

# CREATING POSSIBILITIES 2007

ANNUAL REPORT





Steve Gumaer,  
Executive Director  
Partners Relief & Development

**But you, O God, do see trouble and grief; you consider it to take it in hand. The victim commits himself to you; you are the helper of the fatherless.**

Psalm. 10:14

Dear Friends of Partners,

While working on this report I thought a lot about a young girl named Naw Charm. Her parents were killed by the Burma Army when she was an infant, she was sold as a slave when she was 10, and raped by a Burma Army soldier when she was just 11 years old. Now she lives in Loi Tai Leng, the military headquarters of the Shan State Army (SSA) in a childcare home with 72 other young girls who have endured the same sort of abuse.

Behind the numbers I manage, the endless words I produce behind my keyboard, and every time I open my mouth to speak in a church or conference room, stories like Naw Charm's motivates me.

All of our resources, our programs, and special projects are aimed at demonstrating God's love to men, women, and yes, children like Naw Charm.

This report was prepared for you. It is an important instrument of accountability and integrity that relays the bottom line of how we have used the funds you entrust to us. As you read it remember that behind each number are the lives of more than 200,000 victims of Burma Army oppression and corresponding poverty that you have helped us touch with the power of God's love.

Your Brother,

Steve Gumaer

**Our mission:** To demonstrate God's love to victims of conflict and oppression.

CREATING POSSIBILITIES BY OFFERING  
**RELIEF**

**YOU HEAR, O LORD, THE DESIRE OF THE AFFLICTED; YOU ENCOURAGE THEM, AND YOU LISTEN TO THEIR CRY.**

Psalm. 10:17

In 2007, Partners once again increased its funding to internally displaced persons inside Burma with more than 60% of our total program funding designated for this activity. As the situation inside eastern Burma continues to deteriorate, we will continue to do everything we can to bring hope and alleviate the suffering that millions are experiencing on a daily basis. Items such as food, shelter, medicine, cooking supplies, blankets and mosquito nets are examples of how these funds are spent. Additionally, Partners supports nine medical clinics inside Karen State, Burma each reaching between 3,500 and 5,000 people in desperate need of basic healthcare.

Partners relief efforts affected well over two hundred thousand displaced people in 2007.



Photo by KChay

Photo by KChay

## CREATING POSSIBILITIES BY SUPPORTING RELIEF TEAMS

Relief teams hike from areas of relative safety into areas of conflict in a deliberate attempt to rescue and aid villagers whose homes have been burned down. Most often the people they assist are destitute and their loved ones have been killed or abused by Burma Army soldiers.

A relief team, trained by the Free Burma Rangers, is usually made up of 5-7 people who have one or more of the following responsibilities: a medic, videographer (to document human rights abuses), pastor/counselor, team leader, security agent, land navigator, and a person responsible for battery and solar power for the communications equipment. Each relief team's mission is to provide material, spiritual, and general aid to people who are the target of the Burma Army's strategy to cut off village-level support of the ethnic homeland defense forces and dominate and exploit resource-rich regions outside of their immediate control.

As of this writing there are more than 1.5 million people displaced by the war in Burma. Since February 2006 more than 3000 villages have been burned down or destroyed, 30,000 people have been newly displaced, and the Burma Army has aggressively extended their control over ethnic areas in Eastern Burma by building roads and constructing new military bases.

Partners currently provides medical kits, temporary shelter, food, and other essential survival needs for 40 teams to distribute and use. As part of our equipping of relief teams, Partners also trains team members to counsel traumatized children and share their faith.



Photo by FBR

CREATING POSSIBILITIES BY HELPING  
**THE MARGINALIZED**



**Arise, LORD! Lift up your hand, O God. Do not forget the helpless.** Psalm 10:12

Fourteen percent of Partners program income was utilized to assist those (mostly children) living in refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border during 2007. Partners now has 21 Children's Projects both in the camps and in poor villages near the border. Nearly 1,300 children are positively affected by these programs that include regular health checks, hygiene packs, food, and full-time care. Additionally, Partners, in conjunction with several other organizations, sponsors more than 2,500 teachers inside Karen State, Burma providing education for more than 60,000 children.

