



# BK CATARACTS



CATARACT MICRO-SURGERY ON THE THAI-BURMA BORDER BY A FREE BURMA RANGERS TEAM

## Cataract Surgery for Karen State, Burma

A team from Alaska supported by Free Burma Rangers and Partners in Chiang Mai, Thailand brought a portable, cataract microsurgery operating suite to the remote Karen State, Burma border village of Bueng Klueng (BK) in December 2011.

Two students from Grace Christian High School in Anchorage, Kayla and Elle, provided acuity screening, remote autorefraction and cataract exams. Jay and Melissa set up the sterile operating room, and inventoried implants and medications. Bob did the local

anesthesia and cataract procedures. FBR medics were trained.

FBR team members Donny and Josh provided transport and support, while Dhee and Soo Boo and Iliya translated.

[www.FreeBurmaRangers.org](http://www.FreeBurmaRangers.org)



MEDICS TRAINED WITH GLASSES



CATARACT SURGERY TEAM



ACUITY IN LEH TON KU

# Blind, Karen State patients travel to Bueng Klueng for vision care and cataract surgery

There is a boarding school and church on a campus in the Thai-Burma border village of Bueng Klueng. Pastor Samuel and his wife oversee this and other local churches, and Free Burma Ranger Head-medic Iliya and his wife offer hospitality out of their home, too. The nearest FBR clinic is 10 Km south in Leh Ton Ku.

Over Christmas, 2011, a Burma Vision team from Alaska joined FBR in Chiang Mai to deliver an operating facility and equipment to Bueng Klueng. Until a more formal clinic / OR is built there, the OR and eye clinic was set up in the girl's dorm. Over a hundred patients who traveled from Burma were

screened, offered spectacles and medications, and those with the worst blinding cataracts had microsurgical cataract extraction with intraocular lens implants.

The microsurgical equipment will remain in Bueng Klueng under the care of Iliya and Samuel, and in preparation for other teams of ophthalmic surgeons willing to travel to this remote region of beautiful scenery and warm people.

Many Karen people could regain useful sight with proper spectacles- and FBR medics have been trained to screen, refract, and dispense reading glasses, Burma bifocals and even custom, on-site glasses. Medics will also screen for patients blind from cataracts- in preparation for travel to remote surgical suites like the one in Bueng Klueng.

[www.BurmaVision.com](http://www.BurmaVision.com)

**FREE BURMA RANGERS  
MEDICS ARE TRAINED TO  
VISION SCREEN, DISPENSE  
GLASSES, AND OPERATE.**



## EYE CARE



JAY AND MELISSA PREP



PATIENT NOW SEES



REMOTE PHOTOSCREEN



LEH TON KU CLINIC