

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the central event in Christianity. The world doesn't know it, but the resurrection is also the central event in all of history!

Though we mark our calendars from the birth of our Savior, it is really his resurrection that was the pivotal moment in the history of God's dealings with humanity. In one divine instant, in a powerful burst of eternal glory, the dead winter of the old creation melted away as the Spring of a New Creation was unleashed, inaugurated by the resurrection of the Son of God. From that time until now, death itself has been working backwards, and we eagerly look forward to that day when we, too, will share in his resurrection glory.

It is this hope that Peter encourages us with: "...*He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you*" (1 Peter 1:3 ESV).

Thank God for this living hope! And thank you for your love, your prayers, and your financial support, which is enabling us to bring the Good News of this living hope to the people of Myanmar!

New Students at HBS

We are very excited to report that we have six new students at Hope Boarding School, bringing our total enrollment to thirty—which is all we can fit into our existing building. These children all come from incredibly poor families in the northwest, where they have no viable options for getting a good education. (See our previous newsletter for a detailed discussion of the state of education in northwest Myanmar).

Even though the next school year doesn't start until June, we decided to bring the kids down as soon as possible so that they could get acclimated to their new surroundings before the stresses associated with starting at a new school begin. So far they are all doing very well. Palal reported that one new student had a little bit of trouble adjusting at first, mainly due

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to homesickness, but now he is fine.

Here are the short biographies of each of the new children in our school:

Miss Lal Duh Awm



Miss Lal Duh Awm

Lal Duh Awm (pronounced 'lul-doo-ahwm') will be nine years old on April 19th, and will be in the fourth grade when school starts in June.

Her parents are Mr. Lal Par Vul and Mrs. Lam Kho Neng. She has four brothers and one sister. Her family lives in Bokkan Village, where they are subsistence farmers. They are extremely poor and

do not have enough income to send all of their children to school.

Lal says that her goal is to become a doctor. "I want to become a medical doctor. I know I would not reach my goal if I stay in my village. To get my goal I want to stay at Hope Boarding School and go to school in Yangon where I can get a good education."

Thanks to Lal's sponsor, she now has a real chance of

reaching her goal. Not only will she get the education she needs and deserves, she will experience a much healthier lifestyle than she would have back in her village, where the child mortality rate is very high. Please pray for Lal Duh Awm to remain healthy and to excel in her studies, so that she can reach her goal of becoming a medical doctor.

Miss Neng Nei Chan



Miss Neng Nei Chan

Neng Nei Chan (pronounced 'neeng-nee-**chan**') was born on February 2, 2000, and is eleven years old. She will be in the fifth grade when school starts in June.

Her parents are Mr. Jam Kho Ngam and Mrs. Chin Ngaih Ting. She was born in Tamu, and she has three brothers and two sisters.

Her parents divorced in 2007 (something very unusual in northwest Myanmar) and her mother and younger sister now live in Nanphalong Village. The rest of the children live in Tamu with the grandparents. Her father is an alcoholic and does not provide for the family. Her grandparents are very old and poor, and do not have enough income to send all of the children to school.

Neng's goal is also to become a doctor. She says, "In the future I want to become a medical doctor. I want to stay at Hope Boarding School where I can get a better education so I can help my family."

Please pray for Neng to remain healthy and strong, and to excel in her studies so that she, too, can reach her goal.

Miss Neng Khan Chin



Miss Neng Khan Chin

Neng Khan Chin (pronounced 'neeng-kahn-**chin**') was born on September 22nd, 2000, and is ten years old. She will be in sixth grade.

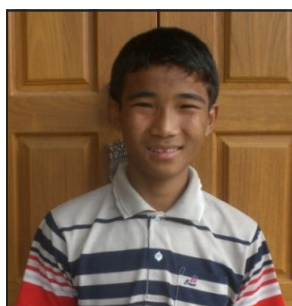
Her parents are Mr. Jang Kho Thang and Mrs. Ting Kho Lam. They live in Valpabung Village, with her two sisters and one brother.

