

September 2011
Volume 5, Issue 3

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

Hello Again!

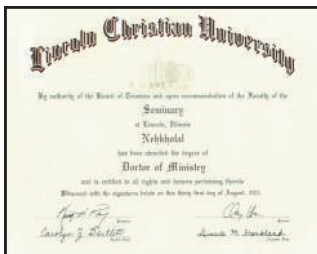
It was a long, very hot, and very dry summer here in Central Illinois, but we praise God for some recent rain and cooler weather. Fall is right around the corner!

If it seems like a long time since you received a newsletter, from us, you're right—it has been a while! The last issue went out in April, and now it is September already! Because of lower than average donations, we needed to cut back on printing and mailing costs. However, the Facebook page is updated almost every day so, if you have Internet access, please visit us there. The address is www.facebook.com/myanmarhope. You don't need a Facebook account to view the page; it is open to the public.

We are excitedly looking forward to our annual trek to the National Missionary Convention, which will be in Atlanta this year. If you are anywhere close to that area, it is well worth the time! Visit www.nationalmissionaryconvention.org for more details.

Also, barring any unforeseen difficulties, Palal will be back with us in America starting the second week of November until the middle of December. Speaking engagements are already being scheduled, so if you want Palal to share with your group about Myanmar, please call 217-415-9187 right away.

Congratulations to Dr. Nehkholal Khongsai!



After many years of sacrifice, preparation, and hard work, we are excited to report that Palal graduated from the doctoral program at Lincoln Christian University in August with his Doctor of Ministry degree (DMin). One can only imagine

how difficult it was for him to complete—coming from a completely different culture, speaking a different language, and never having been in American before. Getting a doctoral de-

In This Issue:

Greetings	1
Congratulations!	1
CHE Training in Yangon	3
Christian Leadership Training	2
New Baptisms	3
Khongsai Family Update	3
Hope Boarding School	4
Thang Len Mang	6
More Pictures	7
Palal is Coming!	8

gree is a great accomplishment for anyone, but to come such a great distance (physically, culturally, linguistically, philosophically, etc.) to achieve this feat is even more amazing.

This degree has greatly empowered Palal's ministry back in his home country. He is able to pass on his learning and experience to hundreds of other church leaders across many denominations. His degree has also given Palal a great boost of credibility back in his home country with local and regional political and military leaders, and further enables him to strengthen the Church and build the Kingdom of God.

In addition to this degree, Palal was able to finish one of his Master's degrees that was interrupted for two and a half years while he lived and studied in the U.S. When he got back to Yangon last January, he immediately began working on his thesis, "A Philosophical Analysis on the Concept of Marriage in Kuki Culture." Palal's thesis was published in April, and his Master of Philosophy degree was finally complete.



Palal's published Master's Thesis

It will be exciting to see how the Lord will continue using

this dedicated and hard-working man of God to extend and strengthen the Body of Christ in Myanmar and beyond in the years to come!

CHE Training in Yangon

When Palal and Kikim were living in America, they were blessed to be able to attend a week-long Community Health Evangelism (CHE) "Train the Trainer" session in Indianapolis, Indiana.

CHE is "...an association of people and organizations using the strategy of Community Health Evangelism to serve impoverished communities around the world. We are networked together for mutual support to share useful ideas and best practices, encourage each other, coordinate efforts, and optimize the use of limited resources." (<http://chenetwork.org/>)



Palal leading the CHE Training



CHE Participants

As part of the training, they were given access to many valuable CHE resources to enable them to train community leaders back in their home country.

Recently, Palal and Kikim were able to put

their training into practice at our ministry headquarters in Yangon. On four consecutive Mondays starting on June 6th, community leaders came together to learn and share about better health care, proper nutrition, poverty alleviation, micro-finance, and many other needed items.

Palal wrote, "There were 15 representative leaders from different townships in Yangon. They enjoyed the classes and learned new skills for community development and spiritual care. Together we learned many good things using practical hands-on training and discussion. Now these leaders know better how to use Community Health Evangelism and Community Development Education to reach the needy."



CHE participants share a meal together

Christian Leadership Training

In May, Palal traveled back to the northwest for another week of Christian Leadership Training, this time held at one of our sister churches in Valpabung village.

After a harrowing trip on plane, boat, and jeep, in which they were delayed by a massive storm that toppled many trees along the roads, they finally made it to Valpabung. The training was attended by more than one hundred leaders from eleven different churches.



Church leaders at the Valpabung CLT meeting

A lot of time was spent discussing and dealing with various issues and questions relating to leadership in the village churches. Palal has been trying, quite successfully, to move church leaders away from the prevailing militaristic, authoritarian, top-down style of leadership to a more biblical "servant-leadership" attitude. Of course, this kind of transformation does not happen overnight, nor without any problems. Many of these sorts of problems are dealt with in these CLT sessions.



