

A young girl with dark hair is the central focus of the image. She is wearing a white, short-sleeved dress with a decorative neckline featuring red and blue beads. She also has a light green headband with two parallel bands. The background is a soft-focus green field with several bright, starburst light effects scattered across it.

AT
THE
HEART
OF IT

MARCH ISSUE 2011

Partners Magazine March Issue 2011

PUBLISHER Partners Relief & Development

OUR VISION Free, full lives for the children of Burma

FOUNDERS Steve & Oddny Gumaer

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PHOTOS Stuart Corlett, Dave Ellem, Steve Gumaer, Ryan and Kara Garrison.

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Printed in Thailand

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FIELD OFFICES Chiang Mai and Mae Sot, Thailand

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FRONT COVER

"Karen girl, displaced in November 2010."

NEW STAFF

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY



HSA PAW (STAR FLOWER)

KAREN MEDICAL PROJECTS ASSISTANT

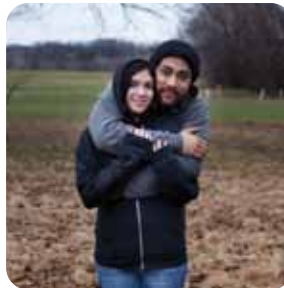
Hsa Paw has joined the Mae Sot team in the Medical Department. Part of her role is to oversee all the administration tasks of the medical office. She also helps take care of patients by sending them to the local hospital, assisting them with their medical care and translating as she speaks & writes five languages! She is married and has a beautiful son.



STEPHEN & KELLI

TEAMS COORDINATORS

Kelli & Stephen joined us at the beginning of February in Mae Sot. They have a big heart for the Karen people after working with them in the US for five years, and volunteering as teachers at Noh Bo Academy on the Thai-Burma border in 2009. Since then, they have returned to the US, married, and prepared to start working full time with Partners.



RYAN & LEAH

MEDIA & AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

These newlyweds have been refining their skills in photojournalism and farming for the last few years in New York. Called to help the people of Burma, Leah hopes to bring her experience in agricultural development to displaced persons struggling with nutrition and food security, while Ryan will spend most of his time doing all things media.



THE UYEDA FAMILY

LANGUAGE STUDY

Wes and I-man Uyeda are from Hawaii, and have joined the Chiang Mai team, along with their daughters Chloe (three years) and Isabella (one year). They're currently learning the Thai language, helping their daughters adjust to the new culture and lifestyle, and tangibly helping wherever they can while discovering where they might best be utilized.



THE GARRISON FAMILY

Craig and Kara Garrison and kids (Emilee, Katy, and Jacob) are now back in Chiang Mai and back at Partners. Their oldest, Sarah, is in college in the U.S. They spent a year back in the U.S. and are looking forward to the challenges ahead. Craig is helping to oversee several projects out of our Chiang Mai office. *We're glad to have them back!*

FIRST WORD

HEART SONG



"DO WHAT IS FAIR AND JUST TO YOUR NEIGHBOR, BE COMPASSIONATE AND LOYAL IN YOUR LOVE, AND DON'T TAKE YOURSELF TOO SERIOUSLY — TAKE GOD SERIOUSLY."

What is at the heart of Partners Relief & Development? Picking up this magazine you will see it is delivering life-saving essentials to victims of a brutal war, caring for children—the most vulnerable victims of that conflict—and finding ways to transform the mess into wholeness through development. It is also to document the stories we hear of the people of Burma, their daily grind of injustice and brutality under the military regime, and to advocate on their behalf. That is a tight forensic description of Partners.

Our vision is free, full lives for the children of Burma and our hope is to see reconciled communities living in peace. Our mission, in light of that end, is holistic. The prophet Micah says this better than I can ever hope to do. In Chapter 6, verse 8 he says:

"He's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don't take yourself too seriously —take God seriously." (The Message)

This, you could say, is a two-sentence description that epitomizes our white-hot core. In our drive to be faithful to God's mandate of compassion we find ourselves doing what we can to love our neighbors, work for justice, and do everything we do in concert with the compassion and heart of God.

Oddny Gumaer writes in her article that a society is as healthy as it is kind to its children. A quick look at Burma, especially the ethnic states, makes it clear by this indicator that Burma is a failed state under military rule where the intentional destruction of life and livelihood of children is a daily event.

Finally, we are a community dedicated to one another. For this reason we grieve the loss of one of our chiefs, Marv Kahn. Joyce Hazlett writes a tribute to Marv on behalf of the team. Marv was a friend to us all, a father to many, and a bright light that leaves a mark on the darkness of this world for all eternity.

Thanks to all of you who pray, who send support, and who volunteer in so many ways. Your generosity as members of our team has made a tremendous impact in Burma. You are part of shining the light of love into a very dark part of the world. I hope this magazine brings you a little closer to the heart of what that means.

