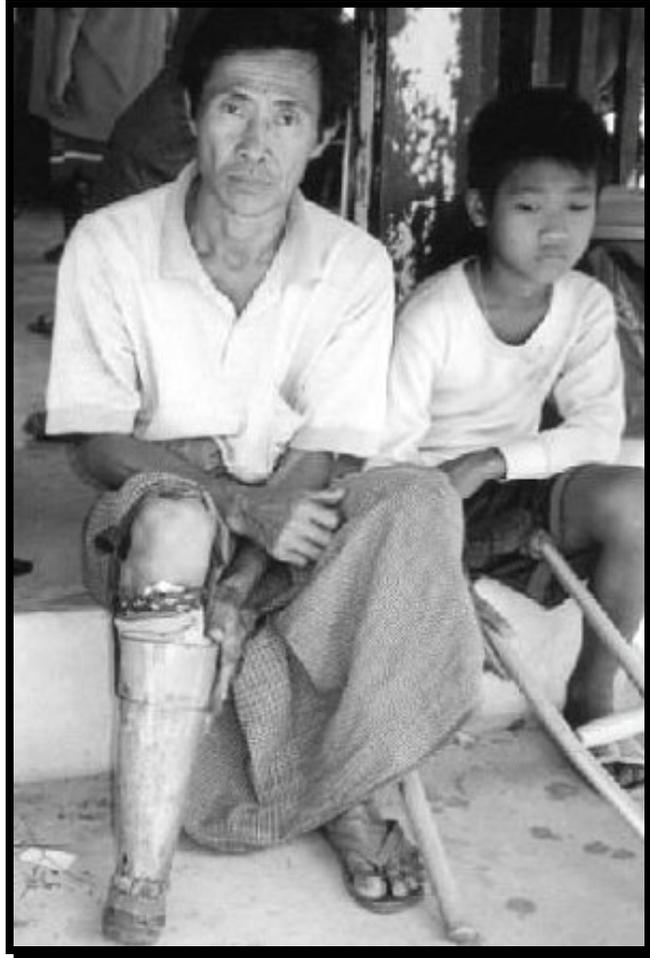


Landmine Refugees Project



Giving genuine refugees a new life in Bendigo

A Christian Reflection

"The crippled can walk"

Jesus said to the messengers sent by John, "Go and tell John what you have seen and heard. Blind people are now able to see, and the crippled can walk."

Luke 7:22

Time and time again the gospels tell us that Jesus healed the crippled. It is clear that healing was an integral part of Jesus' ministry. In a rural society where people lived on the borderline of survival, being crippled meant a life of poverty and social alienation.

As followers of Jesus, it is clear that reaching out to the crippled must be a major part of our ministry too.

The Landmine Refugees Project reaches out to refugees on the Thai-Burma border who lost arms (and sometimes legs) through landmine explosions.

The situation in Burma

Burma is the only country in the world that still manufactures landmines and uses them against its own people. While even Afghanistan clears its minefields, the Burmese Army and guerrilla armies lay more mines. Every day people in Burma are killed or injured by landmines.

Just like being crippled in ancient Israel, to be an amputee in Burma, or in a refugee camp in Thailand, means a life of poverty and social alienation.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to heal those whose bodies and lives have been scarred by landmines.

We can do this by sponsoring refugees injured by landmines (together with their families) to come to Bendigo as refugees.

Welcoming the stranger

After the wise men had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Hurry and take the child and his mother to Egypt! Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is looking for the child and wants to kill him." That night, Joseph got up and took his wife and the child to Egypt, and stayed there until Herod died.

Matthew 2:13-14

As followers of Jesus, we follow a refugee. We must welcome and care for those who flee their homelands to escape persecution or war. It is not enough to wait for refugees to arrive on our door step. We must reach out to refugees in camps around the world, those who do not have tens of thousands of dollars to pay people smugglers to bring them to Australia. We must welcome the stranger.

Take care of God's needy people and welcome strangers into your home.

