

Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc. • 624 Garvey Lane • Chatham, Illinois • 62629-5086
<http://www.myanmarhope.org> • info@myanmarhope.org • (217) 415-9187

Greetings!

Can you believe that October is here already? Maybe time is speeding up, or at least it seems that way. At any rate, Fall is upon us, and the weather here is turning cool. Soon the leaves will turn from the delightful green shades of summer to the colorful reds, yellows, oranges, and browns of Autumn. Change is definitely in the air, and we hope that the changes bring blessings and joy for you all.

In this newsletter, we would like to update you with the latest details of our work in Yangon and the rugged northwest region of Myanmar. As always, we deeply appreciate your prayers and financial support, without which our work in Myanmar could not go on. Indeed, because of your faithful support, literally thousands of lives have been saved, improved, or affected in a positive way—and none of this could have happened without you. On behalf of all these grateful souls, we thank you!

Hope School Update

The children of Hope Boarding School continue to do well in their studies, and are still extremely happy to be there. Since our last newsletter, and thanks to your special donations, several upgrades to the building and grounds were completed. Some renovations are still in progress, and some have yet to be started.

School Yard



The yard during rainy season

The yard around the school is very small, but it was not level and had no paving or grass. Whenever it rained (and it rains a lot in Yangon!) large puddles of water developed, making it a muddy challenge to get around the school to the boys' latrines and bathing area. Also, the standing water was a haven for

breeding mosquitoes, which can carry many deadly diseases such as malaria.

Thanks to your donations, we were able to purchase enough sand and gravel to fill in the low spots and make the ground level and hard. In fact, now that the yard has been leveled out, the boys use the space next to the school as a makeshift ball field!

Leveling the sand and gravel



All the boys helped out

In This Issue:

Greetings.....	1
Hope School Update	1
Hmun Tha Fire Update.....	3
Khongsai Family Update	3
Board Members to Visit Myanmar	4
Palal to Visit U.S.	5
Christmas for Myanmar Children	5
In Memoriam	5
Travel in Myanmar	6



The boys found a new football field!

We hope to someday have enough resources to purchase some land adjacent to the school to use as a real playground and ball field but, until then, the children do what children have done for ages on end—they make do with what they have, and are able to laugh and play regardless of the poor conditions.

Electrical Upgrades

Several electrical upgrades have been made to the building since we purchased it. The latest upgrade was made in order to improve the lighting and allow for the use of multiple rice cookers at the same time, which was a great help to our cooks.

The lighting situation was very bad, especially in the interior rooms which were constructed on the first floor (the girls’ and cooks’ dorm and the school office). Not only are the girls able to study better, the building is much more livable and safer all around.

Painting



The building just after we purchased it

Many of you may have noticed the terrible condition of the walls, both interior and exterior. We wanted to repair and paint the walls before the children moved in, but we just didn’t have the funds.

Thanks to your special donations, though, we recently began painting the building. What a positive difference a good coat of paint can make!

The building is looking much better from the outside, which is making a better impression on our neighbors and the local officials who often visit the school. More importantly, though, the interior of the building is much brighter and more cheerful, which can only improve the living conditions for our children and staff. Thank you again!



Front view after some new paint

Fence

A good, strong, sturdy fence is another item that we have wanted to install since we purchased the building and property back in March. A good fence is important for the safety of our children as well as the security of the property. As with the painting, however, the funds available just didn’t stretch far enough.



The current bamboo fence

Our plan was to install a new chain-link fence around the property, and recently a donation came in that was enough to cover the costs for such a fence. However, after conferring with the neighbors and local officials, it became clear that they want us to put up a stone fence with a steel gate. The cost of a stone fence is about three times that of a chain-link fence, so we are still in negotiations over what kind of fence we will install. Regardless of the type of fence, either one will be better than the rickety bamboo fence now surrounding the property.

Would you consider giving a special donation to help finish the renovation of Hope Boarding School? Any amount would be very much appreciated. Please note in the memo of your check or online donation that the funds should be used for the school building. Thank you!

