

# JustChildren

CARED FOR & WAGING PEACE

Periodic newsletter of Just Children • March 2007

## FROM MICHAEL MCGILL...

Dear friends,



*THIS WEEK I watched a documentary called Total Denial, which highlights atrocities of the brutal military dictatorship in Burma. I am greatly grieved by these images of horrible abuse and death, and it makes me think of other places like Uganda, Sri Lanka and Sudan, in which similar abuses are occurring. Are these people really different from me—from my family, my neighbors?*

*Certainly if such evil were happening to the family across the street or to my sister across town, I would sacrifice more to help them. Wouldn't I? I don't understand why there seems to be so little social pressure to sacrifice significantly for others if they are further away from us, or on the wrong side of a border, or of a different group. Unless one is living in extreme poverty and without Internet access, there is very little that hinders being able to give aid to peoples in desperate need, no matter how far away they are. So, if we can help those in critical circumstances, why is it OK not to do so? We should care well for our biological children and ourselves, but is not part of*

*doing this sacrificially devoting more of our time, money and energy to setting the oppressed free?*

*I struggle to find the balance, but my hunch is, yes. This would bring more health, life and vibrancy to the body of Christ and to the world. I also believe that the less we see people as 'other', and the more we see them as our mother, brother, child or neighbor, the more we will in love sacrifice to care for one another.*

*Thank you for your partnership with Just Children's work to care for the oppressed in developing nations in civil war.*

Truly,

*PS: I'm getting married on March 17<sup>th</sup> to Kate Huber!!! For more information and pictures, visit <http://www.weddingchannel.com>.*

## JUST CHILDREN UPDATE



**J**UST CHILDREN responds to civil war in developing nations by meeting immediate needs in the context of families and communities, by mobilizing children and young people to participate in bringing peace, and through action oriented awareness raising. This last quarter we gathered more information on opportunities for people to participate in peacemaking. Opportunities to serve and educational resources will soon be added to our website (<http://www.mikemcgill.net/JC.htm>). We are planning to soon pilot action oriented awareness raising presentations for Seattle area churches. Research on mobilizing children as peacemakers continues.

## Get Educated

*Total Denial* is the story of a historic lawsuit in U.S. courts: 15 villagers from the jungles of Burma bring suit against a giant oil corporation for human rights abuses. After 10 years of fierce legal battles, there is a seemingly impossible victory. Bulgarian-born producer/director Milena Kaneva wrote, produced, and shot *Total Denial*. It is the result of 5 years of hard work in the jungles of Burma and the US Courts.

— <http://www.totaldenialfilm.com>



Producer/director Milena Kaneva (right), human rights activist Ka Hsaw Wa (center) and Plaintiff, Burma  
Photo courtesy:  
[www.totaldenialfilm.com](http://www.totaldenialfilm.com)



### Burma

- Location: South East Asia
- Capital city: Naypyidaw
- Population approx. 50 million
- Over 1 million internally displaced people
- Over 1 million refugees in neighboring countries
- 50,000 in refuge camps<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Global Day of Prayer for Burma, prayer guide by Christians Concerned for Burma (CCB), 2007.*

Images courtesy: <http://en.wikipedia.org>

## Get Moving

☑ <http://www.stophetraffik.org/help>

Learn practical ways in which you can get involved to stop trafficking in people.

☑ <http://www.savedarfur.org>

Fill out the online form to add your name to the petition urging President George Bush and the new UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to take immediate steps to stop the killing in Darfur.



☑ <http://www.prayforburma.org>

Download the 2007 prayer guide for statistics, photos, news and prayer requests.

☑ <http://www.fuller.edu/swm/ashaconsultation>

Be empowered to minister to sexually exploited and trafficked children at the *Asha Forum North America Consultation, April 27-29, 2007*. Register online, or contact Jennifer Orona for more information, [jivvh@hotmail.com](mailto:jivvh@hotmail.com).

**About Just Children:** *Just Children* is part of ACTION, a registered charity in the US (501c3), Canada and other countries. To support the work of Michael McGill and Just Children, make checks to ACTION and note for 41006. You may donate by phone or donate securely online now at: <https://www.gifttool.com/donations/Donate?ID=114&VER=1&LNG=EN&PID=221>.

**The Asha Forum:** If you would like to continue to donate to The Asha Forum, make checks to Viva Network noting it is for The Asha Forum and send to 6619 - 132<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE, PMB-262 Kirkland, WA 98033, or give online at <http://www.usa.viva.org> and note in the comments section that the gift is for The Asha Forum. The Asha Forum is one part of Viva Network addressing child sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking. For forum updates, visit <http://www.ashaforum.org>.

**ACTION USA**  
PO Box 398  
Mountlake Terrace  
WA 98043-0398 USA  
tel 425-775-4800

**ACTION Canada**  
3015 A 21<sup>st</sup> Street NE  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2E 7T1, Canada  
tel 403-204-1421

**Michael McGill**  
mobile +1 (773) 592-0951  
fax +1 (206) 829-9465  
email [JustChildren@mikemcgill.net](mailto:JustChildren@mikemcgill.net)  
web <http://www.actionintl.org>

**Front visual images courtesy** (from top):  
A child soldier with a dog <http://www.der.org>  
Hands <http://www.centralsynagogue.org>