



Faith, Hope, and Love
Global Ministries

November 2025 Enewsletter

So Much To Be Thankful For!



Tawnamutaw Karen church leaders after a two day seminar

Greetings!

Our five weeks of ministry along the Thai-Myanmar border was full and even more fruitful than we had hoped for. I had the privilege of teaching 12 final year students at Hope Theological Seminary (KHTS), 27 faculty members at the Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Bible School and College (KKBBSC) in the Mae La Refugee Camp, 37 Tawnamutaw area church leaders, who live on both sides of the border, and 14 teachers at the Mae Sariang Bible School in western Thailand. After each class, workshop, or seminar, the students, teachers, and leaders expressed an enormous amount of gratitude. The most often repeated question was: When can you come back to teach us again?!



The mountains of Myanmar in the distance from the Thailand side of the border

What touched me the most, though, was seeing how the Holy Spirit was continually at work through the teaching, preaching, counseling, and simple conversations. In the first two weeks alone, unexpectedly, over 40 individuals signed up to meet with me one on one. The glow on their faces, tears in their eyes, and joy in their voices afterwards told us everything we needed to know. God had touched them, and we had had the privilege of being a conduit of his love.



During one faculty workshop inside the Mae La Refugee Camp, I was surprised by a sudden turn in our discussion. I had been teaching on "Staying strong spiritually under stress" when unexpectedly, one of the teachers raised his hand and asked, "How should we understand someone who commits suicide--did he or she have their connection to God?" Suddenly, we were no longer talking theoretically about spirituality but addressing questions seldom voiced aloud. There aren't easy answers, but by addressing these heart-wrenching matters in community, they realize that they're not alone in their pain and confusion. And it gave me an opportunity to talk about the immense love, grace, and mercy of God.



KKBBS faculty members learning about finding spiritual strength in stressful times

Meanwhile, outside the camps, bombings by Burmese military jets in eastern Myanmar continue to wipe out homes, churches, and schools. Often, the survivors have to flee to the jungle for safety. There they must start all over again as best they can, often with few resources.

Yet, amid such destruction and nearly overwhelming distress, God is raising up some amazing, young Karen leaders to come alongside the people. Mu Draw Plow is one of them (his photo and words of thanks are below). Fluent in English and capable of landing a high paying job among the INGO's, he chose instead to return to his village out of compassion for his people. Once there, he was unexpectedly appointed General Secretary of his Baptist association of 40 churches. He now spends his time going from church to church, trying to help the people rebuild their lives, churches, and the Bible school. And elsewhere, there many others like him—teachers, ministers, relief workers, or simply volunteers—sacrificially serving in the nine refugee camps, among the internally displaced people (IDPs), and all along the border.



KKBSC faculty members after our two day workshop

I feel so grateful for all the ways I am seeing God at work among the Karen people in the Thai-Myanmar borderlands. I'm thankful to God for his care and compassion, for the privilege of knowing and working with these people, and for you. Thank you for your concern, prayers, and financial support, which keep our ministries going and growing. By God's grace, together we are making a real difference teaching, inspiring, and encouraging current and future leaders in some of the most troubled places in the world.

Gratefully, in Christ's service,

Timothy C. Grafton

Testimonial

"Thank you so much for your timely message on Sunday, Pastor. It truly renewed me with the strength of God's Word. I am also grateful for your kindness and generosity toward me and our Karen people. Thank you so much for your humility and kindness toward people. I felt that deeply while you were preaching last Sunday. God is so good and amazing for arranging the perfect

time for us to meet on that day. Even though it was a short meeting, I learned what a true disciple of Christ looks like through your message and through your actions."

Mu Draw Plow

(General Secretary of Papun Karen Baptist Churches Association, Myanmar, pictured to my right, with Saw Newton on my left)



Day of Prayer & Fasting

Tuesday, December 9th

Join us for our second annual Day of Prayer & Fasting on December 9th! We will be praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ suffering in Myanmar, living in refugee camps or in the borderlands in Thailand, and facing unimaginable hardships in Eastern Congo.

Would you pray with us?

Option 1: Pray on your own for 15-30 minutes during the day at a time of your convenience. (We will send out a list of praise items and prayer requests closer to the day.)

Option 2: Join one or more of the two prayer groups, via Zoom. **(Schedule and Zoom links below)**

During these sessions, materials and video clips will be available to inspire and guide our prayer times. You will be invited to pray silently during the course of each session. If you feel comfortable praying aloud, there will be opportunity for that as well.

Fasting option: Some of you may also wish to fast along with me and others during the day. If so, please choose the type of fast that would be conducive to your prayerfulness for as much of the day as you wish. For example, you might abstain from a meal or two, sweets, coffee, social media, or some other part of your normal routine in order to create more space internally for listening to God. Of course, it's entirely up to you how you choose to participate.

Schedule of group Prayer Sessions:

1. **8:30-9:30 AM Central Standard Time (9:00 p.m. Myanmar Time)**ZOOM

Session ONE Zoom Link

2. 12:00-1:00 PM Central Standard Time (12:30 a.m. Myanmar Time) ZOOM

Session TWO Zoom Link

3. 6:00-8:00 PM Central Standard Time -IN PERSON (No Zoom)

At the home of one of FHLGM's board members, living in Excelsior. If you are in Minnesota and wish to attend, **RSVP to me via this email, and we will sign you up and send you the address.** A light supper will be served to break our fast following our prayer time.

Be sure you use the correct button/zoom link for each session you would like to join. Tim will let you into the meeting room when it is time to begin. If you have any questions or trouble, please reply to this email. Thank you in advance for choosing to pray with us. We look forward to our prayer time with you!

URGENT PRAYER REQUEST: The [US government just announced that the Temporary Protection Status \(TPS\) is going to be revoked for people from Myanmar](#) as of January 26. The rationale given by Homeland Security head, [Kristi Noem, was that the country is now safer and "free and fair" elections were about to take place-both patently false assertions.](#) Some 4000 people will be affected, including some Karen people living in St. Paul and individuals from Myanmar Institute of Theology, where Tim has been teaching for the past 18 years, and their families. Please pray that this misguided, life-threatening policy will be reversed before it's too late.

Biblical Reflections

Find Tim's most recent writings by following the link below! Among many articles on the spiritual life, you will be able to read his latest three part series on "Coping with Overwhelming Distress."

[Spirit-Led Leader.com](https://spirit-ledleader.com)



Contribute to Faith, Hope, and Love

As the year begins to come to a close, we know many will be considering yearend giving. Please consider making a donation to keep our ministries going and growing in Myanmar, Thailand, and Eastern Congo. May God bless you in every way that fits with his good purposes for your lives.

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