Thankful,

Steve Gumaer

Steve Gumaer
CEO, PARTNERS RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT



WHERE WOULD WE GO?

by Brad Hazlett

Relief. It's a welcoming word which by its definition conveys the easing of some sort of burden or stress. We all want it. Most of us have it. But what does it mean for those who don't?

Recently I had an experience which helped me see more clearly the level of Partners Relief & Development involvement in relief. I knew the stories. I had seen the data. I believed I had a basic understanding of how relief helped ease the pain of oppression in Burma. But this changed on a recent trip inside; a three-week trip of hiking steep hills in jungle terrain. I met many Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) whose lives depend on Partners' support. Their only hope is the relief we can provide.

At one point on my trip I was sitting in the woods, deep in Karen state with 33 other men. We were near the site of attacks from earlier this year and together we were discussing how their lives had been affected.

To reach this place I had already walked 12 days visiting other villages and pockets of IDPs, many of whom were from the villages represented by the headmen now meeting with me in the woods. As we talked I began to more fully understand the plight of the those living in the area. They told me of the nearby camps from where the Burma Army had initiated the attacks. While standing in their rice fields we could look at the camps in the distance. I heard these men tell of how difficult it was to feed their families, even in ideal conditions, especially since they know that at any time the Burma Army can come and destroy what little they have.

As we talked about the difficulties they face, their wives sat nearby and their children played together at the edge of the group. I was overwhelmed by the realization that these were fathers and mothers with normal feelings of responsibility to care for their families. I was humbled as I listened to them thank Partners for our part in meeting their needs and, as anyone would have done, I told them I wished I could do more.

They thanked me for the radios for the Early Warning System and shared how the radio network saved lives by warning of the advancing army. They explained how the Burma Army destroys their food and thanked Partners for providing rice, storage barns, and rice mills to be used in times of need. We talked about medicine, clothing, blankets, tarps, plastic sheets and the rest of the valued components of Partners relief.

During our discussion I began to more fully understand the need for relief and the importance of Partners' response. At one point during the discussion I asked how many believed there would be more attacks during the next three months. Without exception all hands were raised. For awhile we sat there as no one spoke and I took in the seriousness of their situation. As I thought of the many families who had decided to flee to other areas, I finally asked why they chose to remain. I fully expected them to respond in defiance. I thought they would strongly declare that the land was theirs and no one was going to take it from them. As we sat in silence I wondered why they didn't respond. Finally one man stood and simply said, "Where would we go?"

While I had expected determination, their response showed resignation. In that one brief moment I got a much clearer picture of the desperate and despicable situation in Burma. These men and women are trying to survive, and provide for their families, in the shadow of an enemy set out to destroy them. For them, relief is more than just something to ease pain and suffering, it is a means to survive.

Brad is a pilot who has left his airplane in order to fly Partners to its destination. He leads the work of Partners in Thailand and that can at times be more of a challenge than keeping an airplane flying. And a lot more fun. He loves to put on his hiking boots and go to visit the people we help in the jungle. He is married and has two grown kids.



RELIEF



Beyond

FISH, PIGS & FARMS

by Craig Garrison

DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development continues to be a hot topic in the world today. And rightly so. As one of our four core areas of work at Partners we certainly believe in its importance. Shoot, it's even in our name! From the beginning, we have believed that real-life change for the people in war-torn areas of Burma must start with relief (due to the ongoing civil war and subsequent humanitarian crisis) but would fall far short if that was all we did. To that end, over the last several years we have established a wide-ranging development plan that would probably surprise you. Following is a brief overview of some of the development work we are involved with.

Partners has two development farm-training centers that focus on simple, reproducible ideas to help the people of Burma become more self-sustaining. Pigs, fish, plants, appropriate technology, biogas, hydro and solar power, compost and many other areas are emphasized. This approach forms the basis of our "traditional" development approach and we are seeing exciting results inside Burma through these initiatives. In fact, we are moving beyond the familiar mantra of "if you give a man a fish, he'll eat for a day; teach a man to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime," to "let's help him develop his own fish pond!" That's the idea behind sustainable development. It's the difference between a handout and a hand-up.

However, seeing the development work that Partners does solely through pigs, fish and farms would be a mistake. In the last several years, Partners has been creating what we call transformational development steps to address the varied needs of people inside Burma. While the term 'development' usually connotes material change only, transformational development seeks positive change in the whole of human life materially, socially and spiritually.*

Within Karen and Shan States, Burma, we are beginning to see real transformational development take place. Consider this: in Karen State the Communities At Risk program was started a few years ago by Partners as a way to get immediate help to those villages in Burma who were located in close proximity to Burma Army outposts and therefore at high risk for abuse, forced labor and worse. Today, local villages have taken ownership of the program to the extent that it is almost entirely locally led. Training in such areas as evacuation planning, prepositioned relief, knowledge development, nutrition and education is being developed and led by local leaders.