The new Executive Committee



Palal teaching a session at the CLT

Also at this session, the local leaders voted to appoint an executive committee to help oversee the churches, to help mediate problems, and to address

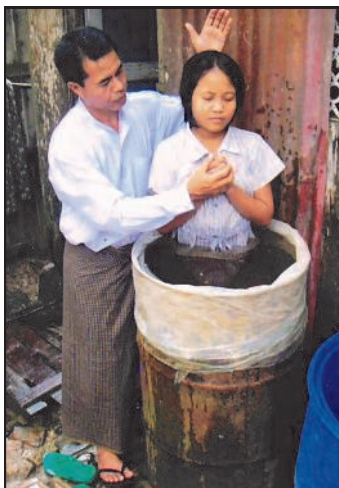
regional issues. These trusted and dedicated men will help Palal oversee the growing number of congregations who are leaving behind their denominational divisions and joining with other independent Christian Churches of northwest Myanmar.

As Palal shared in a recent report, “We have waited many years to have devoted Christian leaders in northwest Myanmar. We have spent lots of time and finances to develop Christian leaders in our local churches. It is one of the fruits from my doctoral studies in church leadership at Lincoln Christian University, and also from our summer Christian Leadership Training Programs.”

Please pray for the elders and pastors of the churches in northwest Myanmar as they learn from Palal how to transform their leadership methods and attitudes toward a more biblically-based worldview, and pray for Palal to have wisdom and strength to help these leaders make the transition.

New Baptisms at Dalah

Our wonderful brother, Pastor Khup, has been very busy leading the congregation at Dalah Christian Church. This little congregation is one of our poorest, and it is amazing to see how Pastor Khup is able to operate under the severest of conditions. However, in the midst of their poverty, they are still able to reach out and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with their neighbors! Palal recently shared pictures of new believers being baptized by Pastor Khup, in his “barrel baptistry.”



Please pray for Pastor Khup, his family, and the congregation of Dalah, which is almost entirely made up of new converts from Buddhism. Please

pray about helping Pastor Khup and this congregation, all of whom live in abject poverty.



Khongsai Family Update

You have already read the good news about Palal’s graduation, but there are some other family updates to share with you!



Cherry turned one year old in July

Cherry Nem Nei Them, the beautiful daughter of Palal and Kikim, turned one year old in July! It would have been wonderful to be there for her birthday party, but we were happy to see the pictures of Cherry and her birthday cake. How fun it will be to be able to give her lots of birthday hugs and kisses when we visit in December.

And who can forget little Solomon? He excitedly returned to Myanmar International School of Yangon (MISY) in August, ready to start first grade! Palal tells us that Solomon was already reading short stories on his own, so he should be quite ready for the “rigors” of first-grade education. It is a blessing to be able to send Solomon to MISY,



where he can continue to use and improve the English language skills he acquired while in the U.S.A.

If you would like to help with the educational expenses of this future leader of Myanmar, please call or write us today, or go online to www.myanmarhope.org and make a donation.

Hope Boarding School

Since the last newsletter, many much-needed renovations to the HBS building have occurred. First, a new brick fence was built on both the front and back sides of the building, which greatly improves the security situation for the children and staff.



The new front fence

The front fence is especially nice. The lights and fancy brickwork make this the envy of the neighborhood, and helps to set the school apart as a quality institution.

The night they turned on the lights, Palal preached on John 12, "I am the light of the world." He told the children, "Just as our fence is now the light of the neighborhood, which everyone who walks down our street can easily see and not miss, you, too must be a light to our neighbors and your school mates. You must let the light of Jesus shine forth from your hearts."



New front fence with lights



Side building "awning" addition

A covered room addition on the right side of the building is nearly completed. This enclosed space is already being used by the children for a new dining hall, study area, and a place to hang and dry their clothing during the many rainy days of the monsoon season, which will last for another month or so.

If you notice the standing water in front of the fence in the picture on the left, that is the drainage ditch that runs in front of all the houses on both sides of the street. In the nicer neighborhoods, this is usually a concrete lined ditch with cement slabs covering it. In most neighborhoods it is an open ditch like the one in the picture.



The children studying together in the new addition

Thanks to two recent donations, one from a generous Springfield couple and another from VBS at Fairview Church of Christ, HBS is now in the process of having the ditch lined and covered. This is something to be thankful for! It will not only improve the safety and sanitation of the school, it will greatly improve the appearance and value of the property.

There are numerous repairs and renovations to complete on the building, such as ceilings, new windows, etc., but progress is being made!

The H.O.T. Program is Making a Difference!

