



Dumhpau Brang Mai Cambridge KEY course, Myitkyina 2020

Brang Mai is the camp co-ordinator for Maina IDP camp near Myitkyina and he joined the MEP Cambridge course this year. He is 39 years old and his family was forced out of his village after it was burnt to the ground during an offensive by the Burmese army against the Kachin Independence Army.

Here he tells us about himself:

"My name is Dumhpau Brang Mai, a father of four children. My original village is Ga Ra Yang, Wai Maw Township, Kachin State. Since 2010 I am serving in the Ga Ra Yang Baptist Church as a pastor until today. Because the civil war resume since 2011, I and my family members and church members are now in IDP camps."



Dumhpau Brang Mai

Brang Mai is a pastor and IDP camp co-ordinator, but he has also assumed the role as teacher trainer for the English teachers in the IDP school. Brang Mai has to deal with many problems in the camp including drug taking, theft, alcoholism and domestic violence.

"Being a leader of IDP camp I normally accept NGOs and iNGOs and donors. Most of them are foreigners. On the other hand, I am serving as Area Education Co-ordinator of Sama Baptist Association. I lead some of the schools and train school teachers. So, I am the responsible person to speak English and to help the school teachers in English."

One of the problems he faces is the number of children who drop-out of school in grades 4-7. Many families have financial problems and parents have to work outside of the camp in banana plantations run by the Chinese. The parents live and work in the plantations and are not present to encourage their children in their studies. Brang Mai explains why attending the MEP Cambridge English course is especially important to him:



At work in Maina IDP camp

"I am really appreciate to those who lead Cambridge English Course in Kachin State. In this situation. This course really gives me improvement in speaking, listening and writing English. Myanmar is not English medium country and we could not improve in English by ourselves, even by the school teachers of the Government. Learning together with native English speakers is the most precious privilege for me and especially for Kachins."

The Kachin are trying to establish their own schools with Kachin mother tongue and English classes. Another teacher attending the MEP Cambridge course is Muk Wa Lum Zawng and he explained:

"Kachin know that English helps us to advance in everything and is useful in all situations. If we don't understand we will fall in this world. We have never had this before. Every lesson is interesting. The techniques are amazing for me."



Taking the Cambridge Exam, Myitkyina 2020