Romans 12:13

“Go and do the same”

Jesus was a Jew, but his ministry didn't stop with people of his own religion. The Gospels tell us that he healed gentiles and the Roman Centurion's servant, and reached out to Samaritans. Neither did “limited resources” stop him: we follow the Jesus who fed a crowd of five thousand with five loaves and two fish.

We follow Jesus who, in the Parable of the Good Samaritan, praised as a role model a compassionate stranger who followed a different religion.

Many of the amputee refugees in camps along the Thai-Burma border are Christian, others are Buddhist or Muslim. As followers of Jesus, the call is clear. We are to help all of them, whatever faith they follow.

A man from Samaria then came travelling along that road. When he saw the man, he felt sorry for him and went over to him. He treated his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put him on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next morning he gave the innkeeper two silver coins and said, “Please take care of him. If you spend more than this on him, I will pay you when I return.”

Then Jesus asked, “Which one of these three was like a real neighbour to the man who was beaten up by the robbers?”

The teacher answered, “The one who showed him pity.”

Jesus said, “Go and do the same!”

Luke 10:33-37

Getting involved

There are many ways you can be involved:

- Praying for peace in Burma and for survivors of landmines and other victims of war
- Talking to people in your church about the project
- Advocating with the Australian government to give refugee visas to refugees injured by landmines living in camps on the Thai-Burma border
- Sponsoring an amputee refugee and their family to come to Australia as refugees
- Helping to raise funds for airfares for amputee refugees
- Making friends with amputee refugees and their families after they arrive in Australia

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ဒုက္ခသည်ဒုက္ခိတ(ခြေပြက်လက်ပြက်)စီမံကိန်း

ဒုက္ခသည်ဒုက္ခိတစီမံကိန်းသည်ဒုက္ခသည်များထဲမှခြေအတုတပ်ဆင်သူများ သို့မဟုတ်လက်မရှိသူများသြစတေးလျတို့ဘေးကင်းစေရန်အကူအညီပေးမည်။

ကျွန်ုပ်တို့ဒုက္ခသည်ဒုက္ခိတများကိုကူညီခြင်းပါသည်။အကြောင်းမှာဒုက္ခသည်ဒုက္ခိတတို့မှအလွန်အမင်းဒုက္ခခံစားကြပါသည်။

ဒုက္ခသည်ဒုက္ခိတစီမံကိန်းသည်ဘာသာမရွေး၊လူမျိုးစုမရွေးကူညီပါမည်။ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာဝင်၊ခရစ်ယာန်ဘာသာဝင်၊မွတ်စလင်ဘာသာဝင်သို့မဟုတ်မိရိုးဖလာနတ်စားများတို့ကိုသာတူညီမျှတကူညီပါမည်။

ကျွန်ုပ်တို့ကူညီမည့်ဒုက္ခသည်ဒုက္ခိတတို့မှာသြစတေးလျတို့ဘေးကင်းစေရန်အကူအညီပေးခြင်းမဟုတ်ဘဲ၊လျှင်စေ့ဆိုင်ရာအကူအညီပေးခြင်းဖြစ်ကြပါသည်။

Bendigo မြို့တွင်လာဘေးကင်းစေရန်အကူအညီပေးခြင်းသော်၎င်း၊အခြားလုပ်ငန်းများတွင်၎င်းလုပ်ကိုင်နိုင်သည်သို့မဟုတ်ပညာသင်ကြားနိုင်သည်။

Bendigo မြို့တွင်မူလတန်းကျောင်းများ၊အထက်တန်းကျောင်း

များသို့မဟုတ်သက္ကသိုလ်ကျောင်းရှိပါသည်။ဆေးရုံလည်းရှိပါသည်။ဘာသာရေးအနေဖြင့်ဗုဒ္ဓဘာသာဘုန်းကြီးကျောင်း၊ခရစ်ယာန်ဝတ်ပြုကျောင်းများနှင့်ပရီကျောင်းလည်းရှိပါသည်။

သြစတေးလျအစိုးရသည်ဒုက္ခသည်များကိုများစွာထောက်ပံ့ကူညီပါသည်။