

# GOING & MAKING DISCIPLES

For as many are led by the Spirit of God  
these are sons of God.

Romans 8:14

If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:25



Project L.A.M.B.S. International  
Kachin in India, Myanmar & China Vol. 1 No. 4

### ***Kachin / Jinghpaw***

The Kachin people's homeland is spread out over three countries, with that in mind this magazine is laid out in three section that will focus on:

- I. India: 30,000 Kachin***
- II. Myanmar: 1,689,000 Kachin***
- III. China: 100,000 Kachin***

#### **Section One: Assam / Arunachal Pradesh, India**

##### **Background:**

##### **Assam**

##### **Size and population**

- 31.2 million people
- 30,285 square miles

##### **Main people group**

- The state has 115 major tribes, and have over 45 different languages
- Official language Assamese and English
- Christianity, 1.8 million or 3.7% of the state's population
- Animist 47.24, Hinduism 13.13%, Islam 34.22%, Christian 26.46%, Buddhism 11.72%



##### **Arunachal Pradesh**

##### **Size and population**

- 1.5 million people
- 32,333 square miles

##### **Main people group**

- The state has 16 major tribes, and have over 36 different Languages and one of them is Kachin.
- Christianity, 418,732 or 30.26 % of the state's population



- 30.26% are Christian, Hinduism is 29.04%, Buddhist 11.76% and Islam 1.9%

### **People Group: Kachin**

- They speak mainly Kachin / Assumes /English and use Roman script for writing, between the different people groups. This group looks more like they are from the Tibet line.
- Often they are known as the mountain people.

### **Place of Ministry:**

After spending some time in Naga Land we headed North where we would spend two weeks meeting with various Kachin people. We were picked up by some new friends who spent about eight hours to come and get us. That evening we had some good fellowship together. The next morning, we rose up early and headed up to the state of Assam. He didn't stop once until we hit a road block of soldiers who then took all of our luggage out of the car and scanned it with a bomb detector. Of course it went off and we had to pull out all the metal things that were packed within our suitcases. The big problem was the two metal plates that we got in Naga Land but they let us keep them. By the end of the day we found ourselves out in the middle of a tea plantation being introduced to a variety of Kachin people.

### **The People:**

In the area where we stayed, there were three major groups of people. One was known as the Tea people, second was the Hindu Indian people and the third was Buddhist / Animist Kachin people. Each lived a different lifestyle; their houses, food, religion, culture and tradition were different from each other in many ways.

The Tea people were brought up by the British from the southern part of India to plant and maintain the tea plantations. The Hindu Indian people came to make sure that the whole country of India would be populated by Hindu. Lastly there is the Kachin who were the indigenous people of this area and the majority of them were either Buddhist or Animist.

### **Leadership:**

Where we would stay, there were about 40 people who had converted from Buddhism to Christianity. The main deacon of the church was a former Buddhist monk and teacher. One day, I believe the Holy Spirit spoke into several lives and began to show them that the Buddhist teaching and way of life was not the true way to God and eternal peace. Several of them began to

read portions of Scripture from the Bible and in their heart sensed that Jesus Christ was God and that He had died on the cross for their sins. And in the best way they knew how, they prayed and gave their lives to Jesus Christ. It was not long after that many more members of the family became believers in Christ Jesus. Then they began to rally together and select amongst themselves leaders who would be part of the foundation of a new church and a new community of believers in that area. Of course because of this change many of them began to undergo persecution from family, relatives and the community of neighbours.

### **Pastor's Family:**

Within a few years they were able to ask a young couple to come back to the area to take up the mantle of serving these believers as their pastor. A small bamboo house and a small church building were erected on another part of the land. They have now been there for several years and God has blessed them with two children of their own. To be a pastor in small community is not easy because one has to do a variety of things to bring in some type of income so that one could feed their family. Plus, being a pastor in a predominantly Buddhist community is not easy as people would shun them and persecute them because of their faith in Christ.

### **Church:**

The people that made up the church gathered in a small bamboo hut with a dirt floor. During the time we were there we enjoyed having two Sunday services with them, plus we also did some discipleship training with the people throughout the week. There are two things that stand out in my mind during this time.

First, there was one Sunday when we had communion and had to get up early and select the right piece of bamboo that the deacon would use to make communion cups from. Each one had to be cut in a special way to honour the Lord. Then a cake had to be prepared to represent the bread and body of Christ.

Secondly was the IDP (Internal Displaced People's) children who were moved to this area because of the war in Myanmar between the Burmese and the Kachin people. The reason why this was so special, was because they were raised up in a Christian community and knew the hymns, and also knew where to find the Scripture location in the Bible. God used the children to teach the people how to praise Him with hymns and how to memorize Scripture. The children would stand up each Sunday and lead the people during the morning service in song and would read the morning Scriptures.