Hmun Tha Fire Update

You will recall that back in April a forest fire spread into several villages in northwest Myanmar and destroyed dozens of homes. We put out an urgent call for donations to help the poorest of these families, who had no possible way to rebuild their houses. [There is no such thing as fire insurance in the rural villages, even if the families there could afford to pay for it, which they cannot.

Also there are no government assistance programs to help people who have lost everything in a disaster.] Thanks to several of you, and also to I.D.E.S. (International Disaster Emergency Services—www.ides.org), twenty-one families now have new homes!



One of the 21 families

The houses are built to the same design specifications as the house we highlighted in the previous newsletter, which was built with funds raised by the West Side Christian Church children's ministry.

Your prayers and donations for these families have saved their lives. After the fire they were desperate, but you have restored their hope and now they can face the future with confidence!

Khongsai Family Update



The Cherry Flower

Palal, Kikim, Solomon, and Cherry continue to do well. Baby Cherry is growing fast, and is quite healthy. She had an eye infection shortly after her birth, but that is gone now and by all accounts she is a perfect, chubby, beautiful little baby girl. Solomon loves being a big brother, and is a great help to his Mom and his Grandma as they take care of the baby.

A Prayer Warrior Goes Home

In the early morning hours of September 19th, Palal's mother, Mrs. Thang Kho Nem, went home to receive her reward.

She and her husband, Mr. Lut Kho Sei, converted to Christianity from Animism in the late 1950's after hearing the message of salvation from an Indian missionary.

She became known as a great prayer warrior, praying at all times day and night. She and Palal's father sacrificed much in order that Palal could obtain an education. It is fair to say that if not for their unselfish and sacrificial lives, Myanmar Hope Christian Mission would not exist today.

Even though Mrs. Thang Kho Nem could neither read nor write, she memorized many Bible passages by listening to the preachers as they quoted Scriptures during their messages.

She prayed for a great many people from the United States by name every day, supporters of Myanmar Hope whom she had been made aware of by Palal and Pastor Jonah.



Palal's mother, Mrs. Thang Kho Nem

We have no doubt that the success of Myanmar Hope in general, and Palal's extraordinary work in particular, was made possible in large part because of this incredible woman's personal sacrifices and unceasing prayers. Heaven is richer and we are poorer because of her departure, and we are forever grateful for her life.

Pastor Jonah

Palal recently returned from a trip to the northwest where he oversaw the completion of the rebuilding of the homes that had been destroyed by the fire. He then travelled on to Bokkan Village to visit with his family. He had not been able to attend his mother's funeral, so he needed some time to visit with the family. He also needed to look into the situation of his older brother, Pastor Jonah.

Jonah got sick just before their Mother passed away, and he, too, was unable to attend the funeral because he was many miles away in a medical clinic.

Pastor Jonah has been our hardest and most dedicated worker in the northwest, and he has many responsibilities as our representative, in addition to all of his duties as pastor of Bokkan Christian Church. He oversees all of the distribution of food and other aid that is sent to that part of the country, and frequently does much of the distribution himself.



Pastor Jonah

He uses his motorcycle, which was purchased with funds that you donated, as a delivery truck, an ambulance, a taxi, and just about anything and everything else. His leadership in and around Bokkan village is invaluable, and we were very worried about him.

Because you have been donating funds to pay for emergency medical care, he was admitted to Wesley Clinic, a medical clinic operated by the Methodist Church in upper Myanmar, where he was diagnosed and treated for acute enteritis (dysentery). He was in the clinic for many days before he was well enough to get around on his own.

Pastor Jonah might have died from his condition had he not been able to travel the many miles to reach the clinic and to pay for the medical treatment. However, thanks to your faithful donations, Pastor Jonah is alive today, and is well on the road

to a full recovery.

Unfortunately, the majority of people in northwest Myanmar are not able to get to a facility like Wesley Clinic. The distances are just too great and the costs are too high. **We hope to begin work on a similar medical clinic in Bokkan next year**, which when finished will be able to serve well over 15,000 people who live within a few hours' walking distance. We know that many lives will be saved as a result of this new clinic. Will you partner with us to make this dream clinic a reality?