Additionally, a list of transformational indicators has also been established to aid in evaluating whether or not the interventions are actually making a measurable difference in the lives of the people. One local leader inside Karen State recently shared with us, "Relief is good and vital when we are under attack. However, in order to build up our people we need to look beyond relief and help the communities to rely on themselves."

Moving further north and east from Karen State, we're also seeing significant signs of transformational development taking place in Shan State, Burma. In 2010 Partners trained ten community leaders from central Shan State to start schools and train teachers. One particular leader returned to his community with hope and a new vision. That area has six villages in it and for more than 28 years, no child has ever studied past 4th standard (eight years old). Only three people have ever graduated high school (and did so only by leaving the community). This is one of the lucky communities. Indeed, in the conflict areas of Shan State as few, as 4% of children go to school.

Returning home to his community, this leader called an area-wide meeting. Together, they decided to build a school that would provide for grades five and six. Pooling their meager resources, they cleared some land, built a bamboo building and hired two teachers. Today, approximately 150 kids go to school. And what was the total cost to Partners Relief & Development? About US\$350. All that was needed was the organizational tools, vision and hope to make it work.

"...IN ORDER TO BUILD UP OUR PEOPLE WE NEED TO LOOK BEYOND RELIEF AND HELP THE COMMUNITIES TO RELY ON THEMSELVES."

Stuart Corlett, Partners' Shan Projects Manager, comments on what he sees happening in Shan State:

The Shan people are primarily Buddhist. Does Jesus come into the equation? Of course! I was recently talking with a Buddhist, Shan friend. He said this to me in broken English, "Three years ago when you first started working with us, I thought you only wanted us to be Christians. Now I realize that you wanted to be like God to us..." What he meant was that his initial thinking about Partners' involvement was about religion; what he has found out is that we desire to represent God to him and the Shan people.

While a community's spiritual development is difficult to quantify it is also clear to us that each community we work with in Shan State understands why we are there: because of Jesus. It is also evident that God is transforming lives in these communities. As I prayed with one Buddhist Senior Army leader recently, he returned a prayer for me praying, "This year, may everything that Stuart does, and Partners does, be done with real genuine love." I get a sense that transformation is going on...

(Stuart Corlett, Sonya Claase and Chris Dolan contributed to this article.)

*Myers, Bryant. *Walking With the Poor*, 1999, Orbis Books.

Craig Garrison has a heart for the poor, for children and for Burma. This is why he works for Partners. When he is not busy helping people in Burma, he likes to play his guitar or beat his friends in tennis. He is the husband of Kara and the father of four children.



"WHEN WE HEARD THE MORTARS FIRE.....WE KNEW WE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME"
 —village headman



"WE WERE WHAT THEY HAD BEEN HOPING FOR"

On December 6, 2010 several hundred villagers in Dooplaya district, Karen State, Burma fled from a Burma army attack as fighting in the area escalated. As villagers scattered through heavily mined jungle, mortars from a Burma army hilltop outpost continued to bombard the homes below. A group of around **200 villagers** were led to safety by a Free Burma Rangers team who stayed with them as they began to

make the best of what they hoped to be a temporary hide site. Bamboo shelters were constructed with nothing more than a machete, erected in only two days. A constant light rain made a difficult situation worse. **Within five days** of the initial attack, emergency supplies from Partners and FBR arrived including **2,400 kilos of rice**, blankets, tarps and clothes. **Your gifts of rice helped save lives!**



172
 GIFTS OF
RICE



color
our world with
LOVE

.....
IT'S A DIFFERENT KIND OF GIFT



1384

GIFTS OF LOVE

are on their way to communities in Burma!

THANK YOU!

**THE REGIME CLAIMS THERE ARE NO
HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN BURMA***

HELP US BRING HOPE TO
COMMUNITIES WE KNOW ARE
SUFFERING UNDER THE RULE
OF THIS BRUTAL REGIME BY
GIVING A GIFT OF LOVE TODAY

Use the attached envelope and send your check today. Or donate online: www.partnersworld.org

*http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=20621 "But Burma's delegation, led by Dr. Tun Shin, the country's Deputy Attorney General, responded that the Burma enjoys a free press, has committed no human rights violations, and cooperated with the UN Human Rights Special Envoy to Burma, Tomás Ojea Quintana."

