



FREE-DOM *n.* {free-duhm} ~1. THE STATE OF BEING FREE *or* AT LIBERTY RATHER THAN IN CONFINEMENT *or* UNDER PHYSICAL RESTRAINT. ~&

FULL-NESS *adj.* {fool-ness} ~1. TO BE COMPLETELY FILLED; CONTAINING ALL THAT CAN BE HELD; FILLED TO CAPACITY: A FULL CUP.

 *Burma*  
>60,280,000 LIVES



~March Issue 2013



# FREE, FULL LIVES FOR THE CHILDREN OF BURMA

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## OUR VISION

For those of us who live in the Western World, we get to live a free and full life, (in principle and in reality), where choices and opportunities abound. We are rarely, if ever, faced with the knowledge that it could all end, that it could be taken away. We have a hope that extends to future generations to come.

The fact is though, that for most children in Burma, freedom and fullness are concepts too far away to grasp or ever hope for. Many will never know a different reality than one of oppression, terror and loss.

For us, this group of ordinary people who make up Partners Relief & Development, that reality is simply not ok. We believe with every fibre of our being, that we are here to tell the world what is happening to these dear souls, and to help change their reality; to bring forth God's intention for all of His children, a liberation and fullness of life –

to

**"BESTOW BEAUTY INSTEAD  
OF ASHES, GLADNESS INSTEAD  
OF MOURNING, & PRAISE  
INSTEAD OF DESPAIR."**

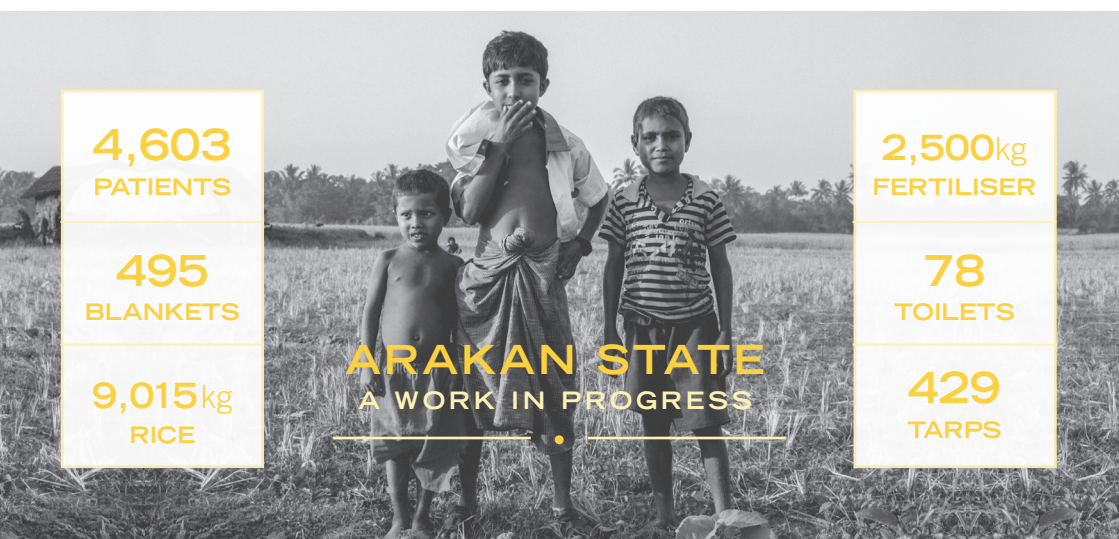
ISAIAH 61:1-3

That is our hope for this year and for the years to come, for the people of Burma. That is why we do the work that we do for these children who deserve every opportunity that has been kept from them. That is the heart, soul and intention that we put into each of our programs.





Caring for beautiful  
**KAREN CHILDREN**  
in refugee camps along the  
Thai-Burma border.



**4,603**  
PATIENTS

**495**  
BLANKETS

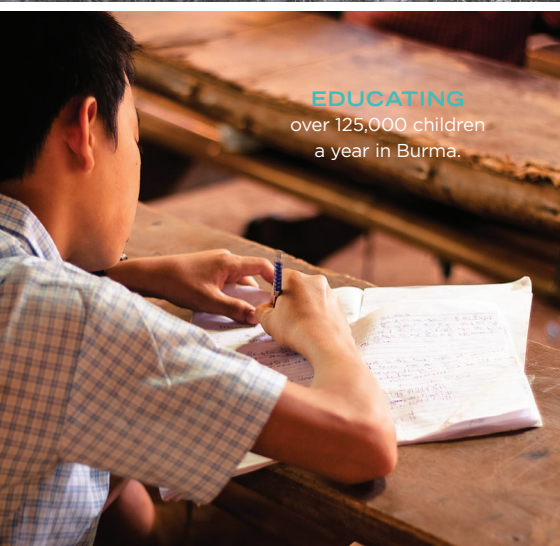
**9,015kg**  
RICE

**2,500kg**  
FERTILISER

**78**  
TOILETS

**429**  
TARPS

**ARAKAN STATE**  
A WORK IN PROGRESS



**EDUCATING**  
over 125,000 children  
a year in Burma.



**HELPING MIGRANT**  
communities with hygiene,  
health & wellness



ARAKAN STATE UPDATE

# A SAVAGE LAND



Janath, 10, and Alima, 13 (not their real names), thought they did the only right thing by grabbing their baby brother when they ran for their lives, away from those who were destroying their village and killing everybody in sight with their spears. But in the chaos and pandemonium, they lost sight of their mother, and she of them! They ran for the ocean, which was the only direction they could run. It occurred to them as they were standing by the shore—together with the rest of their village, every one of them, more terrified than they had ever been, all wondering if they would still be alive by nightfall—where their mom was, and whether she had seen that they were holding their brother?