Her family is very poor, and they attempt to make a living as subsistence farmers. Unfortunately, her father is drug addicted and no longer works. Her mother works very hard to try to provide for the family, but there is never enough income to make ends meet.

Neng says, "I am very interested in my study. Even though we are poor, I tried hard in my school to become a nurse. In grade three, out of fifty students I got the third position. In grade four, out of seventy students, I got the second position. The examination results for grade five are not out yet."

She continues, "In the future, I want to become a nurse. I know I would not reach my goal if I stay in my village. To reach my goal I want to live at Hope Boarding School in Yangon where I can get a good education. I would like to request you to pray and help me for my education in Yangon. I will be praying for you."

Mr. Thang Ja Ngam



Mr Thang Ja Ngam

Thang Ja Ngam (pronounced 'tong-**zsha**-nom') was born on April 15, 1996, and is fifteen years old. He will be in sixth grade.

He is from Khampat Village. His parents are Mr. Zam Lhun (late) and Mrs. Hoi Kho Lhing. He has one brother and two sisters. His father died in 2007 in a bicycle accident.

His mother tries to support the children but she is not healthy, and not all of the children have been able to attend school.

Thang was supposed to be at HBS during the previous school year, but due to financial and other hardships he was unable to make the trip last May. Now he is at the school, and is adjusting well to his new home. Please pray for Thang's health and education, and that he will do well in his studies this year.

Miss Neng Nei Mawi



Miss Neng Nei Mawi

Neng Nei Mawi (pronounced 'neeng-nee-**mow**-ee') was born on March 24th, 2001. She is ten years old and will be in grade five this coming June.

Her parents are Mr. Kham Len Pao and Mrs. Tin Kho Neng (late). Her family lives in Canaan Village, where she has one younger brother and one older sister.

Her mother died in 2003, her father later remarried, to Mrs. Cin Zam Cing, and they now have two more children. There was not enough income to support everyone, so some of the children went to live with other relatives. Neng went to live with her grandmother, who tried to send her to school. Unfortunately, she had to stop because of lack of funds.

Neng also wants to become a nurse so that she can go back and help her family and village. Please pray that she will remain healthy and strong, and will do well in her studies this year.

Miss Hat Nei Hoi



Miss Hat Nei Hoi

Hat Nei Hoi (pronounced 'hot-nee-**hoy**') was born on April 18th, 2000. She is eleven years old and will be in sixth grade this coming June.

Her parents are Mr. Vum Kho Pao and Mrs. Nem Nei Them. Her family lives in Valpabung Village. She has one younger brother and three younger sisters.

Her family is very poor, and there is not enough money to send all of the children to school.

Please pray for Hat to be healthy and strong this year, and that she will excel in her studies. As with the other new girls, she says she wants to grow up and work in the medical field. Thanks to her sponsor, she now has a rare opportunity to help lift her extended family out of the cycle of poverty and bring real hope to her entire village.

Please Pray for All of our Students

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, only about 20 percent of children in the northwest ever make it all the way to high school, and only about twenty percent of them actually graduate. That is a staggering statistic, and it helps to partially explain the abject poverty that continues to plague the desperate families in northwest Myanmar.

Thanks to your generous support, the thirty children of Hope Boarding School are on track to be "exceptional exceptions" to the statistics. Without your prayers and support, though, these kids would not have a chance. Your love, prayers, and financial support have given these children, their families, and indeed their entire villages, HOPE for a better future. Thank you!

The Incredible Cookie Lady

Lisa Burris is an incredible lady with an incredible ministry. Her ministry, named "the batch," blesses other ministries through her near-superhuman baking skills. She bakes and sells hundreds of dozens of cookies each month, and she donates the entire proceeds to a different ministry each month. She does all of this out of her own kitchen, using supplies which she and her husband, Rob, pay for using their own per-



MaryAnn Cherry and Lisa Burris (AKA The Cookie Lady)

sonal funds. In other words, 100% of the sale proceeds go to the other ministries.