LEARN TO DO RIGHT SEEK JUSTICE

by Steve Gumaer



Eh Htoo¹ is a nine year-old Karen boy I met in Burma in 2009. He lives with his uncle in a temporary camp of 697 people whose villages were destroyed by Burma Army forces. Most of the people living there have had to flee to new hiding places 12 times since 2006.

I was with a number of relief teams who were setting up a presentation for the children in that camp. As the children started to arrive I noticed Eh Htoo. He had a mischievous grin, a confident stride, and a slingshot in his back pocket. I tapped his shoulder and asked what the slingshot was for. "Birds", he replied with a dry smile, as he joined the others beside our bamboo hut.

Later that day I asked the community leaders if I could hear the stories of some of the people who have survived attacks. Among the 10 people who crowded into the hut to talk with me was Eh Htoo. Along with help from his uncle, he told me his story.

In 2005 Eh Htoo's father made a decision. Having lived under the constant threat of violence, extortion, and abuse by local Burma Army forces, he gathered his family of four and hiked deep into the jungle to hide from the soldiers that harassed them. For two years they lived off the land, foraging for food and enjoying relative peace and security. But in 2008, just after burning down the village where Eh Htoo was born, the regime forces discovered Eh Htoo's family in their hide site. The leader of that patrol

pulled the pin on a hand grenade and threw it at the them. Eh Htoo's dad caught the grenade and was blown up in front of the family.

Somehow Eh Htoo, his mother, and older sister escaped. The following year Eh Htoo's mom hanged herself from a tree and died. Later that year his older sister got sick and died. It was then that he found his way to his uncle's hide site.

Eh Htoo is a smart child. He was articulate and brave as he recounted his story. He somehow finished first grade but didn't want to go to school anymore. Instead, he wanted to hunt birds in the jungle. I looked Eh Htoo in the eyes and pleaded with him to go to school, help with chores, and be the man he was created by God to be, despite the destruction of so many sacred things. I left money with his uncle to help with food and school supplies. I prayed for them.

His community lives two hours on foot from a Burma Army camp. The landscape around their valley was peppered with the sooty remains of burned down villages. His neighbors all bear the scars of Burma Army abuse. I asked his 58-year-old uncle how many times he has had to run for his life. "More times than I can remember," he said.

So advocacy is not just a program in Partners Relief & Development; it is part of what we must do as brothers and sisters to Eh Htoo and his neighbors. We can't just tell them God loves them and leave them to die. In the same vein, we can't just give them the food they need to survive and leave their story untold. To do so constitutes faithlessness to the mandate of justice and the Love Command of Jesus Christ (Luke 10:27).



The prophet Isaiah lists the sins of the Israelites and the ways their religion has fouled the name of God. In the verses leading up to verse 17 a lot of religious based activity is called out for what it is, hypocrisy. Then, in verse 17 the prophet says:

**Learn to do right; seek justice.
Defend the oppressed.
Take up the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow.**

That's it. That's what our advocacy program is all about. That's why we worked on Displaced Childhoods², why we develop reports for policy makers, why we work with lawyers who advance litigation towards justice, and why we stand with other organizations like ERI (see facing article) as they appeal for justice. It's why I write this article and why my teammate Ryan made a video³ about nine-year-old Naw Paw Ta Eh Moo.

We are all learning to do right, to seek justice, to take up the cause of the fatherless, and to plead the case of the widow. We are learning, as we plead, what it means to be faithful to the gospel.

1 Name changed to protect identity

2 http://partnersworld.org/usa/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=134&Itemid=290

3 Visit our Vimeo Chanel to see this amazing video: <http://vimeo.com/channels/partnerstv#17909489>

Steve Gumaer is the founder and CEO of Partners. When he is not traveling, he spends his time sharing the things he is most passionate about: God, Burma and Partners. He enjoys climbing mountains on a rope, skiing down steep mountains and riding fast on his bike. He also enjoys his family.

Is it right to earn financial returns on investments in companies that contribute to human rights abuses? Is it right to profit from companies that uphold violent dictatorships? These questions underpin a new 40-page EarthRights International report released with Partners on December 5th 2010 in Oslo, entitled Broken Ethics: The Norwegian Government's Investments in Oil and Gas Companies Operating in Burma.

The report exposes how the Norwegian government has \$4.7 billion dollars invested in 15 oil and gas companies operating in Burma. These huge multi-nationals are complicit in forced labor, land confiscation, killings, and other abuses connected to natural gas and oil pipeline projects in Burma, while financially upholding the dictatorship.

Why Norway? The Norwegian government manages the world's second largest sovereign wealth fund. It's worth over \$500 billion dollars and has clear rules intended to help it avoid investments in companies that contribute to human rights abuses. When a company fails to meet Norway's standards, it is either excluded from the Fund or put under observation.

