

4-2018

'Those People Needed Help'

Konner Dent

Andrews University, konner@andrews.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/luh-students>

Recommended Citation

Dent, Konner, "'Those People Needed Help'" (2018). *Stories - Students*. 23.
<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/luh-students/23>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Lake Union Herald at Digital Commons @ Andrews University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Stories - Students by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Andrews University. For more information, please contact repository@andrews.edu.

THE LAKE UNION HERALD STAFF

P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287 | (269) 473-8242
 Publisher Maurice Valentine, president@lakeunion.org
 Editor Gary Burns, editor@lakeunion.org
 Managing Editor Debbie Michel, herald@lakeunion.org
 Circulation/Back Pages Editor circulation@lakeunion.org
 Media Specialist Felicia Tonga, felicia.tonga@lakeunion.org
 Art Direction/Design Robert Mason, masondesign@me.com
 Design Articulate@Andrews, articulate@andrews.edu
 Proofreader Susan K. Slikkers

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Adventist Health System Anthony Vera Cruz, Anthony.VeraCruz@ahss.org
 Andrews University Rebecca May, RMay@andrews.edu
 Illinois Shona Cross, scross@ilcsda.org
 Indiana
 Lake Region Paul Young, pauly@lrcsda.com
 Michigan Andy Im, aim@misda.org
 Wisconsin Juanita Edge, jedge@wi.adventist.org

CORRESPONDENTS

Adventist Health System Anthony Vera Cruz, Anthony.VeraCruz@ahss.org
 Andrews University Gillian Sanner, sanner@andrews.edu
 Illinois Shona Cross, scross@ilcsda.org
 Indiana Colleen Kelly, colleenkelly1244@gmail.com
 Lake Region Paul Young, pauly@lrcsda.com
 Michigan Julie Clark, jclark@misda.org
 Wisconsin Deidre Roat, droat@wi.adventist.org

LAKE UNION CONFERENCE DEPARTMENTS

P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287 | (269) 473-8200
 President Maurice Valentine
 Secretary Steven Poenitz
 Treasurer Glynn Scott
 Vice President Carmelo Mercado
 Associate Treasurer Richard Moore
 Associate Treasurer Jon Corder
 ACSDR Diana Bruch
 ASI Carmelo Mercado
 Communication Gary Burns
 Communication Associate Debbie Michel
 Education Linda Fuchs
 Education Associate Ruth Horton
 Health Randy Griffin
 Information Services Sean Parker
 Media Specialist Felicia Tonga Taimi
 Ministerial Steven Poenitz
 Multiethnic Ministries Carmelo Mercado
 Native Ministries Gary Burns
 Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Nicholas Miller
 Trust Services Jon Corder
 Women's Ministries
 Youth Ministries Ron Whitehead

LOCAL CONFERENCES AND INSTITUTIONS

Adventist Health System: Terry Shaw, president/CEO, 900 Hope Way, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714; 407-357-1000.
Andrews University: Andrea Luxton, president, Berrien Springs, MI 49104-0670; 269-471-7771.
Illinois: Ron Aguilera, president; John Grys, secretary; Michael Daum, treasurer; 619 Plainfield Rd., Willowbrook, IL 60527-8438; 630-856-2850.
Indiana: Mark Eaton, secretary/treasurer; street address: 15205 Westfield Blvd., Carmel, IN 46032; mailing address: P.O. Box 5000, Westfield, IN 46074; 317-844-6201.
Lake Region: R. Clifford Jones, president; Timothy Nixon, secretary; Yvonne Collins, treasurer; 8517 S. State St., Chicago, IL 60619; 773-846-2661.
Michigan: James Mischeff, Jr., president; Justin Ringstaff, secretary; Leroy Bruch, treasurer; street address: 5801 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48917; mailing address: P.O. Box 24187, Lansing, MI 48909; 517-316-1500.
Wisconsin: Michael G. Edge, president; Brian Stephan, secretary/treasurer; street address: N2561 Old Highway 16, Fall River, WI 53932; mailing address: P.O. Box 100, Fall River, WI 53932; 920-484-6555.

Contributors: Writer guidelines are available online at <http://herald.lakeunion.org>.

Indexed in the Seventh-day Adventist Periodical Index

'Those People Needed Help'

By Konner Dent



Jonathan Logan

▲ KhaiKhai Cin

A JUNIOR RELIGION MAJOR AT

Andrews University (and before that, Grand Rapids Adventist Academy), KhaiKhai Cin recently completed a two-year internship with the Hope Adventist company in Indianapolis. As he worked closely with the Burmese refugees in Indianapolis, KhaiKhai's ministry took many different forms, each one a witnessing opportunity. Along with evangelistic seminars, vacation Bible schools (VBS) and assisting with the Zomi Burmese camp meeting, KhaiKhai also regularly helped refugees (most of them not yet Adventists) with translation services and job hunting opportunities. "A lot of social work was needed," reflected KhaiKhai. "I didn't ask why we did it because I understood — those people needed help. I know what it feels like to be in need, whether it's [because of] a language barrier, financial aid, stress or anxieties. We helped because it was 'Christ's method alone' (see Ellen White, *Ministry of Healing*, pg. 143; *emphasis supplied*).

A refugee himself, KhaiKhai came to America with his family in 2012. "Currently,

our country [Burma] is moving towards a democratic government. It has a president now, but back then it was a military dictatorship. Because of that, there are a lot of people fleeing."

This tumultuous landscape has engendered a close-knit Burmese community, yet varied in belief systems. Often, traditional ministry has to be adapted for both size and worldview.

"[In 2016] we did a VBS in three different locations. This summer we did it at five," said KhaiKhai. "We had 135 students, and close to 95 were not Adventist [members] — some Buddhist, some [others] Christian." To adapt, KhaiKhai stated that they kept the ministry aspect, but held it where the refugee kids were. "We held it in a community center, under a tree, and at some people's houses!"

KhaiKhai is encouraged by Jesus' words: *For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in* (Matthew 25:35 NIV). "Refugees coming here really need help," he said. "Within the church, the refugee ministry is just starting, and I would like to see it supported more."

He hopes to further his ministry by continuing to work with the Myanmar Community Services, setting up a Pathfinder Club for local Zomi Burmese youth, and is currently working on completing his Master Guide requirements. ■

Konner Dent is a Journalism major at Andrews University.

ADDRESS CORRECTION Only paid subscribers (see below) should contact the *Lake Union Herald* office with their address changes. Members should contact their local conference membership clerks directly for all Lake Union Herald address changes. Contact phone numbers are listed below for your convenience, and addresses are listed to the right. Online subscriptions can be made at <http://herald.lakeunion.org> under "Subscription Change."

Lake Union Herald Office: 269-473-8242 Lake Region: 773-846-2661
 Illinois: 630-856-287 Michigan: 517-316-1552
 Indiana: 317-844-6201 ext. 241 Wisconsin: 920-484-6555

Members outside the Lake Union may subscribe by sending a check for \$12.50 (per year) to P.O. Box 287, Berrien Springs, MI 49103-0287.

Note: If you are a member of a church in the Lake Union but are not receiving the *Lake Union Herald*, please request it through your church clerk or your local conference secretary.

