



# ASIAN TRIBAL MINISTRIES



MISSIONS INFORMATION

&

ORIENTATION BOOKLET



# ABOUT ATM

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Asian Tribal Ministries (ATM) was founded and established by Pastors Timothy and Rebecca Laklem in 1986 beginning with the Discipleship Training School in Doi Saket, Chiang Mai with the vision of raising up tribal young people to know and serve the Lord and supporting them to reach out to their villages.

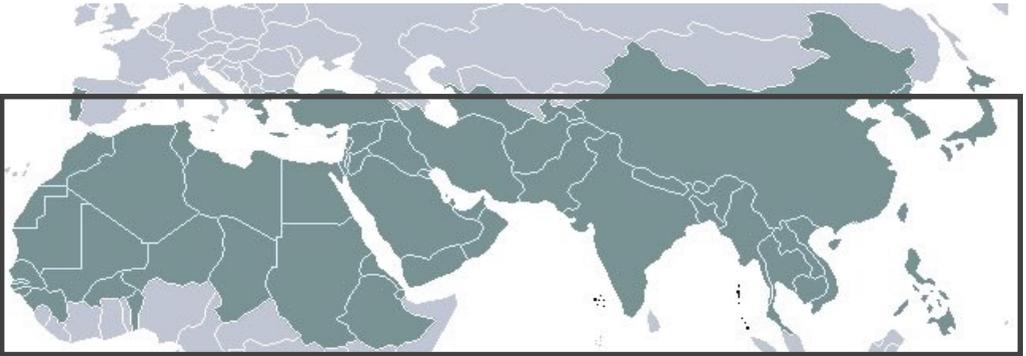
Since then the Lord has expanded the vision and ministry of ATM to also reach out to the Ethnic groups along the border of Thailand and Burma especially the Karen people, bringing the Gospel to them and also providing people with basic living needs and the building of schools and supporting of local churches and orphanages in Burma.



Pastor Timothy & Rebecca Laklem 2016 – Founders of Asian Tribal Ministries

Pastors Timothy and Rebecca have been led by the Lord to speak up for justice and the cause of the Karen people and the people of Burma and have been striving to bring peace and development along the border and inside the Karen State since 1999. ATM has the vision of reaching out to nation leaders, speaking and standing up for truth and righteousness to open the doors that will bring the light of the gospel to the 10/40 window.

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## THE 10/40 WINDOW

The 10/40 Window is the area of the world between latitudes 10 degrees and 40 degrees north of the equator in the Eastern Hemisphere, covering North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. The window contains most of the world's areas of greatest physical and spiritual needs, most of the world's least-reached peoples and most of the governments that oppose Christianity. Two-thirds of the world's population is located in the 10/40 window.

ATM is now involved in many different areas of ministry but our core vision is as follows:

**“To make committed Disciples of Christ, reach the unreached, and bring hope and compassion to those who are in desperate need.”**

In every area of life and ministry at ATM we strive to maintain these 3 core aspects of the ministry's vision.

Pastor Timothy and Rebecca's eldest daughter Pastor Karenn Dakota and her husband Pastor Somphet Dakota are now Directors of Asian Tribal Ministries and continue to lead and carry out the vision God has given for ATM.



Ps Somphet, Karenn Dakota and Children  
ATM Directors

# OUR LOCATION

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Asian Tribal Ministries head office and main base is located in Northern Thailand in a town called **Doi Saket** which is a 30 minute drive north of **Chiang Mai** city.



Northern Thailand is known for its beautiful mountains and tribal villages and cultural heritage as well as its agricultural projects.

# NORTHERN THAILAND

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**MOUNTAIN LIFE**



**BUDDHISM**



**CHIANG MAI**

Surrounded by the tallest mountains in Thailand, Northern Thailand is cooler than the rest of the usually sweltering country and thus particularly popular in December and January. In the mountains at night temperatures occasionally dip below freezing, although in the plains the daily average is rarely less than 25 Centigrade.

Culturally, Northern Thailand shows heavy influences from the neighboring cultures of Myanmar and Yunnan (China).

The kingdoms of Lanna (centered at Chiang Mai) and Sukhothai were the first historical Thai nations.