It was but seconds later they heard screams from the voice they knew so well. The screams were from a person pleading for her life. They knew in that instant that the attackers had taken their mother, and that they would never again see her.

Their mother had run back for her baby. She did not know that her daughters already carried him. As soon as she entered the village compound, now ablaze, the men in uniforms and with swords in their hands saw her and showed no mercy. She was brutally hacked to death, and then they threw her body into the flames that slowly ate what was once her home.



THE ROHINGYA ARE  
**A DEHUMANISED**  
& PERSECUTED  
MINORITY IN BURMA.

**>40,000**  
ROHINGYA  
CHILDREN  
ARE DEPRIVED  
OF RIGHTS TO  
TRAVEL, GO TO  
SCHOOL OR TO  
MARRY IN THE  
FUTURE.

**800,000**  
ROHINGYA  
ARE DENIED  
FUNDAMENTAL  
**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
& FREEDOMS.

BY ODDNY GUMAER

I sat with Janath, Alima and their baby brother in a tent in a temporary camp in Sittwe, Arakan State just a few weeks ago. Their faces were serious, a natural manifestation of the unspeakable trauma they were going through. Not even when they got to see a photo of themselves on the screen of my digital camera did they break a smile. They are now left to survive on their own in the camp, together with thousands of others who all had similar stories.

Right now there are an estimated 100,000 Rohingya refugees in Western Burma's Arakan State. These people are living a sub-human existence. They live each day as if the reality of their lives is of no consequence to the rest of the world. Most of them are living in makeshift camps without proper shelter, sanitation, or any access to medical care, and with almost no food. Add to that the reality that the monsoon season is just months away; and the fact that they are completely without any protection from the attackers who already have killed so many, and destroyed their villages.

Partners is one of the few aid organisations in the area, providing relief to as many of these refugees as we are able to, with our limited resources. For the past two months, we have been sending in relief teams to the frontlines to provide critical medical care, shelter, blankets and food, and to build desperately needed latrines and water pumps.

We hope against hope that more funds will come in so we can continue to save lives. That is where we need your help and partnership so critically at this time. Please let the Rohingya know they are not forgotten by the rest of humanity, by giving to our efforts to bring relief and love to those that are suffering in this country.



**YOU CAN HELP. GIVE TODAY!**

[WWW.PARTNERSWORLD.ORG/ARAKAN-RELIEF](http://WWW.PARTNERSWORLD.ORG/ARAKAN-RELIEF)

# help SOMEONE *a contest*

## AND THE WINNER is...

**Pete Rhodes-Robinson**

{YOUTH PASTOR OF ONSLOW COMMUNITY CHURCH, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND}

With the help of his 'Burma Buds' Ashleigh and Matilda and his awesome Youth Group who diligently raised funds for Partners all year. **THEY RAISED AN IMPRESSIVE \$3512.50**

*thank you for buying gifts...*

# MADE WITH LOVE



SHINE A LIGHT



SUPPORT A SCHOOL



RICE FOR LIFE



HYGIENE PACKS



ANIMALS ON THE FARM



MEDICINE



YOU CAN NOW DOWNLOAD OUR MAGAZINE FOR YOUR IPAD  
[MAGAZINE.PARTNERSWORLD.ORG](http://MAGAZINE.PARTNERSWORLD.ORG)



# DIRECTOR'S DESK



Canada Spring 2013

Dear Friends,

As we thaw out from another winter and see nature awake from its snowy sleep, we enjoy the transformation of our surroundings into a beautiful spring. Burma as a country has been thawing this last year after many decades of being isolated from most of the world. In Central Burma we can see the most new growth in freedoms for the people, media and tourism and this is generally what is highlighted in the news media in Canada.

Other parts of Burma are still locked in civil war as the Burma government and military seek to secure the last remaining pockets of resources and investments. This is happening in Kachin State after the Burma Army broke a 17 years cease-fire agreement. In other areas, persecution has increased like the ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya people in Arakan State which you've been reading about in this magazine. In areas that have been at 'peace' for 40+ years, but are under the control of militias who work for the Burma Army, we hear endless stories of land confiscation, forced drug production and human trafficking.

We have a long road ahead in helping rebuild the country of Burma and to free this next generation from the incredible pains that the previous three generations have suffered. Our work cannot happen without the prayers and financial support that you give us. I am so grateful that individuals like you choose to help these precious people in Burma, thank you.

Please stay connected with us as we explore new ways to help in this changing environment. Know that you are a part of an incredible, global cause to change the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. Our Facebook page is continually updated with current information and there are new blog and video postings on our website further detailing how we're helping.

Thanks again,

GREG TOEWS

P.S. Our next major event is the 5th Annual Partners Charity Golf Tournament happening on June 20, 2013 in Calgary. (Please check the website for more information and registration)



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**OUR VISION** Free, full lives for the children of Burma

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