### **The Food:**

The food was similar to what I have had in Myanmar, lots of rice for each meal, plus a dish of some type of stir fried vegetables and some type of meat cut up into small pieces or maybe just a bunch of small fish barbecued or fried. This would be all cooked on an open fire, set on a box of brick and sand. The black smoke which often filled the house is what kept the ceiling black and kept the bugs from eating the thatch roof. There was another fireplace in the living room to help keep us warm at night with a pot to keep the tea hot.

### **Living Quarters:**

The house was on an acre or two of land. This was surrounded by acres of tea plants. The home was built up on stilts so the farm animals could stay underneath at night. Inside the house were three bedrooms, a living room, kitchen and eating area. There was also a big porch on the front. The walls were made of woven bamboo strips and the floor was made of bamboo split and tied down, so that it could lay flat. In many places you could see out through the walls and down through the floor.

Now outside was a bamboo “out house” and on the dirt floor was a plastic hole and a rim for your feet. That hole lead to a hole out back that was covered with branches which was their septic tank. Again inside there was paper and a pail of water with a ladle you could use to flush with and wash your hands with. In another area was the shower stall. A place fenced in with bamboo and tree logs for the floor. Outside was the old hand pump. The water would run down a trough so you could fill up a pail on the inside. You would shower with a ladle. The excess water would run off to a pit next to the shower and the animals would use that to drink from.

### **Arunachal Pradesh**

We were able to spend two days in another northern state of India, the one that was above Assam. Here is where most of the Kachin live. Again there were many tea plantations. It was not easy to get into this state and Hkaw Win and I had to travel many back roads to get in.

After we got in, we visited a very small church out in the country. This then opened to us a door to go visit a pastors’ convention where about 30 people had gathered. They were very surprised to see me and it wasn’t long before they asked me to speak. Once they found out what we did, the leaders literally begged us to come back and help train them on how to disciple people in their churches.

Later that day we went to a community of elders and met a number of leaders. They were all Buddhist, but God led me to speak to them about culture

and tradition because I knew some of their language and had brought along a number of Kachin books, one of which was the Gospel of Mathew. It wasn't long before we were reading the Scriptures together and God was helping to bring forth words of the Bible that had powerful meaning to them. I wanted to know how that came up with these "word pictures" about God. We had an amazing time and they all took the Kachin books and invited us to come back to share with them again. One other beautiful event I want to share. I felt I should ask a blessing from the head elder. This he did, by first giving me a gift symbolizing friendship. Then he laid his hands on me and spoke a blessing on my life and prayed that God would use me to bring teaching and understanding to the Kachin people. I felt like I was in the time of old when a father would instill a birthright upon a son. It caused me to weep before my Lord with thanks giving.

This may not seem humorous, but it causes me to smile when I see how God does things and plants seeds that in due time will bring forth a harvest. We stayed one night at a house where there was only one Christian family. They had us come and visit because their vision was to plant a church and start a Christian school. This couple had gotten saved when they went to school in New Delhi. They now lived on their parent's tea plantation. What was interesting is that at the back of the house was an animist altar at which the father worshipped. Then to one side of the house was a Buddhist altar where the mother worshipped. Finally, in the front of the house, in the living room was where the Christian family met to read and worship Jesus Christ.

Now by late afternoon it was time to make our way back to the State of Assam but within about 15 minutes we found ourselves at a catholic school that was being run by nuns. There was well over a hundred students and many of them bordered at the school compound. It wasn't long before they asked me to share with some of the older children. So they sat on the porch and I shared about what we did and about the country of Canada. We had a nice visit with all and were invited to come again.

### **Ministry Doors:**

One of the biggest needs is for equipped leaders to come and teach the people. They are hungry for the Word, and they really want to know and understand more about the Bible. Plus, they also need resource materials like Bibles, Hymn books, dictionaries and concordances.

### **Future Vision and Ministry:**

They are also trying to establish a beachhead both for the church and for a Christian school. Project LAMBS, through your donations, has helped build

a school. There are over 30 children that attend and it is becoming a real testimony and lighthouse to the community. The children are getting a good education, plus they are being disciplined as believers for Jesus Christ.

If at all possible, they need to build a new church building out of cement with a zinc roof, so that it can be strong enough to withstand storms and can be a place for the community to gather, not only for Sunday service, but for weddings, and funerals, as well as a place from which to do discipleship equipping. This would cost about \$8,000.00 USD to accomplish.

