

Teaching, inspiring, and encouraging followers of Christ
to serve God more effectively as Spirit-led leaders



Faith, Hope, and Love
Global Ministries

November 2024 E-Newsletter

God's Wondrous Work in the Thai-Myanmar Borderlands



*Faculty members at Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Bible School and College (KKBBSC)
Mae La Refugee Camp, western Thailand*

Dear Timothy C.,

In the refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border, we're teaching and ministering to some of the most mistreated, underprivileged and under-resourced people in the world. When my students share their stories of fleeing from their villages out of fear and tell me about their heartbreaking experiences at the hands of the Burmese military, I sometimes don't know what to say. It's that bad.

At the same time, I am amazed at how resilient and upbeat the refugees often are. With smiles on their faces and genuine joy in their hearts, they prefer to talk about the ways God has blessed and provided for them amid so much loss and hardship. Their faith is vibrant and hopeful. Gaymoo, the Principal of the Mason Baptist Bible School in Tham Hin Refugee Camp, expressed his trust in God this way: "We may be displaced, but we're not misplaced!"



KHTS students, Saw Newton, and Tim on ministry trip inside Umpiem Camp

So, it is with great joy, mingled with sadness and concern, that I'm writing today about my five weeks serving in Thailand this fall. Once again, Saw Newton and I witnessed God's blessing on our ministries daily. More and more doors keep opening for fruitful service, and God keeps working through us to teach, inspire, and encourage the refugees--just as we had been hoping and praying for.

"Dear Pastor Tim, thank you for your thoughtful message and for guiding us through such a meaningful faculty and staff workshop on Saturday. It was a truly enriching experience, and we're grateful for the insight and encouragement you shared with us." -Ashe (KHTS faculty member)

"I want to say, thank you very much for nurturing us so that we can become better each day in the ministry of the Lord. Indeed, I have learned many practical things which I promise to put into practice. I do believe, together we can become stronger and more fruitful." -Tee Toh (Principal, KHTS, and President of the Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Churches)



Kawthoolei Hope Theological Seminary (KHTS) Faculty Workshop on Leadership

Yet, all is not roses. When the refugees felt it was safe enough to talk about their struggles without fear of judgment or getting pat answers, they began to open up with me. And in those precious moments of honesty and deep personal sharing, I caught a glimpse of how wounded so many are and how desperate they are for someone to listen and offer some practical words of love and guidance.

Sadly, such counseling is almost unheard of in the Karen culture, and the refugees rarely talk to each other about their experiences because "everyone is in the same situation" or, as one faculty member believes, "wounded people can't help wounded people." On top of it, there's a stigma associated with going to counseling, if and when it is available. No one wants to be viewed as "crazy". Furthermore, despite the enormous need, few mental health professionals from the outside reach inside the camps, and good resources are almost non-existent.



Most refugees must grapple with their losses and buried pain on their own. Many wear brave faces and cope by drawing on their faith as much as possible. Most truly trust in God for their futures and sincerely desire to lean on Christ for strength and peace. Yet, despite their amazing resiliency and reliance on God, most are nonetheless carrying unimaginable sorrows with no way to unburden themselves.



Three of my KHTS students on a Sunday afternoon outing me

So when I made myself available to anyone who wanted to talk with a pastor, little by little, they started coming. And once they did, the tears soon started flowing. Some were relieved just by telling their story to someone who would listen attentively. Others wound up confessing sin or sharing deeply personal experiences, which they had never shared with anyone else. I was touched by how desperately they needed to talk and how hungry they were for some word of consolation, wisdom, or encouragement.

"I am truly blessed to have you as my spiritual father. You always bring questions with solutions...I worry for some friends here. They really struggle with spiritual issues. As you had said before in our class, we need counseling here. As I had seen, sometimes we need our teacher encouragement... But it seems like we fall apart without that... We are truly blessed to have you. (Chrysler Moo, KHTS student)

"I believe that I could try to be a better person through your encouragement and prayer. I really appreciate your kindness on me and also thank the true God to provide good and kind teachers in my life." (Zion Eh, SPHERE student)



Kawthoolei Hope Theological Seminary (KHTS) faculty and students

Please pray for the 82,000 refugees living in the nine camps in Thailand, along the Thai-Myanmar border, and for the thousands living outside the camp, some legally as migrants and many illegally, who fled to Thailand to escape the murderous Burmese soldiers. You can imagine the long list of material, psychological, emotional, and spiritual needs that exist. Pray for encouragement, education resources, protection, and open doors to resettle somewhere safe. Thousands have been promised resettlement in the USA, but with the new administration, there is now widespread fear that the program may be cancelled.

Pray for me, too, and for our FHLGM leadership team and Board members. We are seeking wisdom and leading from God to know how to best steward our unique gifts and resources well amid so much need in Thailand, Myanmar, and the DRC. Please especially consider participating in our **upcoming day of prayer and fasting (Dec. 10)** and email to me any insights or promptings that the Holy Spirit might give you as hold up our ministries in prayer.