When Lisa Burris informed us last November that she would choose Myanmar Hope Christian Mission as her featured ministry in February and April*, we were overjoyed. We knew that she baked and sold lots of cookies, but we had no idea just how many!

We have not received a final tally of the total donations, but we have received the donations for the first three weeks of February. Can you believe the amount was over seven thousand dollars? We were blown away!

We can't wait to find out what the total for the last three weeks of April will be. We are praying for a big harvest of cookies, though! We also can't wait to share in our next newsletter how these funds will be used. (We thought we knew already, but it seems God has other plans in mind.)

Thank you to all who have purchased cookies or made donations though "the batch." Every one of those cookies was baked with love, and every penny will be used to make the lives of our poor Christian family in Myanmar just a little bit better. God Bless Lisa Burris and **the batch**

**There is still time to order cookies for Myanmar Hope!
Give Lisa a call at 217-793-3473 or email her at:
thebundle.batch@live.com.**

** Lisa took time off at the end of February, March, and the beginning of April so that she could have her tiny little kitchen remodeled and expanded. Now she is able bake even more cookies than before! Thanks, Lisa!!*



Deadly Earthquake in Shan State

On March 21st an earthquake of magnitude 7.0 struck northeast Myanmar near the border of Thailand. Because of the remoteness of the location and the general lack of openness on the part of the government, it was several days before we found out the full extent of the damage.



To this day no one knows how many people actually died during the quake, but we know of at least 150 fatalities. Thousands of people remain homeless, and the weather has been unusually cold and wet, increasing the suffering and disease brought on by the earthquake.

A primary concern in the wake of the disaster was access to clean drinking water. Kikim's brother, who lives in the area hit by the quake, was working with his wife (who works for a local NGO) to help assess the damage. In village after village, they came across people holding up signs that said, "We are thirsty. Please give us water."



One very tragic story to emerge from the disaster happened in the village of Kyakuni. Twenty-three people were killed and fifty others were injured when a Baptist church building collapsed on the worshippers inside.

According to Baptist Press, "The Baptists were in the middle of a worship service when the ground began to shake violently. Screaming church members scrambled outside as the building cracked and came crashing down. One worshipper said it looked as if the 'earth swallowed the buildings.'"

Myanmar Hope, with help from International Disaster Emergency Services and the ladies of Tuesday morning "Alive With Christ" Bible study at WSCC, was able to send some funds to help purchase drinking water for the earthquake victims. Please pray for them, as the rainy season will be starting soon, and there are still several thousand families without any decent shelter.

HBS Field Trip

In our last newsletter, we promised to write more about our trip to Myanmar. We still can't believe we packed so much

into those three short weeks in December, but we also can't wait to get back there! In this edition, I want to tell you about the first ever field trip for the students of HBS.

Keep in mind that the majority of these kids come from very rural villages in northwest Myanmar, and most of them had never been to a large city like Yangon before they came to stay at HBS. Even after they arrived in Yangon, they rarely got a chance to go far from the neighborhood of the school. You can probably imagine, then, how excited they were when we told them we were going to take them on a field trip to some famous sites around the city!



Palal rented a small bus for the whole day. MaryAnn and I walked from our hotel to Palal's apartment, and then we all waited for the bus to arrive there to pick us up. When it arrived, we climbed in and headed over to the school.

The bus wasn't in very good shape—it was loud, it smelled like diesel fuel, the suspension was shot, and it had a Buddhist shrine up front by the driver. In other words, it was a typical Myanmar bus!

When we got to the school, the kids all piled in, excitedly carrying their sacks and backpacks, ready for a day of adventure. Kikim stood in the door of the bus and prayed for us. She wasn't going on the trip; she was planning to stay back at the school with baby Cherry and two of the students who were sick that day.



After everyone was in and all the food and drink for lunch had been loaded on, the driver fired up the engine and we sputtered off, bouncing merrily along on our way to the first stop—the National Races Village.