Much of northern Thailand was for a long time off limits due to a series of Communist insurgencies and Myanmar's drug battles and civil wars spilling over the border.

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# BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KAREN AND ETHNIC PEOPLE OF BURMA

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After the 2nd World War in 1948 the British gave the Ethnic people of Burma their independence including the Karen, one of the largest Ethnic groups in Burma. In 1949 civil war broke out between the Burmese and all the other Ethnic groups. Since then the Karen have been at war with the Burmese for over 60 years. This caused a flood of internally displaced villagers and fleeing of Karen refugees (200,000) into Thailand and surrounding countries in 1995.

Since then Thailand established 9 main refugee camps along the border the largest called Mae La with over 50,000 Karen refugees most of whom have been there over 20 years. The border between Burma and Thailand has thus become a huge mixing pot of criminal activities and human rights abuses and injustices and atrocities.

In 2007 the KNU/KNLA Peace Council were able to reach a peace treaty of ceasefire but which still lacked true peace and development within the Karen State. Many refugees started returning to their home land and are in urgent need of medical help and education and development.

In February 2012 the KNU/KNLA Peace Council again had peace negotiations with the Burmese military government and reached a more formal agreement for peace officially recognised and also the opportunity for trade and development including in infrastructure, education and medical facilities in Karen State.





More Karen families are beginning to return to Karen State in Burma to rebuild their lives and homes in their homeland.

There is next to no development in most areas with the basic village lifestyle and no real opportunity for health care or education.

Our hope is that ATM along with other genuine organisations with the desire to assist the Karen and other Ethnic groups will be able to contribute and improve the situation for many returning families.



# WHAT WE DO

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Burma and our goal is to be effective in bringing the good news of the Gospel to all these areas.

As mentioned above our goal is to maintain the core vision of ATM which includes:

1. Discipleship - To make Disciples of Christ
2. Evangelism - To reach remote and unreached areas with the Gospel
3. Mercy Ministry - To bring aid and development with love and compassion to those who are in desperate need.



## TRAINING

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ATM runs SPRINGROCK INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY SCHOOL, a Discipleship and Leadership Training School, that is open throughout the year. Our students mainly come from tribal villages in Thailand or from Ethnic States in Burma. The focus of the DTS is very much practically involving the students in everyday life and ministry on our missions base. They are taught both in class as well as on the field as we outreach and bring aid to different villages.

The DTS not only teaches the Bible but aims to teach practical life and vocational skills that can help our students find their passion and calling and something to be a blessing to others

# HOW CAN YOU HELP

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We would love to have teachers, pastors and teams who have the same passion and who have experience in teaching to come and share with our students and help them to grow in their walk with God.

We also regularly minister to and hold seminars for local pastors and leaders from the mountain areas and in Thailand who need encouragement and support for their ministry. If you feel led to minister in this area with your team you can prepare:

- Lessons to teach (1-3 hours)
- Support, resources and materials for local pastors and their churches.

Practical ministry tools such as songs, dramas, any other skill you may have!



# YOUTH AND KID'S

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ATM regularly runs kids camps and youth camps during school holidays which are between the months of February - May and also in October.

These are powerful times of teaching and ministering to youth and children in many orphanages and children's homes as well as local schools.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP

Camps can run for 2 days – 1 week and we would love to have teams help us run these camps. You can prepare:

- Bible Teaching for Children
- Music and Worship Program
- Dramas
- Gifts like small toys or treats to give out
- Games
- Team building activities





# EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

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There are still many unreached villages and areas in Thailand and Burma that have yet to hear the Gospel. Most are either Buddhist or Animist and many are greatly affected by witchcraft and demonic influence. Most of these areas we go to, are in the northern mountain regions of Thailand or across the border into the jungles of Burma.

ATM team regularly outreaches and evangelizes alongside with local pastors who then follow-up in teaching the Word and plant churches in these villages.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP

We would love for you to join us as we reach unreached villages. If you feel led to be involved you can prepare:

- Your personal Testimony of how you came to know Christ
- Drama's / Skits - Short Messages
- Evangelism tools such as tracts, pictures, Jesus Film or other Gospel films.
- Songs and Dances

Bible's, Mp3 recordings, CD's (anything that we can leave with the villagers.)



