

The People Of Ler Ber Her

ARMS has been working with *Partners* (a YWAM ministry running out of Chiang Mai) for years providing for the refugees in the camps inside Thailand. Over the past couple of years we have also become involved with the 1.5 million Internally Displaced Peoples (IDP's) of Burma – these people are made up from the Burmese minority groups that are being ethnically cleansed by the Burmese government. In every sense of the word Burma's Internally Displaced People's are refugees in their own country. The people of Ler Ber Her are a small group of IDP's.

The camp at Ler Ber Her consists of approximately 100 or so mainly Karen Christians families who live inside Burma close to the river. From their camp you can clearly see the Thailand - Burma border. These families that have been driven out of their own villages by the advancing Burmese army. For whatever reasons they choose to live in Burma and only cross into Thailand when they are threatened. Returning after the threat has abated.

On December 23rd 2001, Partners went into the Ler Ber Her camp to distribute rice, medical supplies and Christmas presents to the children. These had been supplied to them from ARMS' fund raising efforts in Australia. Steve Gumaer was able to share a short message with them about "God's unfailing kindness to those who call on Him" – this proved to be a *prophetic* word.

On December 25th 2001, the camp came under mortar fire from the Burmese Army. Miraculously no one was hurt. Most of the people fled for their lives into the forests; 41 families crossed into Thailand and took refuge in an old abandoned church close to the border. A few families stayed on.

On December 27th 2001, the Burmese Army came into the camp and burned it to the ground. Those who remained fled to the forests. The army burned all their houses and took all their animals, food, and destroyed their vegetable gardens.

On January 5th the people started to filter back and salvaged what they could from ashes of their home and moved to a site about 2 km up stream where they have rebuilt their camp.

When they returned the people of Ler Ber Her did not even have machetes with which they could cut the bamboo to build their houses. These were given to them by *Partners*. They have no gardens, no rice, no animals and are reliant on what ever comes across the border from Thailand.

Whilst there is a moderate supply of fish in the river, these families will still need until they can fully feed themselves.

ARMS has committed to raise funds to buy rice and provide animals for the families at Ler Ber Her.

We are asking YWAM bases and churches to donate to this appeal. Funds can be sent to;

**ARMS National Office.
1 Kent Rd.
Surrey Hills. Vic 3127**

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Cheques should be made payable to ARMS, credit card facilities are available.

[Some material is available on the ARMS web site www.arms.org.au](http://www.arms.org.au)