It took us about forty-five minutes to get there through the morning traffic, and by the time we arrived many of the kids were car-sick from all the bouncing and diesel



fumes. We all piled out and Palal had the children sit down in the shade for a few minutes to clear their heads and settle their stomachs. While they were getting their bearings, he went to the main gate and paid the admission fees.



The main entrance to the National Races Village

The National Races Village is a large park, divided up into sections, each section dedicated to one of the eight major ethnic groups which inhabit Myanmar. Each section is located in the park in a rough approximation of where the group lives in the country. So, for example, the Kachin area was located at the far north side of the park, because the Kachin tribe is from the far north in Myanmar. Each ethnic group area has a large house or hut, built in the traditional style of that group, and containing artifacts and materials specific to the group.

On the main road of the park, just inside the entrance, is Nan Myint Tower, and of course we all wanted to climb up to the top to “see what we could see.” MaryAnn and some of the girls held hands as they went up, counting each step as they climbed around and around. I don’t remember how many steps there were, but it was a lot. When we all got to the top, we enjoyed the view and were refreshed by the cool breeze. We also snapped lots of photos with the children, who love getting their picture taken with “Pupu and Pipi.”



It took us the better part of the morning to walk the entire park. We didn’t go in every house, but we did visit quite a few. Of course we had to visit the Chin house, since all of our children and staff come from the Chin ethnic group.



Inside the Chin House

After we had traversed the length and breadth of Myanmar (metaphorically speaking), we climbed back on the bus and headed for the National Museum.

The museum was interesting, but it was very primitive by Western standards. The most interesting display was a life-size replica of the throne room, including the huge golden throne, of one of Myanmar’s last kings. Unfortunately, we were not allowed to take our cameras inside the museum, so we didn’t get any photos.



By the time we finished at the museum, we were all getting pretty hungry. We decided to head for the zoo, our last stop of the day, and eat our lunch there. MaryAnn and I are not big fans of zoos, but there aren’t that many places to take kids on a field trip in Yangon, and most of the children had never been to a zoo before.

The zoo in Yangon was built back in the early part of the last century, when Burma was still part of the British Empire. Most, if not all, of the exhibits are what you would expect in a one hundred year old zoo, which has not had a significant up-

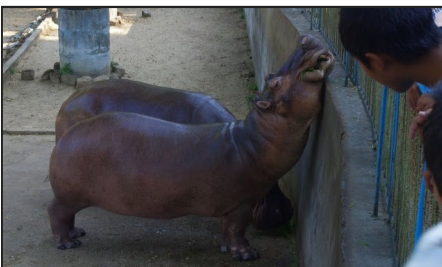
grade in at least fifty years. In fact, it was downright depressing.

The entrance to the zoo had a carnival-like atmosphere, with vendors trying to sell us everything from drinking water to pictures of Buddha. We finally managed to get inside through the tiny gate, and once inside, we headed for a nearby pavilion to eat our lunch of rice, chicken, vegetables, and tea. A couple of the kids weren't feeling well by this time, and one of the adults took them home after we had finished eating.

The trip through the zoo was interesting, to say the least. We started out at the baboon pit, which was full of baboons, trash, old banana peels, and other items too foul to mention. As we stood there watching the baboons do what baboons do, we were constantly being harangued by a "Hookah" monkey in the cage nearby. It kept shouting "Hoooo-kah! Hoooo-kah! in an extremely loud voice.



We made our way through the rest of the monkey cages, and at one point I watched an evil monkey reach through his cage bars and steal the sandal right off a little boy's foot. He (the boy, not the monkey) immediately starting wailing and crying, and then I saw why: the monkey had given him a nasty scratch on the foot. We counseled his father, with Palal interpreting, to get the boy to the nearest medical clinic right away. Those monkeys are filthy, and there is no telling what kind of infection that boy would get from that monkey's claw.



After the monkeys, we stopped by the hippo pit. People were feeding the hippo lettuce and other greens, right over the side of the enclosure. The hippos were so close that some people were patting them on the head.

I felt so sorry for those animals. They must be living miserable lives in that old zoo. One of the bears in the next enclosure only had three legs, and none of them looked at all healthy. This was pretty much the same situation for all of the animals that we observed.