## MEDICAL MISSIONS

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Thailand is surrounded by and shares borders with countries who have suffered greatly because of poverty and civil war. Most of these places along the border are underdeveloped and need medical attention.

ATM has bases along the Thai/Burma border that are used to run medical day clinics to bring urgent medical help to internally displaced Karen villages.

\*Each village is different and may have different medical issues to be attended to.

**When planning a Medical Missions Team please contact ATM team ([atmdoisaket@gmail.com](mailto:atmdoisaket@gmail.com)) who will gather the necessary information according to the village that will be visited.**



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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As we reach out to many remote and underdeveloped areas there are opportunities for us to help these communities rebuild and improve their lives in areas such as health, education, clean water, agriculture projects etc.



ATM has many Community Development projects underway or needing to be established especially in Burma (Karen State).

**\*Again it depends on which village we will be going to and what projects your team is interested to be involved in. Please get this information from Karena ([atmdoisaket@gmail.com](mailto:atmdoisaket@gmail.com)) as you plan your trip.**

## HOW CAN YOU HELP

- Donations for material
- Teaching the local people
- Raise funds for projects
- Help us establish long term projects in these communities
- Practically building Children's Homes, schools, setting up water purification units, goat, pig or fish farms etc.



# HAVEN OF GRACE

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Haven of Grace Mothers and Babies Shelter began in October 2014. The shelter is located on our ATM missions base in Doisaket, Chiang Mai.

With so many migrants flooding into Thailand from surrounding countries such as Burma, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, there are also many who become victims of abuse and slave labour. Many women mainly from migrant working groups find themselves pregnant and abandoned once their partner finds out they are expecting a child.

In this kind of situation many women look for any other option to either abort or abandon the baby or choose to keep the baby and find any type of work they can which often involves going to brokers who find them work in either brothels or for very poor wages and where the cycle of abuse often continues.

ATM through opening a shelter to help care for these women AND their babies has been able to rescue women and their babies together providing emergency shelter and provision for up to one year, teaching them respectable vocations and ultimately keeping both mother and baby together with opportunity to build a new life for themselves.



# HOW CAN YOU HELP

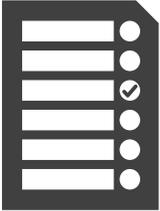
We are constantly needing volunteers who can help to educate on women's and babies health and basic hygiene.

If you are skilled as a nurse or midwife or have skills in sewing, cooking, hairdressing etc. we would love for you to come and spend some time with these women encouraging them both spiritually and also in helping them have a brighter future with more options to find fair work.



# PLANNING A MISSION'S TRIP

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ATM is happy to host missions teams who would like to join together with the vision and projects listed above. If you would like to bring a team we encourage teams to be no larger than groups of 8.

Please write to Karena Dakhota at [atmndoisaket@gmail.com](mailto:atmndoisaket@gmail.com) and include the following information:

1. Dates of proposed visit
2. Sending Church / Organization
3. Name / Age / Skills of team leader/s
4. Name / Age / Skills of team members
5. What areas of ministry you are most interested in serving (check information above)
6. Please also include any other important information such as allergies or medical history, previous experiences in missions, family history that is appropriate.

**\*After your visit is confirmed please send your flight details and ground fees one month in advance so that we can effectively arrange for your visit.**

You will be sent a Proposed Itinerary according to what ATM's activities are at the time of your visit. Medical and Development Missions will need to be organized at least 6-8 months in advance

Ground Fees & Offerings - While at the base and in villages, the A.T.M. team will take the responsibility for your mission team's food, accommodation and travel arrangements to the various tribal areas and ministry opportunities.

To help us fulfil these arrangements each member of your team is required to make a minimum payment of \$30 per day while with A.T.M.

It is the responsibility of the team leader to collect all team money from the members of the team before arriving.

All travel documents (Valid passport; visas; flight tickets; travel insurance document) should be copied (X4), and the copies given to the following people: Church; Home; Team Leader; Self. - Please also bring extra passport photos.

