

NOV 2024 ISSUE

# KAREN MISSION NEWS

A Mission Outreach of Providence Canadian Reformed Church



## Karen Mission Call

BY RICHARD HORLINGS

If you have the opportunity to visit a Karen home, you will likely see a poster on the wall with the title "Saw Ba U Kyi's Four Principles". These are four political statements that were written by the first leader of the Karen Revolution. These words have risen from the level of political demands to the level of a creed among Karen people.

If you meet a Karen person in Hamilton, that person will probably identify as Christian. If you ask that person what it means to be Christian, the most common answer would be, "It means that you are a good person. It means that you help your people and love your people." For many Karen people, being Christian is part of their Karen identity.

Which identity is more important? Which kingdom is most important? For many Karen people, the establishment of a Karen state is most important. They believe that it is vital that Karen people be united so that this goal can be met. In North America, many Karen are afraid to lose their language and ethnic identity.

The Bible teaches us that our true citizenship is in heaven. The only lasting kingdom is the kingdom of Jesus Christ. Our biggest problem is not oppression by a military junta, but sin. Union with Jesus Christ through true faith is most important, not ethnic unity.

It is in the backdrop of this mindset that we bring the gospel to the Karen community. Our task is to direct Karen people away from a political ideology and towards true faith in Jesus Christ. We do this when we visit families and have devotions with them. We do this when we invite people to join us in Bible study or to come to Providence Church. We do this in our conversations, which are many. By God's grace, there are some Karen who desire to remain faithful to God's word.

It is sad when this message goes unheeded. Yet it is important that the gospel continues to go out into the Karen community. The gospel must continue to call the Karen people to seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, and call them to true faith and repentance.

## Reasons for Joy

Karen Language  
Catechisms Donated  
150

Bi-Weekly Boys Mentorship  
8 Participants

Thursday Zoom Bible Study  
24 Participants

Karen Bible Text Imported  
to Bibledit  
100% Complete!

Single Youtube Viewership  
199 Views!





# Karen Language Fellowship Service

DECEMBER 15TH - 3:30PM - STREETLIGHT MINISTRIES

Imagine that you moved to a foreign country. You found a faithful church. You came to the worship services on Sunday. But the entire service was in a foreign language. The only words you could understand were "Amen" and "Hallelujah". You heard a sermon, but you did not understand it. You were not able to learn about God's Word. You were not able to apply the sermon to your life. There were prayers, but you could not join in because of the language barrier. The congregation sang beautiful songs, but you did not know what they meant. The only part of the worship service that was truly familiar was the collection.

For many newcomers, this is the challenge when they come to Canada. It is hard to feel fully engaged in a service in a new language. Even for people who have lived in Canada for a number of years, worship remains a challenge. At Providence Canadian Reformed Church, we have sought to bridge the gap. The Karen people meet in the consistory room after the service. A member gives a summary of the sermon, which Semula translates into Karen.

We would like to bridge the gap even further by holding Karen language fellowship services at Streetlight once every two months. The entire fellowship service will be translated into Karen. The most important part of the service will be a redemptive-historical exposition of Scripture. It is our prayer that these fellowship services will strengthen the Karen members of Providence and Streetlight. It is also our prayer that we can invite members of the community to join us in our Christ-centered fellowship service. May God be glorified by this initiative!



Visit Our Website

## COME ALONGSIDE

- Pray
- Learn Common Karen
- Rides to Church and Daily Activities
- Leaders for Youth Group
- Sermon Summary Help

Help Support This Mission:  
providence.donate@gmail.com  
(EFT)



# Learn Karen

GOOD MORNING =  
GHAW LUH A GHAY

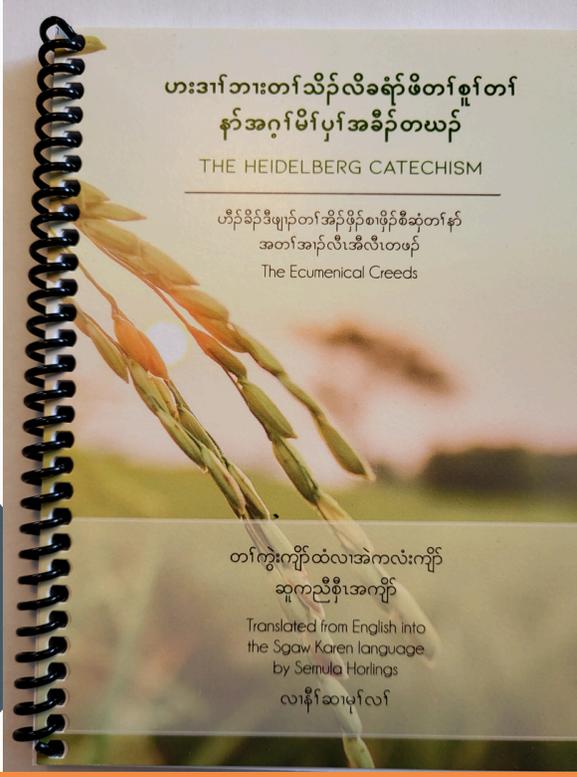
GOOD AFTERNOON =  
NEE LUH A GHAY

GOOD EVENING = HA  
LUH A GHAY

GOOD NIGHT = NA LUH  
A GHAY



JOIN US - Annual AGM  
Thursday  
Jan 16th  
2025



ဟးဒၢၢ်ဘၢးတၢ်သိၣ်လိၣ်ခၢ်ဖိတၢ်စူၢ်တၢ်  
န့ၢ်အဂ့ၢ်မိၢ်ပုၢ်အခိၣ်တယၣ်

THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

ဟံၣ်ခိၣ်ဒီဖျါၣ်တၢ်အိၣ်ဖျါၣ်စးဖျါၣ်စးဆ့ၢ်တၢ်န့ၢ်  
အတၢ်အၢၣ်လိၣ်အိၣ်လိၣ်တဖၣ်  
The Ecumenical Creeds

တၢ်ကွဲးကွိၣ်ထံလၢအဲကလံးကွိၣ်  
ဆူကညိၣ်အဲကွိၣ်

Translated from English into  
the Sgaw Karen language  
by Semula Horlings  
လၢနီၢ်ဆၢမုၢ်လၢ