### **Special Blessings:**

This may sound strange, but after marrying Hkaw Win it was a dream of mine to go live in a traditional Kachin village and home; to live the Kachin way, which goes back 100's of years. I wanted to experience their ways of culture and traditions; to see how God through the power of the Holy Spirit could draw and change a people group that would bring honour and glory to His name. It was also very moving to see how God uses children to teach the elders of His love, mercy and grace.

### **Personal Reflections:**

Again I experienced how God continues to write out the book of Acts today. To see people healed and delivered, to watch how simple faith becomes a mighty tool when people become personally joined together as one with Christ Jesus. It was humbling to see how they honour a servant of God and how they give their best to those who make up the church. My life was dramatically changed by what I saw and experienced. If we just trust Him and walk in the power of His Spirit He will do great and mighty things in us and through us.

### **Results:**

There are several things that stand out. One is again to see how God is not limited by man. He is able to go into areas that man would say is impossible. He is able to bring 8 children through the Himalia mountains to proclaim His life and teachings. Another is to see the power of the written Word when it is read and when the light is given forth by the Holy Spirit, to watch how it can truly set the captive free.

I also saw how important it is for disciple / missionaries to know the language, culture and traditions of the people that they are serving and ministering to.

### Persecution:

One thing that I saw and heard in India was that because of the new Hindu president of the country, there seem to be a big move to get rid of missionaries and Christian teaching. The believers in Christ are being persecuted by many other religious groups like the Seiks, Hindus, Animists, Muslims and Buddhists. The church is growing but the water that is causing it to grow is springing forth from a well surrounded by persecution.

### Vision and Need that you may want to partner with us on:

There is a great need today for Bibles that are written in the people's own languages. Plus, they need resources that will help them to study and understand the Word of God. We think that people have the internet, but this is not true in many places. They also need people to go out and teach others and to equip them for the work of service. Please pray and ask the Lord on how we can help further the Kingdom of Heaven in these various parts of the world.

### Section two: Yunnan Province, China

#### Background:

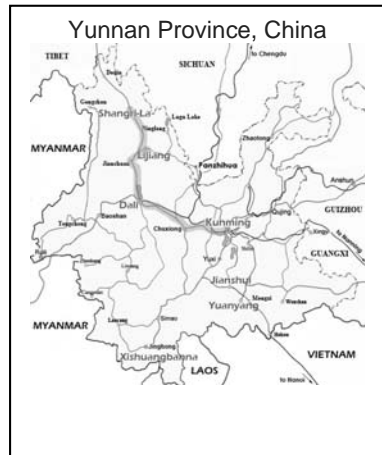
##### Size and population

- 46 million people
- 152,000 Square miles

##### Capital city: Kunming

##### Main people group

- The state has 25 major tribes, and have over 25 different languages
- Mandarin: main Language
- Christianity,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a million or 2.65 % of the state's population
- Chinese religions 90.3%, Christian 2.65% Buddhist 6.0% and Islam 1.4%





### **People Group: Kachin**

- They speak mainly Jinpow, Mandarin and some English and use Roman script for writing and a pictorial script, between the different people groups.

### **Place of Ministry:**

We did not spend much time with the Kachin in China, because our goal was to pass through China and come in the back way to the Kachin state. So much of what will be said here has been given to me by friends who have travelled or lived in this area. The ministry that we have done here has been to train leaders from this area. We have had many books translated into Kachin and shipped them into China where they have been handed out by the leadership that live there.

### **The People:**

The Kachin people live mainly along the China, Myanmar border. There is not much difference between the Kachin here and those that live in Myanmar. The Kachin in China speak both Jinghpaw and Mandarin. Of the hundred thousand Kachin that live there, the majority of them are Christian. The Chinese government has recognized the Kachin as a distinct people group and have mostly allowed them to worship as Christians under the Kachin Baptist Convention. There are many other people groups in the Yunnan province that worship a variety of different gods or spirits.

### **Culture and Traditions:**

Much of the food was the same as what we have eaten in Myanmar. There was also a better quality of transportation and the roads seem to be in better shape than most places in Asia. Much of the houses were built out of cement and have a zinc roof. The people often dressed differently, but during special occasions, some wore traditional clothing of the Kachin. One other thing that is important to understand, is that this area is a poor region of China. It does not have a lot of natural resources and sometimes natural gas and electricity can be very sporadic. This is why they were trying to complete several pipelines from the coast of Myanmar and across the Shan State to bring gas and oil to the Chinese who lived there. This created all kinds of hardship both to the Kachin and Shan people because many of the people have lost their lands and homes, so that these pipelines could bring cheap resources to the southwest part of China.

