



My CHW Students...

I'm sitting on the top of a beautiful mountain in Shan State as I write this. Shan soldiers without jobs to do are coming in and out of the wood thatch house. The rain has been a gentle drizzle all morning. Fog surrounds me, and I can't see the lush green of the valley below me. I'm amazed that God has me here to teach health care, and to share His love with this Buddhist community!

**Last month I interviewed my CHW (Community Health Worker) students.
This is what I learned...**

- * I have 48 dynamic students. Between them they speak 9 different languages - Burmese, Shan, Thai, English, Palong, PaO, Chinese, Hindi, Kachin, and Karen!
- * 4 of my students have NEVER had any formal education. Most of them have not completed a high school level education.
- * Their previous work experiences include farming, teaching, tourist guide, and being a soldier. One even admitted to previously farming opium!
- * About 1 in 3 of my students has had one or both parents die. The average age of my students is only 23 years old. Many who have not had parents yet die have been separated from their mothers and fathers and siblings for years.

I asked them how the war in Burma has affected them personally. These are their words:

- * "Everything I have to do has to be a secret."
- * "I've lived in a soldier environment all of my life."

- * "I live a life of fear that the Burma Army will harm my family - even for being here to study healthcare."
- * "My father was forced to porter for the Burma Army. They refused to give him food for five days. After that he died."
- * "The Burma Army beat my family members in front of me."
- * "The Burma Army shot my father when my mother was pregnant with me."
- * "I'm not interested in the situation inside Shan State. It's hard enough to look after my family here in this IDP/refugee camp."
- * "The Burma Army burned my home down. They steal our animals. They take our food. They make us pay unfair taxes. They force us to work for them without pay."

Despite the hardships, the trials, the sorrows and the tears, they hold onto HOPE. These are some of their dreams for the future...

- * "I want to be a good medic and help my people."
- * "I want to get married."
- * "I want to heal the Shan who are suffering from illness."
- * "I wish to be peaceful."

This is just a glimpse of who my CHW students are, and who they want to be.

PRAY

- * That God will heal their broken hearts and war-torn lives.
- * That God will continue to use visiting medical teams, doctors, nurses, and English teachers to minister to their hearts, build them up, teach them skills, and show His grace and love through them.
- * Pray they meet Jesus on their journey - they have a rough road ahead of them.
- * Pray for the Burma Army in all the oppression and evil they've done. Pray for grace and love to fill their hearts and change their actions.

THANK YOU for your continued love, encouragement, support, and prayers! My heart and spirit are made strong through the love you show me in so many ways. My students also thank you for your prayers for them. It strengthens them to know that you care so much.

Love in Christ,
Shaune

PS - Your prayers and support are always welcomed, appreciated, and needed. To give to this ministry, you can send financial gifts to me through Partners by clicking [here](#).