Board Members to Visit Myanmar

On December 7th, when Palal returns to Yangon, we would like to send two of our board members along with him! Chuck and MaryAnn Cherry hope to travel with Palal from Springfield and stay in Yangon for about three weeks. While there, they would like to spend

time interacting with the children at Hope Boarding School, attend services with Yangon Christian Church, and travel to a city in the northwest to visit with as many pastors and elders from our village churches as possible.



Kikim, Cherry, Solomon, and Palal

Even though this city is a two, three, or even four day journey by bus and boat from some of the more remote villages, Palal says that many of them will want to make the trip. The Christians in this part of the country are discouraged and oppressed, and a visit by representatives of the Church in America will be very encouraging to them.

Also, please pray that enough donations will come in to cover airfare and travel expenses. Chuck and MaryAnn will be giving up almost an entire month of personal income to make this very important trip, so the Board of Directors voted in favor of the mission paying for the airline tickets. However, enough funds will need to come in before early November in order to purchase the tickets and get visas. We know from past experience that if God wants them to take this trip, the funds will come in! **If you would like Palal to hand-carry cards or letters to a sponsored family, pastor, or student, he would be happy to do so. Please send your correspondence to the MyHope address no later than the last week of November so that Palal can receive them before he leaves.**

Open House for Palal

Saturday, November 13, 3—6 p.m.

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Palal to Visit U.S.

We are looking forward to Palal’s visit to the U.S. mid-October through the beginning of December. Thankfully, he received his visitor’s visa and is scheduled to arrive on Thursday, October 21.

Palal is planning to stay in the U.S. for about six weeks. The plan is to visit some of our supporting churches that are within driving distance from Springfield, Illinois, and to also visit some relatives who recently immigrated to Indianapolis, Indiana. Near the end of his stay, we will all attend the National Missionary Convention to be held in Lexington, Kentucky. In addition, we plan to hold our annual “face-to-face” board meeting in Lexington (as opposed to long-distance video chat or telephone conference meetings).

We will be hosting an Open House at our home in Chatham, Illinois, on Saturday, 11/13, for any of our friends and supporters who wish to see and visit with Palal in person.

The following schedule is subject to change, so if you are interested in attending any of these events, please call us at 217-415-9187 or email us at info@myanmarhope.org to confirm the dates, locations, and times.

Date / Time	Location / Event
10/21	Palal arrives in Springfield
10/24, 9:00 am	Springfield, Illinois: West Side Christian Church Children’s Ministry
10/27, 5:00 pm	Springfield, Illinois: Lakeside Christian Church Harvest Celebration
10/31, 9:00 am	Witt, Illinois: Witt Christian Church
11/7, 9:00 am	Martinton, Illinois: Martinton Church of Christ
11/13, 3:00 pm	Chatham, Illinois: Open House for Palal
11/14	Open
11/18 to 11/21	Lexington, Kentucky: National Missionary Convention
11/28, 9:00 am	Springfield, Illinois: West Side Christian Church—Joint ABF
12/5	Open
12/7	Palal departs for Yangon, Myanmar

Christmas Gifts for Myanmar Children

If we are able to travel to Myanmar in December, we will have limited luggage space available to carry gifts to the children of Myanmar. If you would like to share in this blessing, we can take with us the following items:

Children’s and small teen clothing—used, in good condition

- Boy’s shirts: plain or solid color t-shirts, polo shirts, or button-downs (no slogans or characters please)
- Boy’s pants: jeans, Dockers, etc.
- Girl’s dresses, shirts, slacks, etc.

Art supplies

- Watercolor sets, colored pencils, drawing pads, etc.

Financial Gifts

Most items that can be purchased in American can also be purchased in Myanmar, and for less money. Myanmar shares a border with China, and there is extensive trade between the two countries. If you would like to share Christmas with a child or children in Myanmar by sending a financial gift, we can add your gift to those of others to help purchase toys and other small items for as many children as possible.