### **Humorous Reflections:**

There was one humorous incident that stands out in my mind that happened as we travelled with a guide using his car. He said he had to keep to a strict timetable, because he knew where all the police eat and what time they would be there. I also wore a bright red baseball hat and maybe this was significant because the days we were there they were going to celebrate the 60-year anniversary of communism and red was their chosen colour. I also had to slouch down in the backseat of the car so that I would not be noticed, but after a long day of driving we finally passed a small rock in a sugar cane field that meant we were now back in the Kachin state of Myanmar.

### **Ministry Doors:**

Because these people groups are a long way away from the capital city of Beijing, there seems to be more opportunities for the gospel of Christ to go forward. The Kachin church seems to be strong and there are many house churches being established all the time. The problem is that these churches are becoming very large, but the root system is so shallow. This is why Project L.A.M.B.S. has been asked to help develop a basic theological course that could be taught to the Christians in this area, so that they could be grounded more deeply in the Word of God.

### **Future Vision and Ministry:**

It is exciting for us that we have now completed a basic theological book which we have titled, *Discipleship Principles of Faith*. It is over 206 pages in length and will help in the grounding of the church and the disciples of Christ in this area for many years to come. Our goal would be to train and equip pastors and teachers who would then go forth helping the body of Christ to become stronger in what they believe.

### **Special Blessings and Personal Reflections:**

For Hkaw Win and I, it has been a great joy to travel and minister on behalf of many churches and disciples here in Canada. It seems like over the last 20 years we have become like Paul in the Bible, who went out to various places teaching and equipping the Timothies who in turn went out and taught the various leaders of many local churches. We have shipped thousands of resource books into this part of China and we hope that as people pray and support this ministry, we will be able to send out more of these needed discipleship theological books and the *Disciple's Mini Concordance and Dictionary* to the local churches and believers.

### Results:

Some of the results that have come forth from this trip and working with the Kachin, is seeing how many of our resources are now being translated into the Kachin language. Since we've been there we have been able to come home and prepare this theological book. We are also getting it translated and used by a number of different denominations in the Yunnan province. By the end of the year our *Disciple's Mini Dictionary and Concordance* will also be finished in the Kachin and Burmese languages.

### Persecution:

The Bible exhorts us to continue to pray for those brothers and sisters who are experiencing physical and spiritual persecution not only from their governments, but also through a variety of false teachers (Acts 20:30). Because of the lack of understanding concerning the Word of God, many false teachers are coming in and deceiving people to follow after man's teachings instead of Jesus Christ. As we draw closer to the last days there are going to be even greater challenges for the church and the only way that we are going to be able to stand is to be grounded in theology, as Paul told Timothy.

### Vision and Need that you may want to partner with us on.

What we hope to do in the future as we've already stated, is to provide materials and resources so that the leaders in this country who have a desire to give their life for Christ, will have the tools to help others to be grounded more in the Word of God. There are great needs and one of the biggest, is for the churches to pray that God would send out labourers into His harvest field. People, I want to tell you that I have personally seen in many places how ripe the fields are until harvest (Matt 9:35-38).

### Section Three: Kachin State, Myanmar

#### Background:

##### Size and population

- 1.689 million people
- 34,380 Square miles

Capital: Myitkyina

##### Main people group

- The state has 7 major tribes,



and have over 7 different languages and scripts

- Christianity, 1.2 million or 87.92 % of the state's population
- 58% Buddhist. 38.5% are Christian, Hinduism is 1.8% and Islam 0.05%

### **People Group:**

Throughout the Kachin state today you will find a variety of different people groups. Some of the main groups are Kachin, Burmese, Hindu, Muslim, and Chinese. They speak mainly Kachin and Burmese.

The Kachin use the Roman script for writing. Often the people are known as mountain people. Many live up in the southern end of the Himalayas and they live in small villages and are mainly rice farmers. They also plant gardens to provide for their daily needs and have a variety of different fruit trees to help round out their diet.

In the early history of the Kachin, many of the people were slave owners and head-hunters. They were powerful and fearless during times of war. In World War II under General Stillwell of the United States, they rallied together an Army of 11,000 Kachin men who after three months of heavy fighting defeated the Japanese army at the city of Myitkyina.

Even today, as they have found themselves fighting the Burmese over the last five years, they still have not been conquered and with the help of God have been able to defend themselves against the much larger army which has been trained and equipped by the Russian, Chinese and Indian governments.

Kachin are a people group who once were animist, but after hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ from several missionaries, especially Dr. Ola Hanson, who laboured for 30 years so that these people could have their own Bible and dictionary in the Kachin language, more than 95% of the Kachin today are believers in Jesus Christ (which is close to 2 million people).

