

Title: The Suffering of Kachin Diaspora in Thailand and Malaysia  
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## ABSTRACT

The purpose of this independent study is to explore the present suffering of the Kachin people who are spread in diaspora. At the first chapter of my independent study, I drew out particular scripture from Genesis which is related to Joseph's suffering. Exegetical study part also have been covered on my independent study paper because Joseph's suffering life is the basic ground for theological response to the context of the suffering of present diaspora Kachin people. My special focus area of this independent study is the suffering of diaspora Kachin from Thailand and Malaysia. Their suffering is the main issue of my independent study in order to get theological connections and responses to the suffering of Joseph's life.

Thailand and Malaysia are the main countries where majority of diaspora Kachin are facing many kinds of suffering in their daily life. The key informants from Thailand are prominent leaders who are well informed about the history and present life of Kachin people from Thailand such as church pastor, deacons and other leaders. I requested particular leaders to have an interview with me for my independent study. However, the instruction of interview guideline was prepared by myself for the individual interviews and open-ended questions about the life of Kachin people in

Thailand. Questions were used for exploring the suffering issues of Kachin people during interview time. The interview discussion was mainly recorded for the issue of suffering of Kachin people in a foreign country. In the same way, I did interview with some Kachin leaders and pastor from Malaysia.

I recorded all of the information from them and I used some of them in my independent study. Moreover, I got a written document source from Kachin Refugee Committee (KRC) which had been used as Kachin refugee's report to United National conference in Geneva. This independent study found both destructive and constructive factors and consequences of diaspora life of Kachin people. One of the destructive facts is that some Kachin people they feel hopeless when they encounter unexpected suffering in foreign countries. Therefore, some become drug addicted and give up their life and never come back to the church. Some try to find a short cut way for making money and it pollutes their life and bring endless problems to their lives as well. One of the constructive facts is that many Kachin have received good opportunity to resettle their life in the third country with the help of UNHCR resettlement process. Many of them have freedom of right for their life and they can restart their new life in the third countries such as USA, Canada, European countries, Australia, New Zealand and Japan and so on. Based on such kind of issue, I would like to express theological response to the suffering of diaspora Kachin people through the suffering life of Joseph.