



The Karen Hilltribes Trust
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Dear Friend

March 2011

2010 has been a difficult and challenging year. Some of you may not be aware that my husband, Oliver, was admitted to a nursing home last August, aged 83 suffering from Huntington's disease and sadly died on November 30th. As you can imagine I needed to spend extra time with him during his last few months, as well as needing to organise his funeral in mid December. Thankfully, the KHT staff, Fiona, Teresa and Howard, were able to cope well during this time. During July last year the office was moved a mile down the road from my home and this seems to work well. I continue to keep in contact going in several times a week and I am in regular contact with Salahae.

Last summer I was offered and accepted an Honorary Degree at the University of York for my charity work in general and in particular for the work we have been doing with the Karen hill tribe people over the past 12 years and the development of the Karen Hilltribes Trust. The degree ceremony was on January 22nd this year. It was a wonderful honour for me and as I said to the Vice Chancellor and an audience of 1000 people in the Central Hall, none of our work would be possible without the support of our volunteers, supporters and helpers all over the UK and beyond. It was an enormous privilege and I have a lot to be grateful for. I personally thank you for your support.

My book 'Footsteps to the Jungle'*, was published 3 weeks before Oliver died. He was so proud and pleased about it. This illustrated book tells the story of the Karen people depicting their history through the years and in particular the story of the village where the jewellery is made and where the temples are adorned with paintings of the Karen and the missionary monk. Several volunteers have made contributions too. It tells of Salahae's childhood and other local stories and fables. On a personal level, the book tells of the journey in setting up the Trust but starts with telling how I coped with Richard's death and Huntington's Disease in the family, while learning the skills of running an international charity. I am told it is very moving and inspiring.

Meanwhile Salahae and his team are delighted that we have the funding for 10 water systems this year and over 200 latrines benefitting upwards of 1000 more people. We will also build several irrigation systems as well as supporting more students through education. My next visit to Thailand won't be until October/November, but a fellow Trustee, Vicky Pert is going out in February to see how things are. We still need funding for irrigation systems, school meals and buses – please help if you can.

Please stay in touch. We need all the support we can get, so if you have ideas for raising money or can help in any way, please get in touch. I would love to hear from you.

With very best wishes

***Footsteps to the Jungle** is available directly from me at £13, plus £2 postage (£12 including postage from ex. volunteers in the UK). Please make the cheque payable to Penelope Worsley and send it to Midgley House, Heslington, York YO10 5DX. I will sign it for you if you wish! Donation from the profits will go to the Karen Hilltribes Trust.

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