### **Place of Ministry: Myitkyina and area of Northern Myanmar**

The Kachin lands used to be all across the Northern part of Burma, but after the military rule took over, it divided up the country into different states and divisions. Since World War II the Kachin have been promised to have an autonomous area, which would be part of the Federation of States known as Burma, but this hasn't happened.

Another historical point of interests is what is known as the Ledo Road or Stilwell road that was built during the Second World War, passing through many mountain ranges and connecting the country of India and China. This road goes right through the heartland of the Kachin State.

### Leadership:

Here when I speak of leadership I first want to speak about the Church in the Kachin State and the country of Myanmar. The largest church group is the Kachin Baptist Convention. This is run by our long time friend Rev. Dr. Sam Son. It was because of his call and attending school at Providence, that Project LAMBS has had so many open doors in Asia. The country itself has one large Baptist denomination that oversees about 10,000 pastors. This is the group that has approved the use of the *Discipleship Mini Dictionary and Concordance*. You can see that there are many exciting days ahead for us in service.

I also want to share about the government of the country. It is now more democratic but is still under the watchful eye of the military. We need to continue to pray for Aung San Suu Kyi, because she is heavily involved in bringing the country and the other 13 armies together, one of which is the Kachin people. This is an ongoing challenge right now, so I would ask that you keep this in your prayers.

### The Food:

After one has spent many years living in the Kachin state, one gets a taste for the unique kinds of foods that are cooked throughout the country. Of course you have many different kinds of rice that is used in a variety of ways to make a good meal. You also have a variety of different kinds of meats that you pick up fresh each day on the market. Another unique factor is that about every six weeks, another type of fruit comes in season and there's so much of it people buy it by the basket full.

I can list some of my favourite foods, like certain kinds of fried noodles, dumplings, ejakway, many kinds of sweet desserts and baba. Also there are all kinds of fruit I like, including pineapple, rumbuttan, and dragon fruit just to name a few. Another factor concerning food is how it is served and how you eat it, whether you're using chopsticks, fork and spoon or just eating with your right hand. Each of the food listed above could take pages to try and explain what they look like and how they taste.

### Health:

But when it comes to looking after one's health this too can be a great challenge because one has to choose whether you use a government system, private care or herbal and traditional medicines. Many things depend upon the experiences and training of those who are trying to help you. Most things have to be paid for first, sometimes two or three days in advance, before you can get medical treatment. You can go into a doctor's office and be given a

cocktail of drugs and then told that if they are not working after three days come back again and he will give you a different cocktail of drugs.

There is another sad fact, but in the Third World you can sometimes get ill and a few days later you are dead, because the hospitals most often have no way to prolong life. There are no defibrillators, dialysis machines or even just an ambulance to pick you up. Most types of common diseases and sicknesses here in our country, result in some type of long-term sickness or disability and in many cases death itself in the Third World.

### **Transportation:**

The most common way of transportation is by motorcycle but if you live in a city you may use a bicycle or have access to a variety of different kinds of taxis. To be able to travel from city to city the most common way is by train or bus, and in the last two years a better road has been built from Myitkyina to Mandalay, making it possible for people to drive. Secondly there has been a greater access over the last two years for people to buy their own car or truck. This has now caused all kinds of traffic problems in the larger cities. One of the main rules of driving is, the bigger the vehicle the more right of way you have. The driver only has a right to the space that he is filling at that moment and you are responsible to be aware of all of those around you at all times. Hkaw Win and I have had four motorcycle accidents and none of them have been our fault, but most of the time you have to pay for your own repairs and take care of your own health responsibilities.

### **Humorous Reflections:**

If I was to take time to reflect on some of the humorous things concerning my many years of living in the capital city of the Kachin state, there are quite a few that come to my mind. When the British came to Myanmar they brought with them the traffic circle - a system that is supposed to help traffic flow better, but the challenge is that in the middle of the traffic circle is often either a clock or a pole. The thing that amazes me is how dozens and dozens of people coming from all different streets and angles can come into this intersection known as a traffic circle and come out the other side still alive. This never ceases to amaze me. Whoever invented the horn should be given a medal because without using the horn you would find yourself very quickly injured or dead. But after a number of months of experience I have learned how to flow into these traffic circles and to come out the other side alive.

The second thing that I found very humorous is when the Chinese government gave to our city of 600,000 people, four solar powered traffic lights. First one must remember that 90% of the drivers in the city of Myitkyina

do not own a driver's license, because of this most of them do not know the laws of the road or what signs even mean. So when they installed these four traffic lights most of the people had no idea what they meant. Therefore, some people went through these intersections when the light was green, some when the light was yellow, and some when the light was red. The funny part is that as they drove through the intersection, people would be looking straight up at the light trying to figure out what it means rather than watching their driving. So after many accidents, the government put policeman at the corners with whistles so that anyone who went through not using the traffic light properly, would be called over by the policeman and lectured on what the three colours of lights meant. If they didn't smarten up they would get a large ticket for the next time or they would lose their vehicle.

