

Burma Vision: Nay Hser shedding light on Karen State blindness.

During the 1997 offensive, a medic from K6 crossed over into Thailand at Bung Klung- and Free Burma Rangers was started (Eliya met David Eubank). At the same time, another medic in the exact same situation had to escape his homeland; he is Nay Hser. Nay Hser has become an eye medic of extraordinary skill- working with Free The Oppressed to bring sight to people in Karen State Burma and beyond.

Nay Hser and his wife and two teen-aged boys live near Mae la refugee camp in the Thai-Burma border city of MaeSot.

There he was recruited by Scottish missionary ophthalmologist Frank Green -to undergo rigorous, but unconventional- training in cataract and other sight-saving eye microsurgery.



I met NayHser in 2012. Prior to that, I had tried to adapt American optics, vision screening and surgery with FBR head medic Eliya near Bung Klung and Leh Tong Ku villages. I quickly grew to love Nay Hser, his good english, his prayer, his music and his wit- not unlike Eliya's. Nay Hser quickly trained the FBR medics about instruments, sterilization and cataract surgery he had perfected working with Dr. Frank Green in Dr. Cynthia's clinic in MaeSot. We purchased more transportable equipment since Nay Hser, lacking a formal MD degree, is not able to work independently in Thailand.

NayHser has been working with the blessing of health organizations in the 7 districts in Karen State and they are now starting to supply him with some funds for transportation and security to get to remote clinics. He travels by foot, boat, mule, scooter and jungle truck. He holds clinics for 1-2 weeks seeing hundreds of referred patients, dispensing whatever spectacles Free Burma Rangers and Burma Vision have collected, and preparing patients for eye surgery under

local anesthesia in schools, churches or even under a large tree outside. Instruments are sterilized by “pressure cooker” over a fire. Power is usually with their small generator.

Nay Hser keeps meticulous records and has filed annual reports with me, with Dr. Frank Green and Karen health organizations. Over 2016, he performed 916 cataract extractions with intra-ocular lens implant, 44 glaucoma procedures, 99 pterygia, and 26 other. He dispensed 865 pairs of glasses. His biggest expenses are disposable materials and lenses for cataract surgery, travel, and spectacles. Free Burma Ranger medics never seem to have enough glasses to had out.



Nay Hser’s surgical skills can be viewed from www.BurmaVision.com.



Nay Hser will continue to travel and offer high quality sight restoration through cataract and other surgery with the support of Free the Oppressed and Burma Vision. He needs many more cataract implants, injectables and glasses.

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