

# JUNE (2) 2009 UPDATE

Thailand Newsletter from the Hilderbrand's

[www.worldbasethailand.org](http://www.worldbasethailand.org)

## News:

**1. Home for girls rescued from human trafficking opens**

**2. The War is over**

**3. Elpis Refugee School has grown from 300 to 467 students**

### Home for Girls

It began when a Laotian woman married a Thai man who did not want her children. She was preparing to sell her female children to a "broker" who would get them a job in Bangkok. When Pastor John our Foursquare National Leader found out, he asked to take the children instead. They stayed with Pastor John and his family for several weeks until a home could be rented and a leader found to take care of these young women.



By the time a separate home was found, Pastor John had taken responsibility for six young women who were going to be sold into prostitution by their families. Now, Joy, a missionary from the Philippines is watching over the home. *We still need funds to feed these women and help them complete their education.*

### The War is Over

I went to Mae Sot for meetings and to gather information on the battle raging on the border. The Myanmar government had been preparing for one final push to finish off the Karen



rebellion along the border. When I arrived, I was informed that the war was over. The Myanmar military and militia had finally wiped out the Karen National Union (KNU) Army. Everyone was either dead or had fled to the Thai side of the border. Fleeing into refugee camps were mostly women and children. The war had lasted for 60 years, but now there is nothing for the refugees to go back to. All the villages are burned and destroyed. The militia is still occupying the other side of the river.

There is talk in Thailand of sending the refugees back across the border. But if they return, captured men will be shot and killed. Women are raped and left for dead. Children are used as slaves or recruited into the militia. Female children are used as sex slaves or sold into prostitution. *Pray that the refugees will be resettled into a safe zone and not sent back.*



### **Refugee School grows**

The new school year starts in June and the enrollment in our refugee school in Mae Sot has grown from 300 to 467 students.

Meeting in thatched roof shelters that leak when it rains, our students have some of the highest test scores in the Mae Sot area. Our biggest need is for money to feed lunch to the children. We have grown in enrollment, but our food budget is the same. Children eat rice with one small piece of meat for lunch. *This year, that piece is cut in half because we just don't have the budget.*

### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Pray for the safety of refugees fleeing Myanmar into Thailand and pray for the future of the Karen people.

Please pray for our Bangkok language teachers by name: Evan, Andy, Tina, Michel-lyn, Jason, April, Eva, Chris, Ryan and Leah. Also helping us to teach part time are Kelly and Christopher. Pray that our teachers would develop friendships quickly and be effective in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray that these "seekers" and new believers can be disciplined in the Thai church.

Pray for our Freshy Camp in July. Pray that many of the students who attend will receive Jesus and become followers of God.

Pray for the funds to continue operation of our six homes for Children at Risk, our School for Refugee children and our home for women rescued from human trafficking.

Continue to pray for everyone's health. Also pray for our continued protection, especially as we travel.

Let us know how we can pray for you.