil servants against the coup. The Bamar Army has declared outright war on its own citizens with extreme brutality and especially in the Ethnic areas where **many CDM, strike groups and defectors sought protection**. Therefore, it is vitally important that we continue the **Care for CAR, Early Warning System** and a new ministry - **Community Impact Program**.

Community Impact Program

The Community Impact Program will be made up of a series of interrelated strands of action, reflecting the diversity of community and its partners.

1. Inspiring and uniting the community
2. Information Sharing about the situation, problems and solutions
3. Education and Training for empowerment
4. Strategic thinking and Strategy planning, and leadership skill for effective action
5. Humanitarian support and self reliance

Community Impact Center

For implementation of the program, the Community Impact Center was set up in Kler Lwe Htu District (Nyaung Lay Bin District), Karen State.

PRAYER POINTS

We request all our brothers and sisters in Christ to continually pray for our Peace Process in Burma. We have desired peace for over 70 years, yet this process is both fragile and complicated. We know that without God we cannot do anything to achieve lasting peace, and how important the power of prayer is.

Please continue to pray for Mission Mercy's ministries as we seek the Lord's guidance in every aspect.

Please pray for the programs we have initiated as they see the Service of Love through His servants.

CONCLUSION

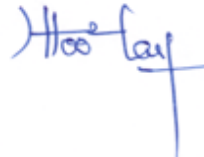
Mission Mercy is the work of God through our Christian Brothers and Sisters serving the 3G Missions. We are committed to serve the suffering people out of love. Our motto is '**TO SERVE, NOT TO BE SERVED.**'

Partners Relief & Development, All4Burma, and individuals has been helping supporting Mission Mercy since the beginning. We are grateful for the love, support and encouragement given by our partners.

CONTACTS



Naw Sonya Moo
Servant Coordinator
E: sonyamoo@icloud.com
T: +66 (0) 89 9974072



Brother Amoz
Servant Founder
E: missionmercy@protonmail.com
T: +66 (0) 82 8341412

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