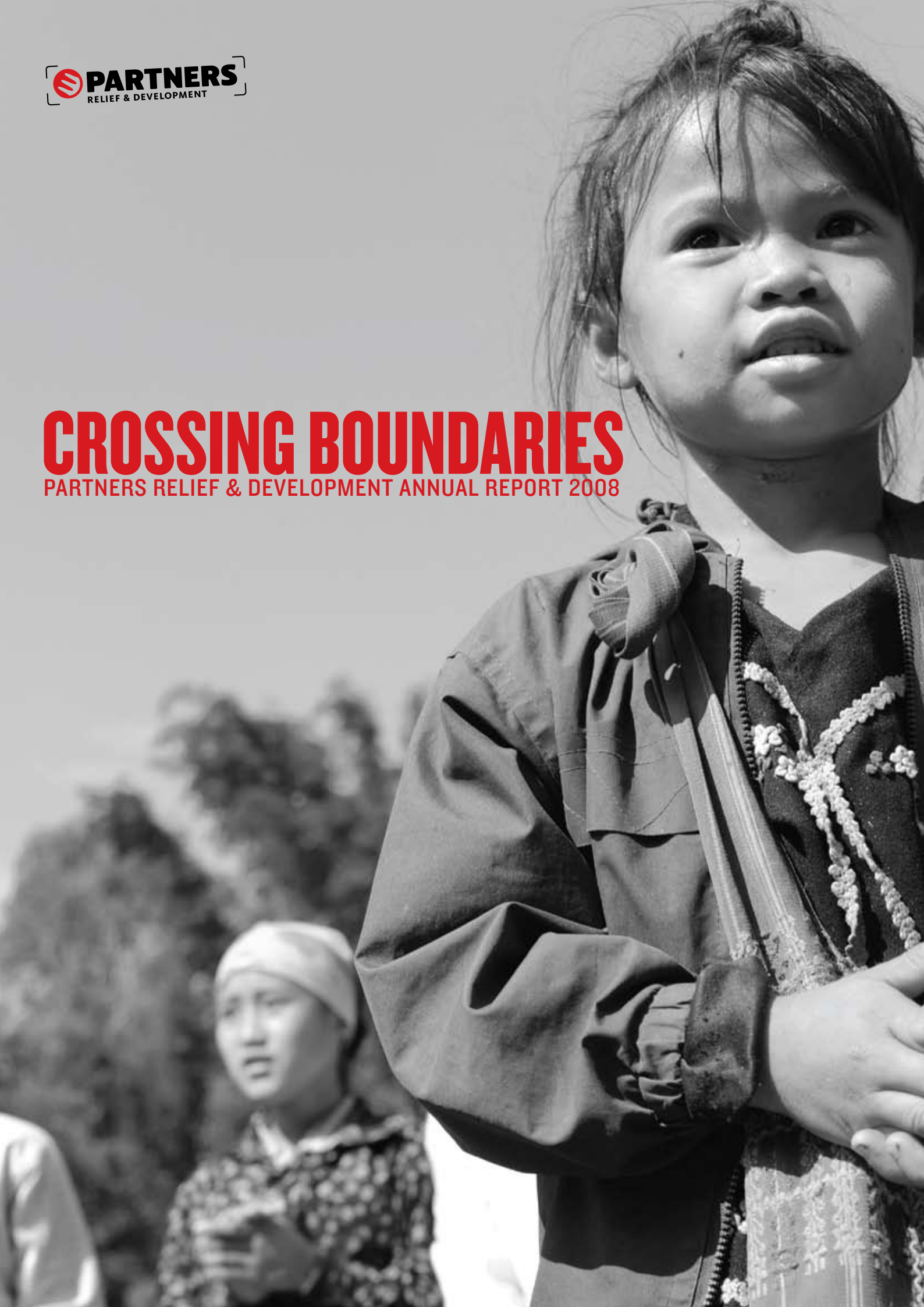


CROSSING BOUNDARIES

PARTNERS RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2008





Partners CEO, Steve Gumaer, with Saw Hser Gey, the Mone Township chairman, Nyanglebin district, Karen State, Burma (Photo: Partners)

Crossing Boundaries with Partners in 2008

In 2008 I crossed many boundaries. One was physically demanding. I walked 250 miles with two relief teams. We visited hide sites of displaced villagers, walked through the abandoned, destroyed, and land mined villages they came from, and had the pleasure of sipping tepid tea from dented tin cans while hearing their stories first hand.