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## WHAT TO BRING

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- Sleeping bag **\*If you have trouble sleeping on hard wood floors then please think about bringing a roll up air mattress or mat.**
- Small Back Pack (for 1-3 day trips)
- Hat / sunscreen
- Modest Clothing - shorts and skirts should be to at least the knees)
- Tropical strength insect repellent
- Comfy closed-in shoes
- Torch
- Thongs/Sandals for shower/toilet
- Photos of the family
- First aid kit including - Throat lozenges, Band aids, antiseptic cream or powder, panadol, Imodium, stemizil.
- Bible and Notebook
- Small gifts for Children
- Malaria medicine
- Beroccas
- Wetones / tissues



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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**\*You will need the following information when coming through immigration either in Bangkok or Chiang Mai:**

Dakhota and Karennia (Directors of Asian Tribal Ministries)

**Email:** atmdoisaket@gmail.com

**Tel:** +66848075583 (Karennia) +66800580137 (Dakhota)

**ATM Base Address:** 64, M. I I, t. Cheung Doi, A. Doi Saket, J. Chiang Mai 50220

**Postal Address:** ASIAN TRIBAL MINISTRIES P.O.Box 71 Mae Ping, Chiang Mai 50301

## PLEASE NOTE

It is **NOT** advisable to bring medications or big machinery items such as chain saws or farming tools into Thailand. Even clothes and shoes / toys will be taxed at customs if carried in bulk.

Most items can be bought in Chiang Mai to take to villages. Please discuss with Karennia or Dakhota before bringing any items to donate into the country.

## SOME LANGUAGE PHRASES YOU MAY USE

PHRASE	THAI	KAREN
Hello	Men: Sawadee Krup Women: Sawadee Ka	Morning: Ghor ler Aghey Afternoon: Ni Ler Aghey Evening: Ha Ler Aghey
Thank You	Men: Kop Khun Krup Women: Kop Kun Ka	Da Blu
Where is the Toilet?	Hong Nam Yuu Tee Nai	Da Ha Loe Oh Pe Loh
Eat rice	Gin Kaw	Oh Meh
Drink Water	Duerm Nam	Oh Tee
Jesus	Pra Yeshu	Ger Sa Yeh Su
God	Pra Jaw	Ger Sa Ywa



# ORIENTATION AND IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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During your stay with us at ATM and on outreach to villages with the ATM team it is important to be aware and comply with ATM's policies and protocols.

Our desire is to work together in unity as we reach out to people in Thailand and Burma.

Please make sure to go through the following protocols with your team **BEFORE** you arrive.

## **Important Attitudes to maintain whilst on a missions trip:**

### **a)** "Servant hood"

Whilst staying with us at ATM our team is committed to providing the best hospitality and serving your team to the best of our ability. However it is important to remember that we are NOT a resort or recreational facility.

Whilst living on base it is expected that everyone helps out in the daily chores, cooking, cleaning and whatever group activities may be arranged. We also expect that you will do your best to look after and keep tidy the rooms you are given to stay and respecting the property.

Practicing and maintaining a servant attitude is essential if we are to effectively be witnesses of the Gospel both on base and out in the villages.

### **b)** "Be ready in and out of season"

Our leaders and administrators prayerful consider your itinerary and will do their best to "stick to the plan" we have given to you.

However it is important to **BE FLEXIBLE**. Often plans or times may need to change for your safety or in compliance with the local leader's requests.

# ATM'S EQUIPMENT

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**During your stay with us we provide use of the following equipment:**

- a)** Washing Machine – is located in the sewing project room. Please be aware that many people need to use the machine daily so be quick to hang up your washing and take it off the line when dry to make it available for others to use.
- b)** Computers / Printers – There is a guest computer and printer available for use in the ATM office for quick emails or printing/photocopies. Please notify Karena or Dakota before using them. \*(Our coffee shop in the local town also provides free wifi and has a computer and printer if needed)
- c)** Telephones – There is a landline phone available for local calls only. Please talk to Karena or Dakota if need to make any calls.
- d)** Wifi – There is wifi available for guest use only. It is important to note that we do NOT allow our students or staff access to the wifi so please keep the password to yourself.
- e)** Air conditioners – should only be used to cool the room off, then to be shut off, to avoid a black-out and also to save electricity.
- f)** Musical / Sports Equipment – is available for use either in your free time or for ministry. It is preferred that only those with Please take care to put any equipment you use back in its place after use.