Broken Ethics doesn't ask Norway to develop new investment standards—the standards are the best in the world. The problem is that they aren't being applied. The ethics are broken, but not beyond fixing.

Ethical investment is not a new idea. The principle of not harming your neighbor through business practices has deep roots in Christianity. Pioneering Christian communities in America and Europe decided it was unethical to invest in the trade of human beings long before abolition gained legal traction in the 19th century. The enduring guidance was to refrain from certain investments that stood in clear violation of God's law. It was a message of ethical inaction.

The idea that investment capital can proactively work for repressed peoples rather than against them is newer. If the Norwegian government takes immediate action to apply its standards and exclude the Burmese regime's corporate partners from its Fund, it will send an ethical shockwave to corporate executives and capital investors around the world. It will, in effect, help reconcile the world to social justice by combatting the military regime's lifeline, one complicit company at a time.

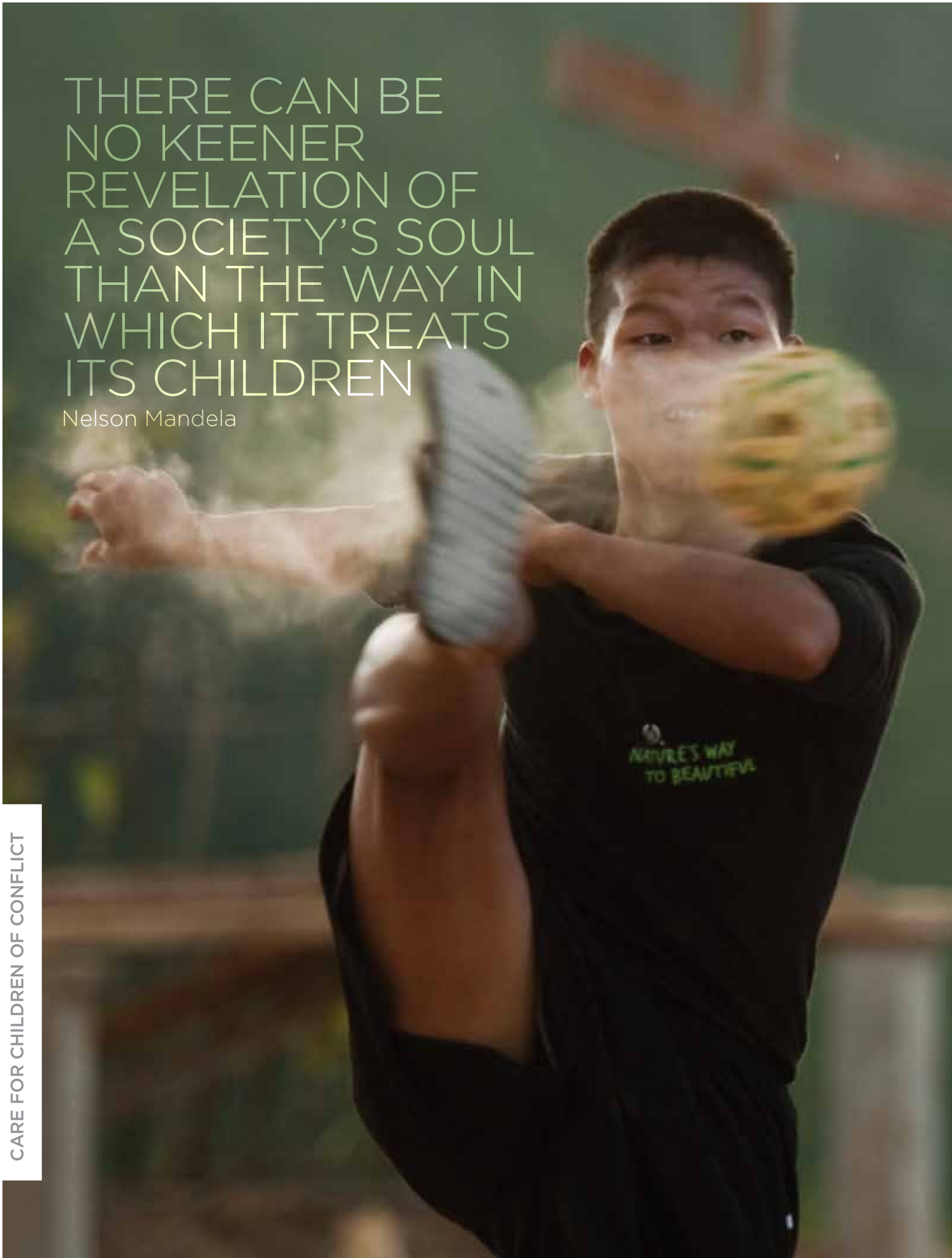
Matthew Smith
SENIOR CONSULTANT, EARTHRIGHTS INTERNATIONAL

THERE CAN BE
NO KEENER
REVELATION OF
A SOCIETY'S SOUL
THAN THE WAY IN
WHICH IT TREATS
ITS CHILDREN

Nelson Mandela

CARE FOR CHILDREN OF CONFLICT

NATURE'S WAY
TO BEAUTIFUL



If this is the measure of a society's soul, then Burma's soul is suffering. While Burma's leaders say that their children are the jewels of their society, their actions show something quite different: one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world, more child soldiers than anywhere in the world, less than half of the country's school-aged children get to attend school, lack of medical care in all places except in the cities, forced labor—even among children, violence, rape and murder.