Their experiences are a catalog of human misery. They described their homes being burned down, their loved ones being abused, killed, or otherwise molested by Burma Army soldiers, and the brutal end to their way of life. Many of them bear the physical scars of the abuse they described for me.

I contrasted this with the fact that these are some of the most hospitable people I have ever met. When we show up they bring us chickens to eat. They came to laugh with us, show off their newborn babies, and play a game of soccer. Their smiles, faith, and dedication to community was inspiring. I wanted to stay with them.

I visited them because I wanted to meet them in their context and know what it's like, in a more personal way, to be what we call an "IDP." My secondary purpose was to ask the question: is our support and effort on behalf of these people making the life or death difference we report? And finally, I am always in a conversation with God about what it means to love my neighbor as I love myself. So I wanted to get out there with my Karen neighbors to keep the dialogue dynamic.

I concluded a few things. One is that we are making a tremendous impact in Burma. The material and medical aid we send in has helped well over 500,000 people. I met injured and sick people who were treated at clinics and by relief teams that we support. I spent the night in two large IDP populations that were sustained by rice that we arranged for them during the last major military operation in their area. I prayed with a 19-year-old girl who would have died the night our team showed up, but instead was alive with her 9-month-old son because of the rapid intervention of Eliya, our team's chief medic.

Another conclusion I made is this: by crossing over the boundaries

of fear and risk, we have engaged God's will in a very unique and meaningful way. You will see in this report that we spent 78% of our income on relief in 2008. Half of this sum was spent assisting cyclone Nargis victims. The other half went to help the very IDPs I was interacting with on my long walk. It was very encouraging to think that the people I met were touched by our faith. Everywhere I went people knew about Partners and wanted to meet me. They knew that we were the small Christian organization that cares enough to send in supplies and skilled teams to help them survive their ordeal.

Another boundary crossing is the clear articulation of our vision, mission, and methods. In October of 2008 our international leadership team met for three days to distill what Partners essentially is. We wrestled with what the gospel truly is and what it means to be faithful to live it. We talked about our core values and how we keep them thriving. And finally, we managed to get consensus on a statement of vision that lights a fire of excitement for me.


Our Vision: Free full lives for the children of Burma.
Our Hope: Reconciled communities living in peace.

While I hiked through IDP populations I chanted this to myself and felt assured that this goal is worth all our sacrifice, all our passion, all our money, and absolutely everything we can offer to accomplish it. What do I want to win for Burma? I want free full lives for the children of Burma and I want to help bring reconciliation and peace to the communities ripped to pieces by war.

As you read this annual report keep in mind that this task has been accomplished through a team effort. Without God's direct involvement we would manage very little, if any, lasting change for the people of Burma. And, without your prayerful and financial support we would never have made it this far. Thank you for crossing boundaries with us. I am grateful.

Your brother,

Steve Gumaer



2008 was a year of crossing boundaries for Partners. With more than 300,000 men, women and children assisted in dozens of ways, we impacted more lives than any year in our history.

Partners Programs

A boy going to school at a Partners-sponsored school in Shan State, Burma. (Photo: Partners)

Crossing Boundaries in

Relief



Relief teams on mission inside Burma, bringing hope and help for internally displaced people. (Photos: FBR)



Over the last three years, emergency relief has become the core of what Partners does. In 2008, this continued to be the case. Partners utilized 78% of our program budget on emergency relief, which included the relief work related to cyclone Nargis. Partners was one of the first responders to the cyclone tragedy in May, 2008 as well as the rehabilitation projects in the aftermath of this natural disaster. Tens of thousands of people were assisted through the work of Partners and sister organizations and networks on the ground in Burma.

Incredibly, in the midst of the devastation wrought by cyclone Nargis, the ruling junta of Burma continued their onslaught of attacks in eastern Burma, where the majority of our work takes place. Thousands of families were displaced, hundreds were killed and more than a million continued to hide and survive in the jungles of Burma. Working closely with the Free Burma Rangers (FBR) and local ethnic leaders, Partners was able to assist thousands of individuals and families on the run in 2008. Through relief team support, emergency medical clinics, prepositioned relief supplies and crisis health care, Partners' relief work in 2008 made a greater impact than in any year in our history.



Mother and child hiding inside Burma. (Photo: Partners)

“To me, a faith in Jesus Christ that is not aligned with the poor ... it’s nothing.” Bono

Crossing Boundaries in Development

“All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do.”