TV's/ Projectors/ Speakers and other Outreach Equipment – Please take special care with any electronic or outreach equipment. We will ask these particular items to be replaced if damaged by any member of your team as they are items that we cannot afford to lose or damage.



# VALUABLES

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Originals or passports and tickets and larger amounts of money should be given in to the ATM office to be kept in a locked safe (your team leader will be given the passcode) to avoid items being lost or stolen.

You will also be given a key to your room, please lock your room if you are going out for any long period of time to keep any items you leave there secure.



## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

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- a) Please take care when walking out of our base compound. It is advisable to take a member of our local team with you if you are going out or to go in groups. Be aware there are stray street dogs which WILL bark at you and attack if they feel provoked.
- b) Always keep a **photocopy** of your **passport and visa** on your person at all times especially when outside of the ATM compound. This is in compliance with **THAI LAW**. Do not take your originals with you unless renewing your visa, exchanging money or leaving for the airport.
- c) Please keep your bedroom doors closed (or mosquito nets secured) and keep any closed-in shoes inside the room especially in the evenings and at night to avoid mosquitos and insects, spiders, snakes or scorpions giving you a nasty surprise!
- d) When in the villages please make sure to sleep in your mosquito net to avoid malaria, dengue fever and nasty insect bites.

# VEHICLES

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- a) When travelling you are allowed to sit in the tray of the vehicles but do **NOT** stand up whilst the vehicle is moving and take care to keep arms and legs inside the cars to avoid causing accidents to motorcycle drivers or losing a limb!
- b) If riding on a motorbike please always wear a helmet.
- c) Use of vehicles (both cars and motorcycles) is restricted to only ATM drivers for insurance and safety reasons. If for any reason you need to travel to Doisaket or Chiang Mai please contact the base leaders. **ONLY** our designated drivers are to drive the vehicles (unless you are specifically asked by Karena or Dakota), they have been specially trained to handle Thai and jungle roads safely.



# ANIMALS

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It is strongly advised to not touch or befriend any animals a part from “pets” belonging to Ps Timothy, Dakota & Karena which have been vaccinated and trained.

It is very important to take care when walking around or outside the base or on outreach visits to keep away from stray animals and even farm animals which can carry dangerous diseases and of which are most likely not trained. \* Please take note that **RABIES** is present and common in Thailand.

# TRAVELING TO THE BORDER

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When getting close to border towns there are a number of police and military check points that may or may not ask you to show your documents. Please leave the talking to the ATM drivers and team with you. Please comply ***immediately*** with anything asked of you by the police or authorities checking.

If visiting the border and depending on where you will be visiting, you will be given a briefing and separate orientation by our ATM leaders before you visit those areas.





# ATM STUDENTS AND TIME TABLE

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Our DTS has a set schedule which our students are expected to follow even when we have visitors. We would appreciate your respect in not distracting them from any chores, jobs, classes etc they may need to attend.

We have devotions in the mornings at 6:30am and in the evenings at 7:00pm which you are most welcome to join.

We do NOT allow boys in girls dorms and girls in boys dorms – even if invited please comply with this rule as is expected of our students.

The main gate is closed at 10 pm and no students are allowed to leave the compound unless for specific permission given by Dakhota or Karennia.

**ATM holds a strictly NO Alcohol; NO Smoking; NO Illicit Drugs on premises policy**

**Upon arriving at ATM your team will be given a 20-30 minutes cross-cultural briefing for Thailand and Burma which will include:**

**If there are any questions you have before you arrive please do not hesitate to contact and ask Karennia by email [atmdoisaket@gmail.com](mailto:atmdoisaket@gmail.com)**

**Also if you would like some notes of the cultural aspects mentioned above to read before you arrive we are very happy to send them to you.**

**We look forward to your visit and working together with you!**

**Thank you!**