### CHECK THIS OUT!

A new program that Partners has developed is vital to ensure continued good health for all the children in our projects.

**CHECK** (Child Healthcare – Educating Caregivers and Kids) focuses on prevention and early intervention of sickness and disease.

As well as ensuring the caregivers and older children in each project are given much needed education in basic healthcare, a qualified team of nurses and doctors have been undertaking primary health-care checks and dispensing treatment or giving referrals where needed. Our desire is to complete at least two initial checks each year, and ongoing follow-up care for each child in each project.

## CREATING POSSIBILITIES BY DOING **DEVELOPMENT**



Photo by Brent Madison

Partners continues to focus on long-term solutions to those trapped in poverty by funding development projects such as soap training, solar & UV water projects, animal husbandry, fish farming, and weaving and sewing projects. Unfortunately, during 2007 Partners lost a significant development project we had developed inside Karen State, due to the encroaching conflict in Burma.

As part of our weaving development project, Partners helps organize co-ops in villages and camps along the Thai-Burma border. Each woman in the co-op contributes to the process of collecting raw materials, dyeing the threads, weaving the cloth, and producing bags and other cloth products. Partners weaving project coordinator loves these people, prays with them and trains them in developing their weaving business.

The women who produce these items have husbands, children, families, and communities around them. Their existence is tough and they are generally trapped in a harsh cycle of poverty. Some of the communities have an even harsher challenge to deal with: the Burma Army. The weaving project empowers them with additional income so that they can feed and clothe their families.

CREATING POSSIBILITIES BY THROUGH  
**CAPACITY BUILDING**



Photo by Chris Dolan

Capacity building continued to be a priority of Partners during 2007 with an expansion of our maternal training programs, youth leadership training seminars, evangelism trips, Bible school scholarships, and pastoral training outreaches. We believe that one of the most important things we can do is to invest in people and train them to train others in meeting the needs of the people of Burma. More than 12% of our program budget went to these kinds of projects in 2007. Some highlights include:

- 78 Bible school scholarships
- 75 people trained in maternal healthcare training
- More than 200 trained in soap production, training and development
- More than 2,500 teachers supported in Karen State through teacher subsidies

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

December 31, 2007  
(All funds calculated in Thai Baht)

**Contributions and Revenue**

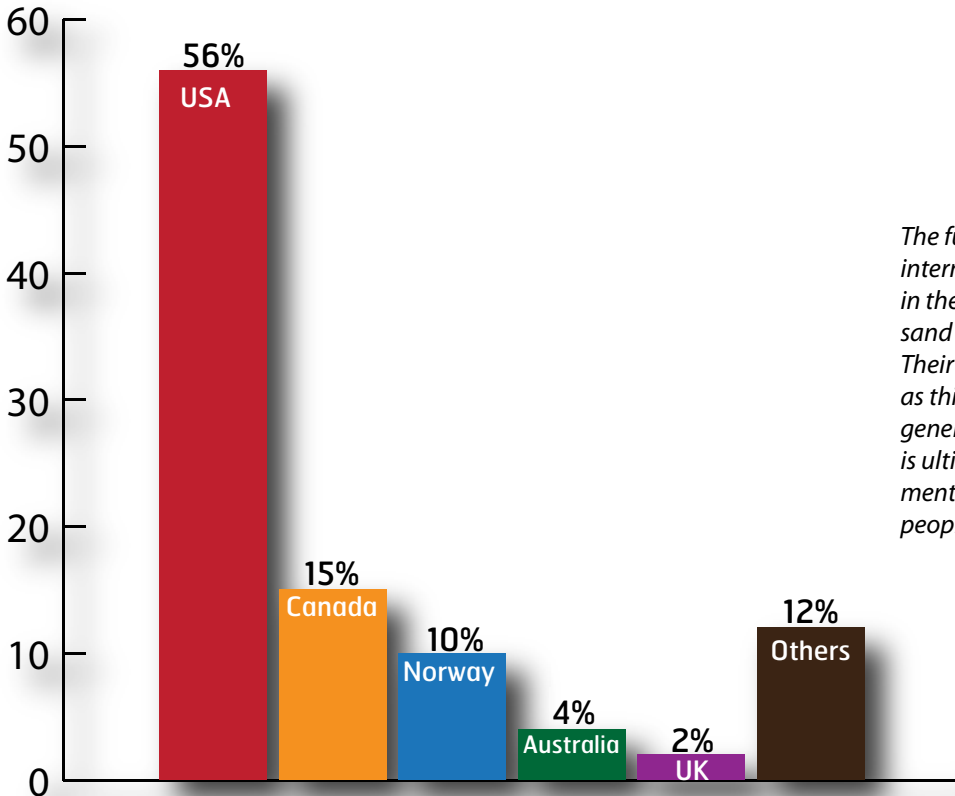
Income Contributions	28,907,772
Revenue	1,322,339
<b>Total Contributions and Revenue</b>	<b>30,230,111</b>