At Partners we have always felt that a special focus has to be put on children in Burma. Our vision, free, full lives for the children of Burma, has permeated everything we have done over the years. We have supported orphanages and children's homes, we have started schools and supported teachers, we have provided scholarships and conducted health checks, we have performed dental work and facilitated vacation bible schools. All of this we have done because we believe that children matter.

One of the teenagers who is under our care right now is Lay Keh Por. Although he is 18, his life has been shaped by what happened to him as a child. This is his story:

In the 18 years Lay Keh Por has been alive he has seen and experienced more than any human being should.

I had just arrived at a home for children and youth that Partners supports in Mae La refugee camp. The home is run by some of our best Karen friends, Arthur and Clasper. They care for kids with love and dedication, wanting each child to succeed, feel valued and safe. Most of all they want them to discover God's will for them.

Lay Keh Por had his lunch break from school, and came over to where we were sitting to talk to us. He seemed shy and spoke with his eyes downcast. He had only been at Clasper and Arthur's for a year. Before coming here he was studying at a school located in a Internally Displaced People (IDP) camp just across the border in Burma. Last year soldiers entered the camp and burned it to the ground. All the people living in the camp had to flee for their lives.

Growing up he knew too well what it was like to live with the enemy. His village, Htee Per, was occupied by the Burma Army when he was young. Many times the Burma Army would come to their village and burn it to the ground. "I can't count how many times that happened," he said in a low voice. "Every time they came we had to pack up what little we could carry with us and run." Life hiding in the jungle was harsh. "We did not have enough food to eat, so we were always hungry. What little we had, we did not dare to cook because the smoke would have alerted the enemy. It is almost impossible to sleep on the jungle floor. People got sick and died."

They would stay in the jungle 4-5 weeks at a time and then try to return to their village. This was a perilous thing to do since the soldiers always placed landmines around the village and on the path back.

Once they had returned and rebuilt their homes, they were still under the control of the enemy. The soldiers

would give the villagers rules to live by and enforce them by terrorizing or killing anybody who disobeyed. One of the rules stated that they were not allowed to leave the village to get food. It is an impossible rule to live by since all the fields of the villagers are far away. He remembers the soldiers shooting one young girl who had been caught leaving the village looking for vegetables when he was 14.

The soldiers would also demand services from them. The villagers could not say no. A few years ago they came for his father. "You are with the resistance," the soldiers accused the father. He wasn't of course. He was just a simple farmer. But the soldiers took him away to porter their equipment. Four days later the soldiers killed him. This was on 8 December 2008.

Lay Keh Por left his village totally on his own. Nobody told him to go. The rest of his family is still living in the village. "I worry about them all the time," he almost whispered.

I asked about his future and when I did so Lay Keh Por sat up straight, looked me in the eyes and spoke with more passion than I had seen in him the entire time we were talking: "I want to defend my people. They don't even have the most basic human rights. If I don't defend the innocent, then who will? If nobody defends them, the government will continue to take more and more of their belongings and their rights."

Before he went back to class, we prayed together and I told him that I was proud of him. I told him that his people need men like him who will stand up and defend the cause of justice and peace. I hope that he will be able to forgive and that bitterness and hate will not guide his actions, but that love will. I am confident that in Arthur and Clasper's care, this young man will be able to receive and embrace the kind of love that can change a nation.

by Oddny Gumaer

Oddny is the founder of Partners. She is living in Norway with her family. When not leading Partners Norway and keeping track of her kids and husband, she cross-country skis, runs or works on her second book which she hopes will be published in 2011.

0.6%

The Burmese Junta spends only 0.6% of all its spending towards education.*

One in five children in Burma die before their

FIFTH BIRTHDAY*

Partners Children's homes housing, **1,091** children who are given hygiene packs and annual health checks.

19

OVER EIGHTY8 THOUSAND

children are educated with the assistance of Partners Relief & Development each year. School materials are delivered to 1,025 schools in Karen State (home to 4,033 teachers). This provides teaching and learning materials, education resource books, and sports equipment.



Gracious

MARV-ELOUS

Outrageous

such as to cause wonder, admiration or astonishment.