Galatians 2:10

Partners expanded its development work in 2008 by adding a full-time national staff member as the director of our development projects in Chiang Mai as well as the purchase of new land to establish a working demonstration and training program for the people of Burma. Additionally, we are now establishing a new demonstration farm and training center near our Mae Sot field office that is working on developing simple, sustainable solutions for those living near the Thai-Burma border and inside Karen State. We are pleased to announce as well that our weaving program is now 100% sustained by income realized by the sale of weaving items produced and developed by women from Burma. In other words, no program money is utilized to support this development program and more women than ever before are creating a better life for themselves through the work of their own hands and their relationship with Partners.



Some of Partners staff and friends at the dedication of the new development farm in Chiang Mai.



Partners staff helping to plant Moringa seeds.



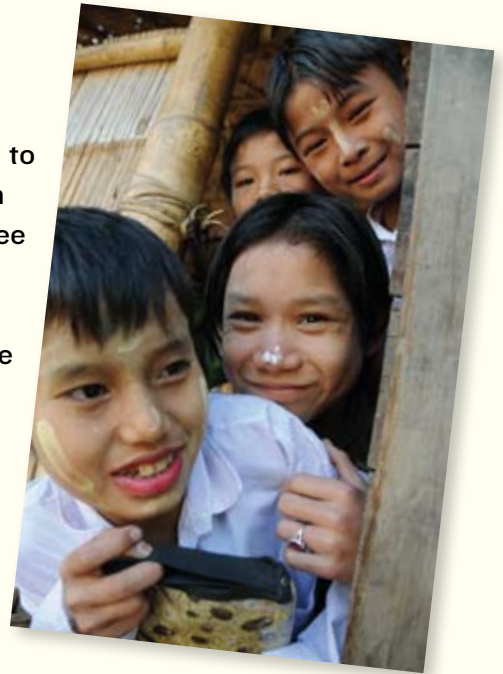
One of the many women who are weaving traditional Karen cloth for Partners' weaving project. (Photo: Brent Madison)

Crossing Boundaries for Marginalized People

“Safety and security don’t just happen, they are the result of collective consensus and public investment. We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in our society, a life free of violence and fear.”

Nelson Mandela, former president of South Africa

Twelve percent of Partners program income was used to assist and bring hope to nearly 1,500 children through our outreach to those (mostly children) living in refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border and in migrant communities in other areas of Thailand. This work is crucial as many of these children present with multiple risk factors, and are in need of comprehensive care. Our work with these vulnerable children includes health checks, hygiene packs, food and full-time supervision.



Letter from one of the schools Partners support

*Dear Partners,
May God’s Holy Spirit be upon you and all who are working with you. When it seemed there is no way for us, you arranged this support for us. Therefore we thank you with all our heart. With many thanks,
-He Daw Hrow Secretary,
Ho Kee area.*

All photos: Partners



Two children who are living in hiding in Karen State, Burma. (Photo: Partners)

Crossing boundaries in



Capacity Building



Both photos: Partners medical teams providing training for Shan and Karen medics. (Photo: Partners)

Training, teaching, and developing in the areas of maternal health care, pastoral training, evangelism, youth leadership

Seven percent of our program income went to training, teaching, and developing in the areas of maternal health care, pastoral training, spiritual transformation, youth leadership and more. 2008 saw a significant increase in the number of national staff employed and trained by Partners which is the realization of a core value we have of finding and developing national leaders to carry out the work in helping the people of Burma in various ways. One exciting

program continues to be our investment in the education of thousands of children inside Karen State, Burma. We provide teacher subsidies and school/material supplies to over 2,500 teachers and over 60,000 students in this active conflict area. This is one of the very few places in the world where this kind of program is happening and Partners was a founding member of the consortium which is carrying this out.

Relief teams receiving training by Partners staff. (Photo: Partners)



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

December 31, 2008
(All funds calculated in Thai Baht)

Contributions and Revenue

Income Contributions	49,204,959
Revenue	1,792,126

Total Income **50,997,085**

Expenses

Field Programs	40,146,354
Resource Development	641,764
Capital Expenditures	1,498,972
Field Office Administration	4,866,025