### Today's Book of Acts

One of my prayers over many years was that I could go further north in the Kachin State. I had heard of people groups I hoped to meet. One was of course the Kachin and the second was the Lisu people. We had helped to support a girl from there in Thailand to finish her Master of Divinity. She is now a full time teacher at their Bible school just outside of Myitkyina. I had also heard of an IDP camp there, where I hoped that Hkaw Win could go to meet a group of people who had been captured, imprisoned and tortured for their faith in Christ Jesus.

Today they live about a hundred miles away from where their village and church was but is now destroyed and anything that was left has been taken over by the Burmese soldiers. But the Testimony I want to share with you was given to Hkaw Win and I by the pastor and the deacons.

It was emotional when we arrived at the camp because I had heard some rumours what these people went through as believers, and now God had answered our prayers through many miracles and we were standing face to face with them. The first person I met was the senior pastor who then took us down into the camp. There we met many of the deacons and people. Do keep in mind that this was a whole village that was persecuted for over a year and then fled upstream to a new safer location.

The testimony begins with the village being surrounded by the Burmese army and how they rounded up all the people into several huts, plus how they took the pastor and the deacons and blindfolded them and tied them together throughout the day and night. They would later be interrogated and tortured. At night some were tied upside down from the ceiling. The goal was to get them to confess that they were part of the Kachin army and the other was to try to get them to deny their faith in Christ Jesus. Each day the torture would continue, but the main way to inflict pain on them was to lay them on

the ground and roll a heavy bar on their legs, back and forth and after that they would beat them with plastic pipes to inflict as much pain as possible and to destroy their inner organs. (I have seen a video of this method of torturing people that was capture on a phone.)

This went on for several days and after about the second day some of the deacons did not return to the hut. It was later discovered that they had been overcome by the torture and pain. One night the leadership of the army decided that the next day they would kill the pastor and the remaining deacons. All the leadership could do was to keep crying out to God through prayer and singing.

On the night before they were to be tortured and killed, while the guards were standing outside the hut, they saw a lighted cross on the opposite mountain. It was shining so bright. This shook up this Buddhist soldier so much that early the next morning he told his Buddhist captain. They were so shook up by what had happened. They brought the church leaders in and asked them and questioned the people inside, who said they had not seen it or had anything to do with it other than praying. That morning the captain released the leaders back to their families and let the people go back to most of their homes.

It wasn't long after that the Buddhist army heard about the Kachin army who were in another area, so they took off to fight them, and while they were gone the people fled up the river to a small city where they now live in an IDP camp supported by several Canadian NGO's and the UN.

I must admit that it was hard to hear these testimonies of these people. They treated me as a "Paul" of the new testament and wanted me to come as often as we could to help disciple them in the Words of Christ. I felt so unworthy to stand up and to speak to them for they are the ones who have suffered and lost so much. But God's anointing would come, time and time again and the living word of God would go forth and bring peace, hope and encouragement to the people.

### **Ministry Doors:**

As one looks down the road one can see that there are still many opportunities to touch lives for Jesus Christ. There are many doors open for more discipleship schools in Myanmar, Thailand, India and China. The challenge is not finding open doors for ministry, but determining the will of God and then choosing which one we should go through first. There are basically only two things that can hinder going ahead. First is to gather together the finances and people who would be willing to sacrifice and serve and give their lives if need be, for others who live on the other side of the world. It seems to me that there



is a last day call that the Holy Spirit is speaking out to people around the world and the call is to get people better equipped as disciples in the Word of God so that in the end we will know the difference between truth and error.

### **Future Vision and Ministry:**

Our hope is that we can provide for many discipleship schools throughout the country but also to other countries around the world. We pray that we can also make more resources available in different languages, not only in book form, but on the Internet where people could have access to all these materials. I also hope that we will be able to set up a system where we can train young leaders, equipping them for service, to help them to become Paul's to many more Timothies, with whom they are serving. Pray that God would continue to give us health, strength and time to complete that which He has called us to do.

### **Special Blessings:**

I want to start off by saying first, how glad I was to meet Rev. Sam Son at the graduation service at Providence, in Winnipeg. That divine appointment has dramatically impacted both me and Irene not realizing that it was going to drastically change my future. That in time God made another divine appointment for me to meet and to marry Hkaw Win, a Kachin leader from Miramar. Then to have my family, board and friends support us as we moved over to Myanmar to become full-time missionaries. At first I can say I thought this was going to be "mission impossible", but through much prayer it became "mission possible", where I was given a new name, Rev. Dr. Lathaw Zau Sam and where I was accepted into a new family of Kachin brothers and sisters. They have shown me so much grace and mercy and above all that, they have poured much love into my heart. Their patience has made me part of their family and has deeply changed my life forever.