**Expenses**

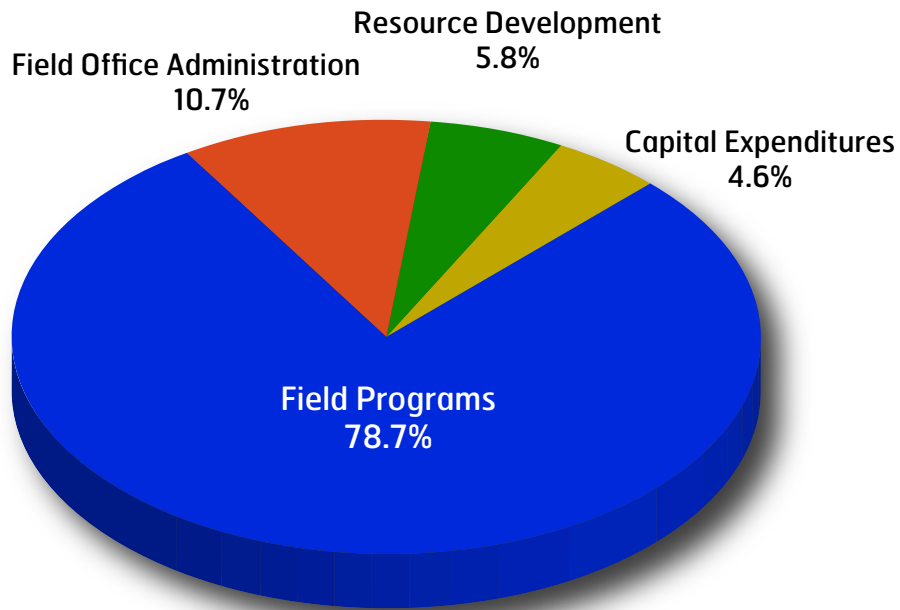
Programs	20,174,893
Resource Development	1,492,228
Capital Expenditures	1,197,952
Field Office Administration	2,751,612
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>25,616,685</b>
<b>Balance of Funds</b>	<b>4,613,426</b>

*This financial statement applies to the Partners Relief & Development, Thailand 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 countries (see back page). These figures are summarized from our 2007 financial audit prepared by an independent auditor, S.J. Fontamillas & Co. (CPA) of Manila, Philippines, for the year ending December 31, 2007. All funds are calculated in Thai Baht.*

## INCOME BY COUNTRY



*The funding we receive for our work with refugees and internally displaced persons from Burma, represented in the chart to the left, comes from more than a 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.*



*(total does not equal 100% due to rounding)*

<b>Field Programs</b>	
Relief	63.1%
Development	4.2%
Marginalized People	14.1%
Capacity Building	12.6%
Promotional items/Weaving	5.9%

*(total does not equal 100% due to rounding)*

The chart above represents how Partners, Thailand utilized the funds entrusted to it in 2007. Partners operates two field offices in Thailand (Chiang Mai and Mae Sot), and nearly 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 further described how we have utilized these funds. In 2007, we continued to increase our funding toward direct relief for IDPs inside Burma who have suffered greatly over the last several years.

