



Invisible Scars

The insurgency in Southern Thailand, as summarized in [April's update](#), between Thai Muslim people and their Thai government has battered the region and claimed the lives of over 6,500 people since 2004. The physical damage and loss of lives is frequently discussed, but often overlooked is the psychological trauma birthed from witnessing the violence. Children have witnessed teachers shot at school and families have lost loved ones to bomb explosions in shopping centers. Posttraumatic stress disorder as well as other mental health issues have increased with the bloodshed. The Violence Related Mental Health Surveillance (VMS) database recorded 11,772 adults have displayed mental health issues since 2008 and 1,200 children since 2010. An estimated 3,000 women have been widowed, while 5,686 children are now orphans, according to the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. Unfortunately, many more are undiagnosed because of a cultural stigma against seeking mental health care.

There are currently 74 professional psychologists for the almost 2 million people residing in the region. This region needs the healing hands of Christ as well as more trained counselors and psychologists.

Sources: left image by Xavierp <https://www.flickr.com/photos/essais/264217365/in/photostream/>
right image by Desbi Yin https://www.flickr.com/photos/desbi_yin/5904861030/

P R A Y

- Peace in Southern Thailand between the people and Thai government
- Healing from psychological scars of prolonged violence in Southern Thailand
- God to bring biblical counselors to Southern Thailand and diminish the stigma attached with mental health care



*“He heals the
brokenhearted
and binds up
their wounds.”*

Psalm 147:3