Because of my Kachin family I've travelled the world and literally saw the book of Acts exemplified in front of my very own eyes. I feel that I am no longer, you could say, representing my first name James, but have become, by the grace of God, more like my middle name Paul. While Hkaw Win and I have done so many things together, I also need to give a lot of credit to her, because of her faith in me as a disciple of Christ and because of her exceptional gift as a translator. Those things that I have spoken, she, through the power of the Holy Spirit, has given life to the words, resulting in thousands of Kachin lives being changed.

### **Personal Reflections:**

One beautiful thing that I've had the opportunity to do is to study the Kachin Bible that Dr. Ola Hanson translated and finished in 1926. He was a very gifted linguist knowing at least five languages fluently. He took unwritten sounds and words and gave them a script that was used to first translate many hymns, then he worked for many years developing a Kachin dictionary and after 30 years of hard labour, he finished the complete Bible for the Kachin. The first book of the Bible that he translated was the book of Matthew and this has been my joy to take the book of Matthew with my training that was given to me by SIL and Wycliffe in Chang Mai Thailand, to update the book of Matthew and publish it as a Bible portion with a variety of helps and cross references that can be used in public schools and churches.

### **Results:**

Over the last 12 years we have been doing Project LAMBS Schools with the Kachin. To date we have had close to 500 graduates go through the 12 one-week modules. Now most of our graduates are serving as pastors, leaders and teachers not only in Myanmar, but in many other countries around the world. We have also seen many of our leadership books translated into Kachin and Burmese. They have been printed by the thousands so that they could be handed out in various countries.

This last year we put together a series of four children's books which were printed in Myanmar and through the Kachin Baptist Convention have been distributed to all their churches, schools and IDP camps. To date over 45,000 books have been distributed, because of the faithful supporters that live here throughout Canada. At the end of last year our English edition of the Bible dictionary and concordance was finished and since then several thousands of them have gone out in Canada and Nagaland. Lord willing, we hope to print 10,000 Kachin copies and 10,000 Burmese copies, which will be used by pastors and leaders throughout the country of Myanmar and parts of China.

### **Persecution:**

In the Kachin state there are still many challenges that the church faces. The war between the Burmese and the Kachin have destroyed over 100 churches, 150 villages have been wiped out and then taken over by the Burmese people and soldiers from the Southern part of the country. There are over 120,000 internally displaced people in camps along the China, India borders, plus many more displaced people living on church properties in and around the city of Myitkyina.

### **Vision and Need that you may want to partner with us on.**

Many things have already been mentioned above concerning needs but there are always more that one can do. These people known as the Kachin need our prayers, our financial help, our leadership skills and tools that will help them to personally learn and to equip others for the ministry of Jesus Christ. We serve a big God, but what He needs from us is to be willing to be a vessel where He can flow through, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to touch lives for His glory around the world. His desire is that none should perish but all have eternal life, that puts some of the responsibility on us to be disciple / missionaries, doing His will and promoting and building His kingdom.

### **Kachin's Five Year War**

#### **Lest We Forget!**

What does one say concerning this type of anniversary? It has been now five years of suffering, pain and death for the Kachin People.

Hundreds of villages and churches are destroyed. Many people are dying on both sides. Thousands are homeless in IDP Camps (Internally Displaced People).

Our prayer need to be that the new leaders of Myanmar will find a way through this humanitarian nightmare and bring new hope to the people who find themselves in bondage. Unfortunately, the god of materialism is at the root of this conflict. The desire to wipe a Christian people group is at the heart of Satan's plans for this area and other locations around the world.

We need to remember and pray for those who find themselves in chains. Ps 68:5-6 tells us that He is, *"A father of the fatherless and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation. God setteth the solitary in families: He bringeth out those which are bound with chains: but the rebellious dwell in a dry land."*

These brothers and sisters are part of God's family which makes them connected to us through Christ Jesus. We need to pray and help carry them before the LORD. He is the one who brought them into His family and He is the one who, in the end will break the chains that have been binding them. To the bound believers who are suffering, you are not alone. Your heavenly Father has

seen and recorded all things and at the fullness of His timing He will deliver you. Amen

### Conclusion:

I want to tell you that it has been a real joy to be part of a team that is serving together to help so many people all over the Asian rim countries. They are thankful and grateful for all your love and support that you have shown to them even though you do not know who they are, but you have so sacrificially given and that has greatly blessed them. This magazine is focused on the Kachin people of India, China and Myanmar. It is our hope that you have learned and maybe understand a little bit more about these Christian brothers and sisters, with whom we will one day spend eternity. We are a family of believers, the community of servants that have been called as a body, to carry out the will of Jesus Christ here on earth.