The most depressing sight of all, though, were the ele-



phants. These noble beasts were kept chained on a large concrete platform, just out of reach of the visitors. The poor animals looked very sickly, and they kept rocking back and forth, or stepping forward, then stepping back, the whole time we watched them.

One funny event occurred while we were watching the elephants. As we were walking away, a crowd of people came up the walkway. One man with a camera spotted MaryAnn and I. He quickly came up to us and motioned that he wanted to get his picture taken with us. He handed his camera to a friend, then got in between us and smiled really big. We just laughed and smiled too, while the friend snapped the photo.

We thought that was it, but then another person quickly wedged in, and wanted his picture taken. Then another, and another. I quickly ducked out and made my way for the exit ramp. MaryAnn wasn't so lucky, though, so she had to stand there and get her picture taken with at least a couple-dozen more people!



After a couple of hours walking through the zoo, we happened by a vendor selling ice cream cones. We were hot and tired, and that looked like a really good treat. We had the kids all line up according to age, youngest to oldest, and everyone got a cone. I was really proud of how well behaved the kids were, and how patiently they waited in line for their turn.

By now we were all really tired. The day had been rather warm, and we had done a lot of walking. Even so, it took us a

while to find the proper exit, which was on the other side of the zoo. By the time we got out of the zoo and back onto the bus, we were bused.



Neng Ja Lam and Let Kho Lal

The drive back to the school took almost an hour, and several of the kids fell asleep on the way. We finally made it back to the school, just as the sun was about to set. The children were exhausted, but happy, and I'm sure this was a day that they will remember for a long time to come.



Home at last

New Sewing Machines

In our last newsletter, we made you aware of several items that we need to purchase for Hope Boarding School. On the list were sewing machines (one or two).

Praise God for his excellent blessings! Shortly after that newsletter went out, MaryAnn and I were sharing about our trip with a group of folks at West Side Christian Church in Springfield, Illinois. As part of the presentation we shared the need for a sewing machine, and showed a picture of the kind of machines they use in Yangon (old, foot-pedal operated manual machines.)

After the presentation, a couple approached us and offered to give us the old machine they had at home, which the wife's grandmother had used, and which had been handed down to

her.

We thanked them for the very generous offer, but we could not accept it because of the high cost of shipping such an item. They then wrote out a check on the spot so that we could purchase a sewing machine in Yangon!

Kikim was very excited when she got the funds and was able to go shopping for a sewing machine. She was able to purchase not just a sewing machine, but also another machine that Palal called an "over lock." Here is Palal and Kikim's note about the blessing of the machines:



"Everyday, we count his blessings for our ministry. God is good and He provides our needs! We have been praying for a sewing machine to mend our students' clothes.

Since last year we had to go to a tailor to mend our students' clothes: longyi, shirt, bags, shorts, etc. It was a lot for 24 students. Now that we have sewing machines we do not have to go to other tailors to mend our students' clothes.

We are glad that Kikim can mend our students' clothes. [Kikim was trained as a seamstress before she and Palal were married.] When we have more time, we plan to teach our older students how to use these machines. Here is a picture of some of our students with their old mended clothes. We are so thankful to God and friends who donated funds to purchase these machines. Thank you very much!"



Hope Preschool

Some of you may remember that West Side Christian Church missions team donated funds last year to purchase materials for the Tamu Christian Church to build a small worship facility. [You can see a video at <http://goo.gl/JW16w>]

Palal and Kikim recently sent this note, along with pictures, of one way the building is now being used:

“Dear All, we cannot stop expressing our thanks to West Side Christian Church for their love and support for our ministry in Myanmar. In 2010, WS mission team helped with funds for a building for Tamu Christian Church. The building is very useful for the congregation. We also use this building for our trainings in Tamu.

Tamu Christian Church uses this building for Worship Service on the Lord’s Day. However, we do not want the church to be empty on the other days, so we prayed and asked God what He wants us to do more for his people in this building. I, along with the Board of Elders of Tamu Christian Church, discussed opening a preschool for the children in that area. We all agreed and planned for opening a preschool.