# OUR STAFF

CREATING POSSIBILITIES

All of Partners staff at Partners Annual Staff Retreat, March 08



**Front:** Bom Boonpong

**2nd row:** Bia Burreaw, Hser Gay Paw Aramijit,

**3rd row:** Kritsana, Niaw-Chanisara Silac, Dara Sanginnetngam, K'Chay Wah

**4th row:** Sarah Armitage, Sonya Claase, Praanee, Brighter, Oddny and Steve Gumaer

**5th row:** Sandie Willis, Elissa Toews, Shaune Vincent, Ruth Corlett, Deborah and Chris Dolan, Lyssa Kerrigan, Plo Htoo

**6th row:** Dorothy and Marv Kahn, Kara and Craig Garrison, Stu Corlett, Liz Feters, Spencer Kerrigan, Matt Feters

# YOU

CAN CREATE POSSIBILITIES

...defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that man, who is of the earth, may terrify no more.

Psalm. 10:18

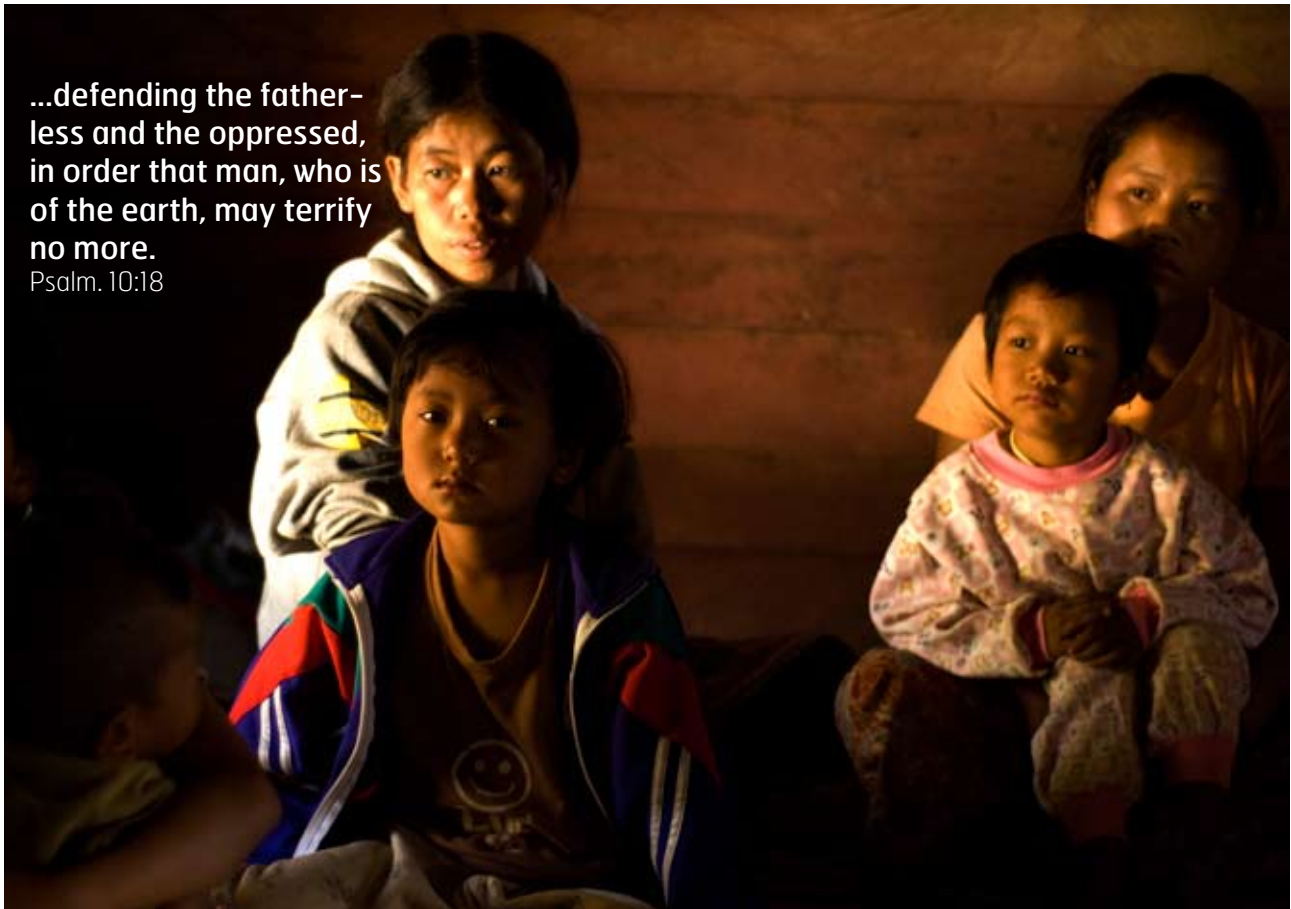


Photo by Chris Dolan

Contact us and find out how you can be a part of creating possibilities for the peoples of Burma.

## THAILAND

E-mail: [info@partnersworld.org](mailto:info@partnersworld.org)  
Mail: GPO Box 270  
Chiang Mai 50000  
Thailand  
Tel: +66-53-200-779

## USA

E-mail: [info@partnersworld.org](mailto:info@partnersworld.org)  
Web: [www.partnersworld.org](http://www.partnersworld.org)  
Mail: Partners USA  
PO Box 27220  
Albuquerque, NM  
87125-7220  
USA  
Tel: 505-248-9842

## NORWAY

E-mail: [info@partnersworld.org](mailto:info@partnersworld.org)  
Web: [www.partnersworld.org](http://www.partnersworld.org)  
Partners Norge  
Postboks 24  
7634 FROSTA  
Norway

## CANADA

E-mail: [info@partnersworld.ca](mailto:info@partnersworld.ca)  
