

Newsletter September 30, 2006

“KAREN”, “Joy, K-A-R-E-N, K-A-R-E-N”, she repeated the word while telling me about her dreams.

It was her number three dream, in that I was playing a key role. However, there was no person nor place name KAREN that I knew, at least in that moment.

Two days before I left for this trip, I called my bank to ensure that my MAC card will be working while I am in Asia. “We need your TAX ID from YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL.” The person said. I went on my file to check the YAB 501c document, and guess what? In front of me was my case worker’s naming KAREN. (IRS assigns a case worker to help with my case; if anytime I have any problems I can call her. And her name is “KAREN”, I never notice until this moment), I was surprised, and I should say VERY SURPRISED. “God, what do you want to tell me? “ I kept it in my mind at the same time.

We spent two days in Taiwan, and another miracle had happened, I will explain in the next month’s issue.

When we arrived Thailand while waiting for the next flight, we stop at one bookstore.

“Hey, Joy look at this book, may be this tribe Karen is your KAREN?” My husband showed me a book he found on the shelf, I look at it in the front and the back, have no idea what the book is about but it does talk about a “rebel” tribe named Karen.

We when on to Chiang-Mai, the second largest city in Thailand located in the North of the country where we had meeting with one of our friends Debra and her husband Dan.. We had good time together; especially important was when Debra gave us a history lesson about the nation. We

discussed lots of issues including human trafficking, national strong hole, cultural bondages, and the people in this country..... Debra is a wonderful teacher.

Next morning, Debra came to pick us up and gave us a tour in town. She was talking while driving around places, and suddenly I heard her mentioned about a name, “K-A-R-E-N”. My husband and I looked at each other., I feel all my blood was run into my head. I look at her, and told her my friend’s dream about me and the name “KAREN”.

You can image how we felt about it when the name came up at that moment, and she was driving on the busy street...

Later on we all decided to go to the book store and re-search for what we yearn to know about, the culture and the history of the tribe “Karen”.

As we inquired further, this was what she told me...

Karen tribe has about 500,000 people in Thailand side, and there are more of them in Burma. It’s been sixty years they struggled for survival against the Burmese Military regime; they’ve fought for freedom because they don’t want to come under the ruling of the communist government. They were betrayed by the British in world WAR II while they were trying to become independent thinking British Government will help support the move. And now as the small state is fighting for survival, their story has long forgotten by the rest of the world.

“You know, Joy, Burmese Military is going into the Karen’s villages with their hand picked HIV solders. By raping the KAREN women, they purposely look to eliminate this tribe. This is going to happen this afternoon and yet no one wants to report it. You can’t see this kind of news in the paper; they have just been ignored by the world.”

Do you know how I felt; I felt a fire baton had passed onto my hands.

Debra was kept saying. “Next time when you are here, I will connect you with a couple who work in a refuge camp. Their names are David and KAREN...” I said, “Debra, here is another KAREN.” We looked at each others, speechless...

When I came back to US, I called my friend who had told me her dreams, about all that had happened, and I suddenly found out, her name is also “DEBRA”...

-----To be continuing next month-----

### Participate in YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL

- Joy is preparing for a financial education program to the State College School Area Learning Enrichment and Student Services director. Her second meeting with the director and some of the school councilors will be at October 27<sup>th</sup>. Please pray for the favor and open doors to minister in the school.
- We are working on our “Butterfly Book”, pray for the good use of the book to transform lives.
- Joy is connecting business people in town, sharing to them what YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL is about, and inviting them to work together with us to reach our community.
- Joy is looking to work with the local police station, please pray for her wisdom and the workers who can help with the project.
- **Ordinary woman, doing extraordinary work. What are you going to said?- You Are Beautiful-**