If you have any questions, or want to share in the blessing of giving to the poor and needy children of Myanmar this Christmas, please contact us for more information.

A Christmas Feast for a Poor Village

There are many villages in northwest Myanmar where the people are so poor they only eat meat once per year, on Christmas Day, when the whole village shares in a community feast.

However, some villages are so poor that they cannot even afford to purchase a pig for their Christmas meal. You can provide the meat, or even a

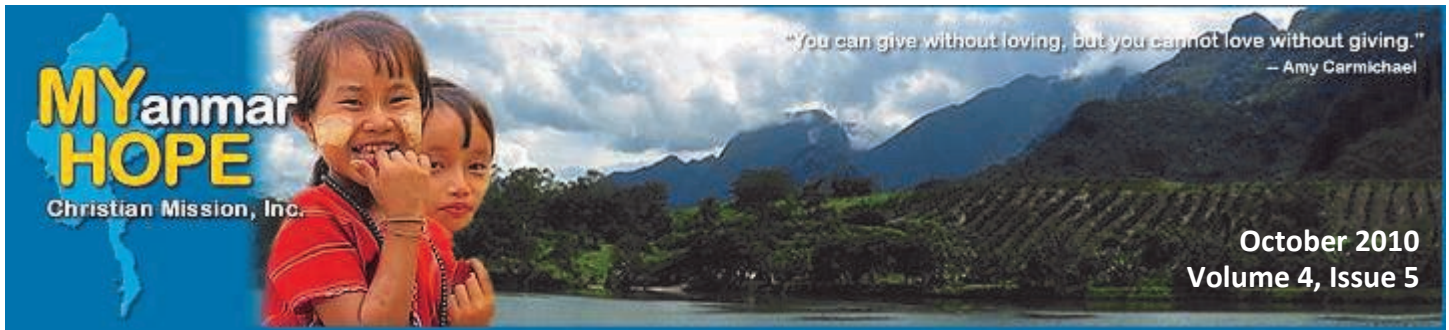
complete Christmas feast, for an entire village this year. A pig is \$150.00; a complete feast for a village is \$250.00. God bless you!



In Memoriam

From the West Side Christian Church Homebuilder’s ABF:

\$25.00 in memory of Peggy Jacobson’s Mother



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Place
 Stamp
 Here

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**Bringing the eternal hope of Jesus Christ to the people of Myanmar in a holistic manner
 by addressing their spiritual, physical, emotional and educational needs**

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Travel in Myanmar

Palal recently returned from a trip to the northwest. He shared with us this part of his journey:

"I rode this bus from Monyaw to Kalay Myo. We left Monyaw at 5:00 pm. The road between these two towns is very long and treacherous. The bus lines do not want the passengers to see the road, mountains, hills, and dangers, so they usually travel at night. That way the passengers cannot see the dangerous views and do not make any exclamations!

"We crossed rivers, valleys, and mountains. When we got to the top of the mountains, the brake line failed and we lost the brakes. One of the men jumped out, put a large block of wood under the wheel to stop the bus from rolling, then they repaired the brake line. It took two hours in the jungle at night to make the repairs, from 11:00 pm to 1:00 am.

"We finally got to Gangaw town (100 miles from Kalay) in the morning at 7:00 am. When we entered the town, one of the wheel springs broke. They went to a repair shop and fixed the spring, but it took us 4 hours.

"We continued the journey from Gangaw to Kalay. Then we

had another problem. The power steering line broke. They repaired it and then we continued the journey. Then we had one more problem. Our bus had a flat tire!

"Usually the bus gets to Kalay at 8:00 am. But this time, we got to Kalay at 8:00 pm, 12 hours late."

Needless to say, we thank God that the bus arrived safely! We are also thankful for the relatively safe modes of transportation that we in the West take for granted so often. Thank you for your continued prayers for the safety of Palal and our family in Myanmar!



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