Tamu Christian Church—The Finished Building



The children learning the Burmese alphabet

Now we have twelve students in our preschool in Tamu. We take fees from the students’ families and hire a teacher. Now it is open and the students are very happy. The parents are also very happy for our preschool program in Tamu Town. God bless you all!”

Do you still want to receive this newsletter?

We hope you do, but if not, we understand. Please let us know if you want us to take you off of our mailing list.

If you have email, and would be comfortable receiving our newsletter that way, please let us know! Call MaryAnn at 217-415-9187, or send us an email at info@myanmarhope.org.

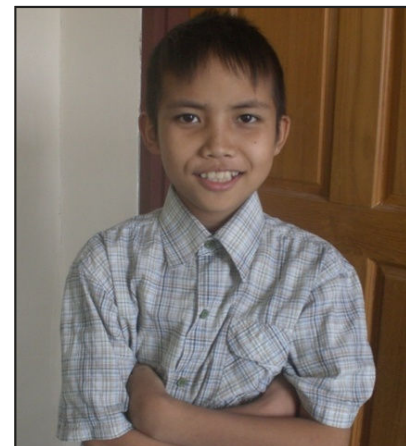
Make sure to add myanmarhope.org to your email client’s white list, so that you won’t miss a single edition!

THANK YOU!!

Thang Len Mang

in January of this year Thang Len Mang was diagnosed with leukemia. Since that time he has received innumerable blood transfusions, and has been receiving chemotherapy since February.

We are happy to report that his treatments appear to be working well, and as of now his blood counts are within the normal range. **Thank you to all who donated funds for his medical treatment! Without your support, Thang would most likely be dead today.**



We continue to use those funds, as Thang will need to receive chemo treatments for at least another year or so. We have enough funds on hand for the next few months, but we may need to make another fund-raising effort later this year to replenish our medical account.

Because of his disease, Thang was unable to finish the school year or sit for his exams. As a result, he will be another year behind. We are confident that he will be able to get caught up, and will soon be back on track. **Thank you again for your prayers and financial support for this wonderful young boy! Thang, his family, and his village all send their love and thanks to you all.**



Hope Boarding School
Yangon, Myanmar • Class of 2011/2012



Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.

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Board Member Updates

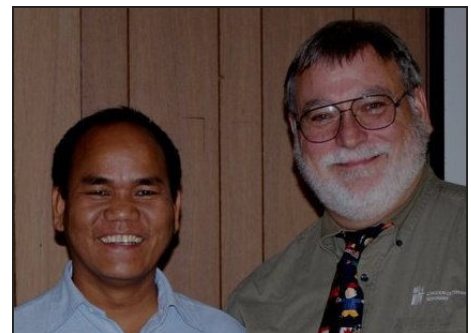
We want to extend our hearty congratulations to two of our board members, **Dr. Chauncey Lattimer** and **Dr. Saira Silas**.

We introduced Saira to you in our last newsletter, and we told you that she was expecting a new baby boy in April. Well, little Jacob arrived right on time, healthy and beautiful. We praise God for Saira, Phil, Joshua, Michael, and Jacob, and we pray for His richest blessings to continue on the Silas family.



Dr. Saira Silas with her new baby boy, Jacob.

We also congratulate Dr. Chauncey Lattimer for finishing his doctorate degree at Lincoln Christian University! He worked very hard and spent a lot of time on this degree, and he is very well deserving of his new title. Congratulations, Chauncey!



Palal and Chauncey

We look forward to having more doctors on our board of directors! Both Palal and Tom Spoons are continuing their work toward doctorate degrees. We anticipate that Palal will be finished with his work in August of this year. We had hoped that he and Chauncey would finish at the same time, and so could participate in the graduation ceremony together, but the timing just didn't work out. If Palal does finish in August, we will have a joint celebration for him and Chauncey when Palal comes back to the States in October.



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