

Dear Israel,

I've heard of your country since I was very young, my uncle said Israel make good machine gun, and had fought in many wars. In the church where Christian priest tell stories of Jesus and Jerusalem sound so close to me and many of my friends. And here I am, in the land of God. This is my first time to see real people of Israel, and visit and stay in your land. I could not write back to my mother and my family including my uncle, that now I am in the land of Israel. They must be very excited to hear and would ask me many questions, about Israel .

In Keng Tung Shan state of Burma, where I came from, there was nothing for me to do. So, I left home heading to Thailand, there were Shan army soldiers fought with Burmese up in the mountain, then. Most of young women in the village also escape to Thailand. My mother help me pack rice and wrap around my belly, a milk can to cook rice, matches and dry chilly. There were four of us in my group. My mother told me to leave at night and don't say to anybody even my father.

I really don't understand, but I know if Burmese soldier comes, they will take our women to make their wives, or they may kill us. So we left quietly at night, we walk in the forest along the road heading east to Thailand.

We walked in forest two days and two nights, we could not sleep long, only stop to cook rice and eat and rest a little as we have to arrive the next town in the third morning, where I met a man who gave me a ride on his motorcycle to the border. He talked to Burmese soldiers at many check point and paid them along the way. I owe him my life, and money. He also gave me a name of a lady I would meet across the border, whom I would work for – my lady master, in her “women's house”. He told me I can pay him back, by giving some money to the lady master, when I can.

You see, I am very lucky person, and always meet kind people, who are good to me. And here I am from Thailand on a plane to Israel. With the help of this very kind people who must have risk his life and spend a lot of money to bring me here to Jerusalem, and to you, my new master.

My life is always lucky, though I don't know how much money I am in dept to these people, who give me my new life in Israel. I must pay back to all these very kind people.

I also thanks Israel for allowing me in.

Sincerely Yours,

Somboon Kumjing

25 May 2011