I pray that this information about the Kachin will be shared within our churches, cell groups or that we just reflect on it in our personal time of devotion with Christ. We are all called to pray, to serve and to help where we can. Again, all that Christ is looking for is a vessel that He can flow through to touch others' around us. It was just under 140 years ago when missionaries began going out from the United States and into the southern mountains of the Himalayas, seeking out people with whom they could share the Good News of Jesus Christ with. No one knew at the time that the seeds that would be planted would so dramatically change the lives of this and other people groups in the country or that the first seven people who were baptized, would become the bridge through whom hundreds of thousands of other Kachin would too give their lives to Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

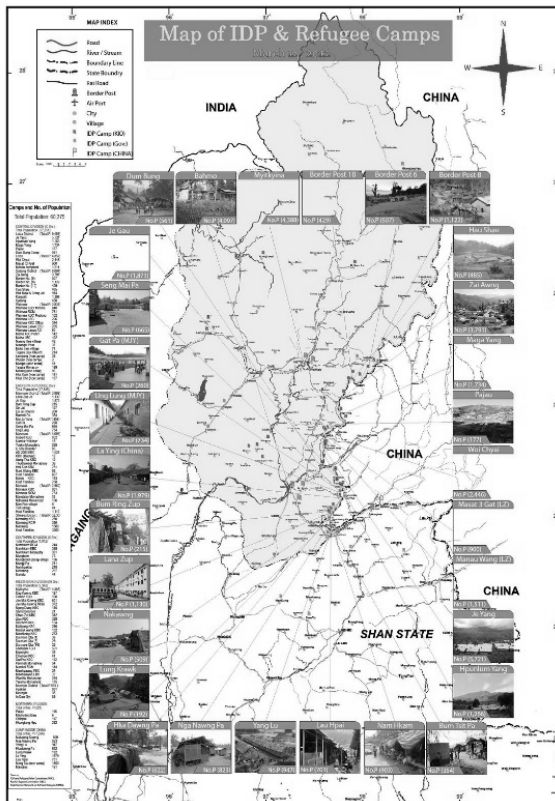
There is one last thing that I would like to state at this time and to draw to our attention. Over 95% of these people known as the Kachin have become Christians and that their state lies directly between the two biggest countries of the world, India and China. The road that connects these two countries goes straight through the capital city of the Kachin state; a road lined with many Christian churches. We need to pray that the Kachin will be a lighthouse to all that travel by and through their cities, and that they can fulfill their calling that the Lord has put on this people, just over a 100 years ago. May they have the strength and courage to stand strong in the gap between these two countries until Jesus returns.

## Appendix

### Map 1: India / Myanmar / China



### Map 2: IDP Camps



See  
IDP  
collage  
(next 2  
pages)







# Kachin in India, Myanmar & China



**Classroom in Assam**



**Church in Assam**



**A Htu (Lisu Teacher)  
Kachin State**



**Our Kachin home in Assam**



**Kachin kitchen, Assam**



**Tea Tribe, Assam**



# Kachin in India, Myanmar & China



**Christian Family,  
Arunachal Pradesh**



**Deacon & James  
visiting, Assam**



**Pastors meeting,  
Arunachal Pradesh**



**James receiving blessing  
from Buddhist Elder**



**Buddhist Elder and James,  
Arunachal Pradesh**



**Weaving,  
Arunachal Pradesh**

# Kachin in India, Myanmar & China



**Making Communion cups from bamboo**



**Evening fellowship, sticky rice baked in bamboo**



**Outdoor restaurant, Yangon, Myanmar**



**New Tony Roma's, Yangon, Capitalism has arrived!**



**Preparation for distribution of new children books**



**Lisu Dance Team, Putao, Kachin State**

# Kachin in India, Myanmar & China



**Printing of Children's books**



**IDP dorm students,  
Myitkyina**



**Handing out the  
new children books**



**IDP Camp,  
community kitchen**



**Robert & Jackie's  
visit to IDP Camps**



**Persecuted Pastor and  
survivors at IDP Camp**





**Hkaw Win Family**



**Rev. Dr. Sam Son**



**General Gun Maw**



**Sumlut Gam KIO, Head of Education Dept.**

# PROJECT L.A.M.B.S. INTERNATIONAL



**LIGHT ABROAD  
MOBILE BIBLE SCHOOLS**



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SUDAN



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