"How are you doing today, sir?"

"Lousy" was Marv's abrupt response. "I have terminal cancer."

With a twinkle in his eye and a chuckle that turned to laughter, Marv left the store and speechless clerk. That was seven years ago. Two years later at age 69 he, along with his wife Dorothy, decided to come to Thailand...to choose Christ over cancer. He wanted to make a difference in God's kingdom...and what a difference he made!

There are many things we all miss about Marv. The humorous way he looked at life was just one of his many unique gifts to us here at Partners. He was also a microbiologist, a "dad" to many, a man of vision, a creative developer, a servant with a huge heart, an intellect, encourager, great conversationalist, researcher...we had never heard of moringa until we met Marv. Did we mention his passion for his pigs at the Partner's farm, where his moringa also grew? Marv was inspirational. Always looking for ways to improve the quality of life for those who were dearest to his heart...those he came to serve. So whatever it was, from soap-making to producing moringa capsules for nutritional supplement, he did it with purpose and passion. And whatever task any one of us had, however insignificant it seemed, he spurred us on with his encouraging words. He just had a way of making each of us feel special.

Two days before Marv died, we were visiting him in his hospital room. During the visit he was persistent in something he wanted to say to my husband Brad. His speech was labored but he made it clear that it was important and for Brad to pull up a chair. Brad realized he wanted to ask something that was heavy on his heart. It took awhile but Brad finally understood he was asking about people who didn't know Christ. As they talked it became even more clear that he was saying how blessed we are to have the opportunity to know Christ while others die without knowing Him. He then went on to challenge us to continue the work of helping those in need. We shouldn't be surprised. Marv finished his life the way he lived it, caring about people.

On his deathbed, while in pain, he voiced his concern for others and presented a charge for us to not give up in reaching out to them.

While Marv never did get into Karen State to do any development training, his little moringa seeds have been planted where his ashes now lie. It was Dorothy's wish to have his ashes scattered where his heart had been. It was a tribute Brad felt honored to have fulfilled on his last trip into Burma. Isaiah 61:3 says to us, "To console those who mourn (in Burma and Thailand), to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified." Marv's life produced a testimony of God's grace and blessing, right up to the end and will for years to come.

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy about fighting the good fight and finishing the race. Marv is our example of finishing the race well. If life is a race, then Marv sprinted across the finish line with perfect form, looking straight ahead. We have lost an example and a friend but Marv is now in a better place receiving his reward from his Friend he knew so well.

Thanks, Marv, for choosing Christ over cancer! You have left us a wealth of reminders of what really counts in life. We will always miss you!

by Joyce Hazlett

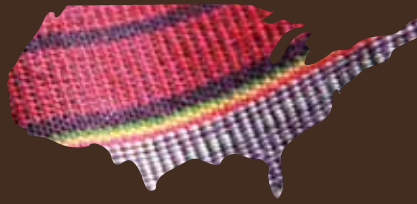
Ingenious



Mischievous

Humorous

DIRECTORS DESK



Reconciliation. A word that seems to evoke grand thoughts of peace, handshakes across a table and civil words between people with uncivil thoughts. I have been meditating on this word, this thing that seems to grow the more I try and figure it out. I think that's because I haven't been looking for it in the small places. Right within my own heart, within my own home.

I have been blessed to be living with my two sons at the moment. But we three are as different as can be. We struggle to tolerate each other, much less embrace each other's differences and love each other in spite of who we are. Our answer to reconciliation too often involves getting as far away from each other as we can. I tend to like being with those who think like me, act like me, behave like me. It's comforting and I can believe for a small amount of time, that I'm OK because everything about me is reaffirmed in those who look like me. Spiritually and emotionally speaking that is.

I read an article this morning in Time magazine. It was an interview with Aung San Suu Kyi. The cover

of the magazine labeled her "The Fighter". However, there was one thing she said, more than any other, that jumped off the page into my heart. "I wish I could have tea with them every Saturday, a friendly tea," Suu Kyi said about the generals who have imprisoned her over and over again. Doesn't sound like the words of a fighter. She wants there to be reconciliation in her country, not just an end to the bloodshed. She's fighting for it by demanding dialogue with her enemies. Not just once, so she can tell them what's been bugging her for years, but every week, so there can be real and sustained healing. Sounds a bit like reconciliation to me. I have a lot to learn.

Maureen Beighey
PARTNERS RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT USA

Dear God,

Partners does **emergency relief**. This means giving, food, medicine, clothing and shelter to those who are on the run away from the Burma Army. Multiply the supplies and make them last a long time. Strengthen and protect the teams that carry the supplies to the people in need. Many of them risk their own lives in the process.