Thank you for continuing to care about our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living in war zones and refugee camps. Your support of our ministries is essential to our ability to fulfill our unique calling.

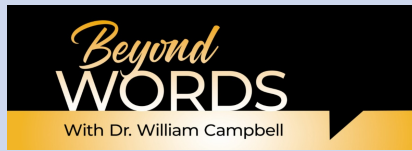
Gratefully, in Christ's service,

President, Faith, Hope, and Love Global Ministries
Visiting Professor in Myanmar (MIT) and Thailand (KHTS)

with Dr. Bill Campbell

"Living in a War Zone"

On November 11th Tim was featured on Bill Campbell's Christian life and faith show, Beyond Words. Tim shared with Bill and his listeners how he (and we) can bring hope to those living in war zones. Click below to listen to the full episode!



Listen
Here!

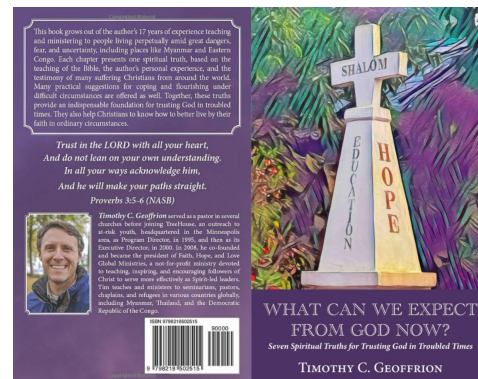
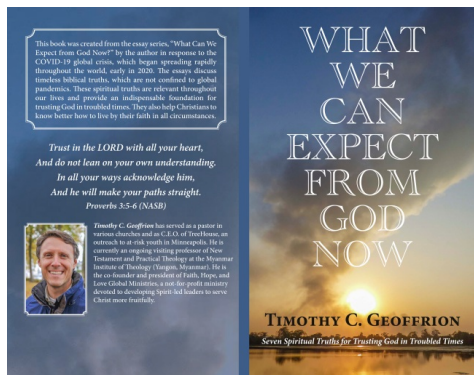
or wherever you listen to Podcasts!

Do you know someone struggling with their faith amid personal trials and hardships? Tim's new book may be the perfect Christmas present to inspire and encourage them to look for God amid the suffering.

What Can We Expect from God Now? Seven Spiritual Truths for Trusting God in Troubled Times

From This... (in 2020)

To This! (in 2024)



Having served in war zones and other troubled places such as Myanmar, Thailand refugee camps, and Eastern Congo, Dr. Tim Geoffrion knows firsthand how important it is to have meaningful answers to tragedies and human suffering—and how to rely on God when there are no answers. [*What Can We Expect from God Now?*](#)—a significantly expanded, second edition of Tim's 2020 book—addresses many of the relevant issues from the teaching of the Bible and his own personal experience.

Order a copy for your own personal use, your family, small group, church, or someone you know and care about who's going through a tough time of questioning God. If you do buy a book(s), please take an extra moment to rate it on Amazon.com by awarding stars. If you're feeling especially inspired, please also post brief review as well. **Ratings and reviews are a big help** in giving

prospective buyers confidence to know that this book might very well change their lives. Thank you.

**Order
Here!**

Words of Praise for the Book

"I do really appreciate your book, your contributions in literature in addition to preaching and teaching. I got [your] book 4 months ago and reconstructed three sermons based on this book. The topics are mostly relevant in our Myanmar context, facing various crises and challenges. Go ahead, write more books! You are specially equipped by God, both for preaching and writing." --Dr. Lal Tin Hre, Former Director of the Association for Theological Education in Myanmar.

When children are traumatized...



All Burmese children normally take off their shoes before entering their classroom, but one little Karen refugee girl refuses to remove her rubber boots. While other children hang their backpacks on hooks or put them on their desks, hers remains securely strapped to her shoulders. Her water bottle is full and protrudes from the side pocket. She doesn't realize that she's safe now, on the Thai side of the border. In her little mind, she needs to be ready to run back into the jungle, at a moment's notice. The military jets might return and start dropping bombs again.

Please pray for the traumatized children and adults in the nine refugee camps. A couple new mental health clinics have been formed, such as the one in Thu Moei Kee and another in the Mae La camp. So much more is needed. One of my initiatives for the coming year is to search for and find more counseling resources to address this widespread need.

Please consider making a donation now

God is blessing our teaching and ministry with students from Myanmar, refugees in Thailand, and pastors and chaplains in the DRC. Please consider making a contribution now to keep our work and ministries going and growing. Thank you for caring and for your support.

Donate Now

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Faith, Hope, and Love Global Ministries | 3001 Broadway Street NE Suite 640 | Minneapolis,
MN 55413 US

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