Total Expenses **47,153,115**

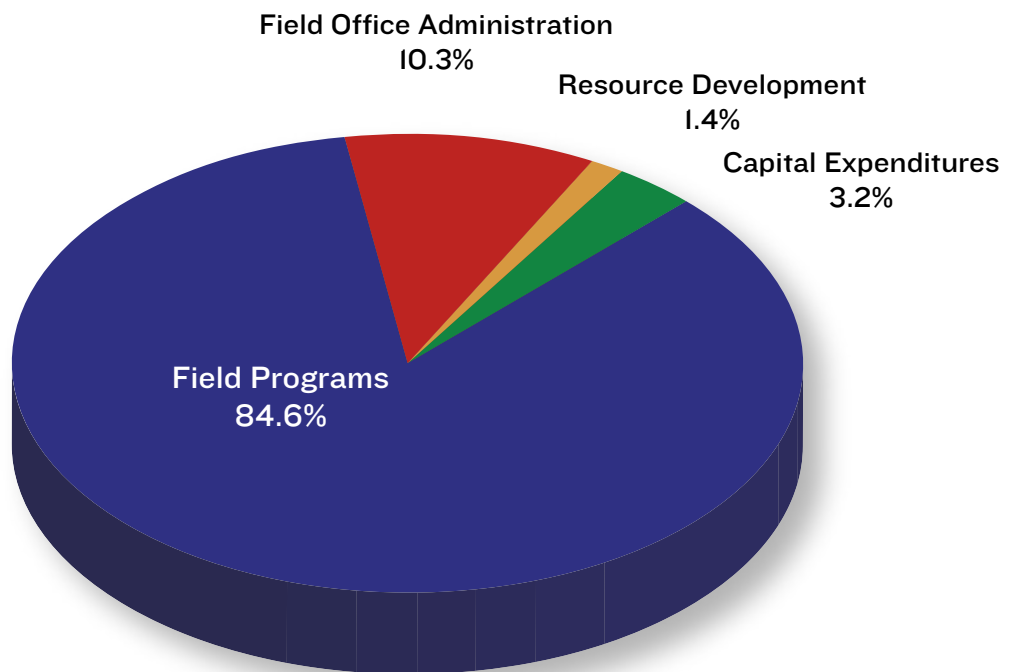
Balance of Funds **3,843,970**

This financial statement applies to the Partners Relief & Development Thailand field offices (Chiang Mai and Mae Sot) only. Specific financial statements for the individual Partners Boards in various countries (U.S., Canada, Australia, Norway, New Zealand, and the U.K.) are available from their offices in their respective countries (see inside of back page). These figures are summarized from our 2008 financial audit prepared by an independent auditor, S.J. Fontamillas & Co. (CPA) of Manila, Philippines, for the year ending December 31, 2008. All funds are calculated in Thai Baht.



The funding we received in 2008 for our work with refugees and internally displaced persons from Burma comes from nearly two thousand individuals and churches from around the world. Their relationship with us represents a true partnership as this work could not continue without their continued generosity. It also is a vivid illustration of what Partners is ultimately about: **people**. Thank you for your investment in God's Kingdom through your investment in the people of Burma.

A mother with her child in Karen State, Burma. (Photo: Partners)



(total does not equal 100% due to rounding)

Field Programs	
Relief	40%
Cyclone Relief	38%
Marginalized People	12%
Capacity Building	7%
Development	3%

The chart above represents how Partners, Thailand utilized the funds entrusted to it in 2008. Partners operates two field offices in Thailand (Chiang Mai and Mae Sot), and more than 80% of all funds received were spent on programs that directly affected people’s lives.

Within the Field Programs section of the chart, we have described how we have utilized these funds. In 2008, we continued to increase our funding toward direct relief for IDPs inside Burma who have suffered greatly over the last several years. Additionally, we have further described our relief expenditures to illustrate what percentage went to relief in general and what percentage went to Cyclone Nargis relief.



Partners staff at our annual staff retreat, March 09. (Photo: Partners)

Our staff **Crossing Boundaries**

Partners full-time staff come from all over the world. Our 30 staff members come from ten different nations: Burma, Thailand, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, USA, Canada, UK and Norway. Here most of our staff was gathered for the annual Partners Staff retreat, March 2009.


Front: Oddny Gumaer, Sarah Lapa, Hser Gay Paw Aramijit, Bom Boonpong, Craig Garrison

2nd row: Steve Gumaer, Ruth & Stu Corlett, Dara Sanginnetngam, Kritsana Mamuh, Niaw-Chanisara Silac, Pranee Saewoo, Jor Say Htoo, Tan Nay Soe, Bia Burreaw

3rd row: Dorothy & Marv Kahn, Kath Halley, Deborah Dolan, Claire & Doug Gibbons, Kerrine Olson, Boonsong, Sonya Claase, Ler Bwee Htoo

4th row: Spencer Kerrigan, Chris Dolan, Sandie Willis, Lyssa Kerrigan, Liz & Matt Fetters, Shaune Vincent

5th row: Nathan Willis, Greg Toews, Derrick Enns



YOU
can cross
boundaries

(Photo: Partners)

Contact us to find out how you can help cross boundaries:

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Photo: Partners

Free full lives for the children of Burma