Partners does **sustainable development**. This means long-term solutions to a long-term crisis. As we build health clinics and agricultural facilities, do training in health care, organic agriculture or teacher training, as we pay teacher's salaries or buy school supplies, please lead us, protect us and provide for the needs that constantly arise. May the development projects bring the long-term solutions they were intended for.

Partners **cares for children in conflict**. The children are the most vulnerable in Burma. We pray for the orphaned children, the abused and the distressed. We pray for the children who have seen and experienced more than any child should. Heal them, God. We pray for the homes, the schools and the communities Partners support. Make the caretakers sensitive to your voice and able to give the children what they need the most.

Partners **advocates**. We speak up for the oppressed and vulnerable. We tell the story of the people of Burma to governments and media. Make our words come to life and bring change. Make the leaders of the world see what you see when they look at Burma.

Amen

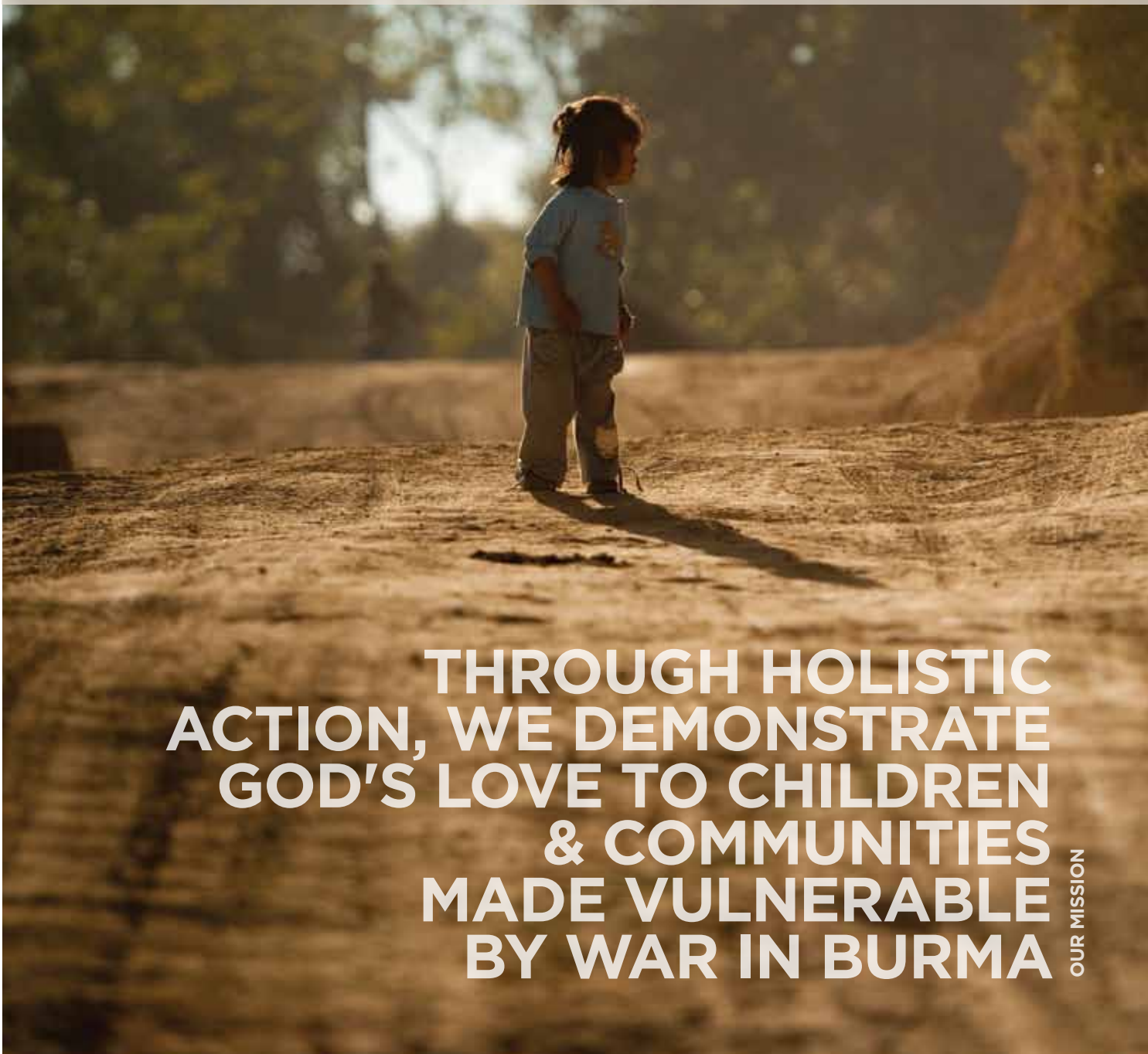


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