

Karen Christian Fellowship

We, the Karen people are an ethnic group living in Burma (Myanmar), Thailand and along the border of Burma and Thailand. The Karen makes up approximately seven percent of the total Burmese population. A large number of Karen also resides in Thailand, mostly on the Thailand-Burma border. Karen people were animist originally, but today 40% of Karen are Christian.



In the early 19th century the American Baptist Missionary Adoniran Judson (1788-1850) laid the foundation of the Baptist church in Burma. Since then Christianity has been deeply rooted in Burma. Ko Tha Byu, the first convert to Christianity in 1828, was baptized by Rev. George Boardman, an associate of Adoniran Judson. Today, Karen Christians belong to Baptist, Catholic, Church of England, Methodist, Seventh-day Adventists and other denominations.

Persecution of Christians by the Burmese authorities has continued to this day, fueled by the belief that western imperialists have sought to divide not only on ethnic but also on religious ground.

In May 2005, the first group of Karen refugee were granted indefinite leave to enter the United Kingdom and resettled in Sheffield. Majority of Karen people resettled in

Sheffield are Christian and we gathered on every Sunday and started our worship services starting in July 2005. In 2006 and 2007, more Karen refugee arrived and by the grace of God, we were offered a church hall in Cemetery Baptist Church to worship God. Because of the growing number of the congregation and as most of us live in Middlewood, we are now having our worship service at



Hillsborough Trinity Methodist Church. Every Sunday, we have junior and senior Sunday school for the children, youth bible study, adult bible study, women's group and home cell in the evening.

As we believed that the church in its inclusive sense is the fellowship of persons redeemed by Christ and made one in the family of God, we would like to be part of Baptist Assembly in the UK. We are very blessed to have Rev. Nigel Min... and Cemetery Road Baptist Church for their support and guidance in all aspects of our church's growth for the glory of the Lord.