



## Sharon Porterfield Thailand

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel.”  
—*Mark 16:15*

“whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”  
—*1 John 3:17*

### Prayer Requests:

- Salvation for the Burmese/Thai/Karen government leaders and for the end of the ongoing civil war.
- Karen Christians to truly fear and love the Lord, repent and obey God’s Word, boldly pray for, evangelize and disciple their own people.
- The Lord’s provision of proper food, housing, medical care and education for the Karen fleeing in the jungles, in refugee camps and scattered villages.

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### Thai/Burmese Border

Sharon Porterfield is a missionary to the Karen tribal people along the Thai/Burma border. Before 1947, when Burma was a British colony, the Karen people were promised an independent state. However, the British denied the Karen an independent state when Burma was granted independence in 1947. The Karen found themselves under the rule of the Burmese. They still retained the right to petition Burma for independence, but Burma denied the Karen the right to independence that their new constitution gave them. Since 1948, the Karen people have been in a civil war against Burma to regain independence. This war does not get the media publicity that other wars receive, such as Bosnia, Somalia, or the west bank of Israel. Nevertheless, the effects are just as humanly tragic.



### Gospel

The Gospel first came to Burma with the arrival of Adoniram Judson, a Baptist missionary. The Karen were the first ethnic group to accept Christ. The other groups resisted the Gospel, but the Karen found it appealing. The Bible told the same stories of God that their oral traditions repeated. The 1965 all missionaries were expelled from Burma. Now the Christians in Burma are isolated and suffer severe hardship. The Karen Christians have battle lines overrunning their villages and churches.

### Displacement

As a result of the civil war there are now 125,000 Karen refugees displaced in camps along the Thailand/Burma border. The Karen flee into Thailand to escape human rights violations by the Burmese Army. Despite several actions by the United Nations, the Burmese military dictatorship has not changed their policies. The refugees have no hope of returning to their land as long as there is war in the border region. They must rely on food aid and financial support to continue to live.

### Ministry

The fields are ripe for harvest among the Karen. The people are open and hungry for the Gospel. Evangelism is on the heart of many of the Karen Christians. They want to see their people come to know Jesus Christ as Lord. Pray for workers to enter into the fields.