Web: [www.partnersworld.ca](http://www.partnersworld.ca)  
Mail: Partners Canada  
33130 Springbank Road  
Calgary, Alberta  
T3Z 2L9  
Canada  
Tel: 403-242-7903

## AUSTRALIA

E-mail: [info@partnersworld.org.au](mailto:info@partnersworld.org.au)  
Web: [www.partnersworld.org.au](http://www.partnersworld.org.au)  
Mail: Partners Australia  
PO Box 13  
Alstonville NSW 2477  
Australia  
Tel: +61-266-285-387

## UK

E-mail: [info@partnersworld.org.uk](mailto:info@partnersworld.org.uk)  
Web: [www.partnersworld.org.uk](http://www.partnersworld.org.uk)  
Mail: Partners UK  
15 Kingsthorpe Close, Forest Town  
Mansfield, Notts NG19 0PD  
UK  
Tel: +44-7970-188-070

## NEW ZEALAND

E-mail: [info@partnersworld.org.nz](mailto:info@partnersworld.org.nz)  
Web: [www.partnersworld.org.nz](http://www.partnersworld.org.nz)  
Mail: Partners NZ  
PO Box 40 284  
Upper Hutt  
New Zealand  
Tel: 09 974 2850



Photo by Steve Gumaer

**“Partners** provides the most rapid response to humanitarian need on the Thai/Burma border.

Partners ability to act quickly, self sacrificially and with compassion means that people in need know that there is no obstacle they will not try to overcome to help. They are efficient, professional and comprehensive in their provision of care. During many crisis situations they have been the first to respond.

**We thank God for the faith and acts of love that the people of Partners give to us and people in need inside Burma.”**

David Eubank, FBR