Every month I.D.E.S (International Disaster Emergency Services) donates funds from their H.O.T. program (Harvest of Talents) to HBS. Each year several churches hold a Harvest of Talents event in which funds are raised in support of I.D.E.S. work worldwide. From these funds, I.D.E.S. sets aside a portion to be used for food for children in impoverished nations.



Rice purchased with H.O.T. funds

Thanks to the addition of these much needed and appreciated funds, HBS students receive enough fruit, vegetables, protein, vitamins, and minerals to keep them healthy and strong.



Vitamins purchased with H.O.T. funds

Also, the essential nutrition the children receive as a result of the H.O.T. funds enables them to perform better at school. There has been a marked im-

provement in their health, skin tone, physical stature, and all-around attitudes since they began getting the extra nutrition. My Hope is extremely grateful for I.D.E.S. and the many individuals who make the H.O.T. program a reality!



Fruits and vegetables bought with H.O.T. funds

Sheldon Church of Christ VBS Provides HBS with a New Keyboard!

Thanks to the kids and volunteers at Sheldon Church of Christ, another one of the items on the "wish list" can be crossed off! HBS and Yangon Christian Church have wanted a keyboard for a long time, but never had the extra funds to purchase one. Now, thanks to Sheldon Church of Christ, HBS kids will be able to worship to the sound of an accompanying keyboard. In addition to an enhanced worship experience, the kids will also be able to learn how to play. Palal is an experienced music teacher, and several of the adult volunteers are able to teach them how to play the keyboard.



Not only will HBS kids benefit from this wonderful gift, but the congregation of Yangon Christian Church will also be able to use the new keyboard for their worship services. This is such a great blessing! Thank you, children and adults at Sheldon Church of Christ!



HBS students singing with their new keyboard accompaniment

Seventeen Children Request Baptism

Last Easter season, Palal spent considerable time teaching the students basic doctrines of Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, and their need for salvation and baptism. The animated Bible DVD's from Nest Family Entertainment were a great help for the children, who enjoy watching the animated stories from the Bible. The sub-titles also help them with learning English.

This is the first time that many of the children have ever had an extended time of Bible training, similar to a VBS but

much more in-depth. Back in the villages, where most people don't even own a Bible, there is a great lack of trained leaders and teachers, as well as a lack of biblical training materials. As a result, most Christians are very lacking in their understanding of even the most basic Bible doctrines and stories that Christians in the West have come to take for granted.

However, at the end of the first "VBS" week of Bible training, activities, and lessons, seventeen children indicated that they wanted to be baptized. Praise God!



Children indicating their desire for baptism

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support. The lives of these children are being changed every day at Hope Boarding School. As these kids grow up, graduate, and enter adult life, they will be tremendously empowered to go out and change their world for the better. Your donations are having a direct and immediate impact on their lives, but more importantly, you are impacting many more lives for all eternity. Thank you!

There are thirty children in the boarding school, along with a staff of several volunteers whom we try to help financially whenever possible. At one point all thirty of the children were sponsored, but due to the downturn in the economy, six of the sponsors have had to stop sending monthly donations. Would you consider stepping in and helping to sponsor one of these precious children on a monthly basis? It costs about \$50.00 per month per child to cover all expenses. Please pray about helping My Hope by sponsoring one of the HBS kids. Thank you, and God bless your generosity!

Thang Len Mang

Please continue to pray for Thang Len Mang. He was diagnosed with acute leukemia in December of last year. Since that time, many of you have stepped forward to help with his medical expenses. Because of that, Palal has been able to continue taking him to the hospital for regular chemotherapy.

While he has good days and bad days, it seems like the good days are outnumbering the bad ones. We are looking forward with confident assurance that God will use the doctors and the medicine, provided through your financial donations, to ultimately heal Thang of this deadly cancer.

Please pray for Thang to be able to complete his studies successfully. The government school where the children take their mandatory classes will not send work for Thang to do while he is in the hospital, so he just loses that time. Please pray that he will still be able to pass his exams, and that the school will change its policy and allow him to do school work while he is in the hospital for treatment.

Currently there are enough funds to cover the next several months of treatment. Based on the advice of doctors, it is expected to take at least two years total of treatments to completely heal the disease and for Thang to be in remission. Please pray about this and consider sending a donation to add to Thang's medical fund.



Thang Len Mang spending time in the hospital in between chemo treatments



If you would like to watch a short video of Thang giving a word of thanks to all who have prayed for and helped him, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=oX6GU6RLc2w.

To learn more about I.D.E.S. visit their website at www.ides.org. To learn more about the Harvest of Talents, go to www.ides.org/harvestoftalents.html.



Building the back fence for HBS



Building the side addition for HBS



Even the HBS children helped!



Shwepyiaye Christian Church



Pastor Khup baptizing a new believer



Elders at CLT in Maingdaung



CLT at Maingdaung Village



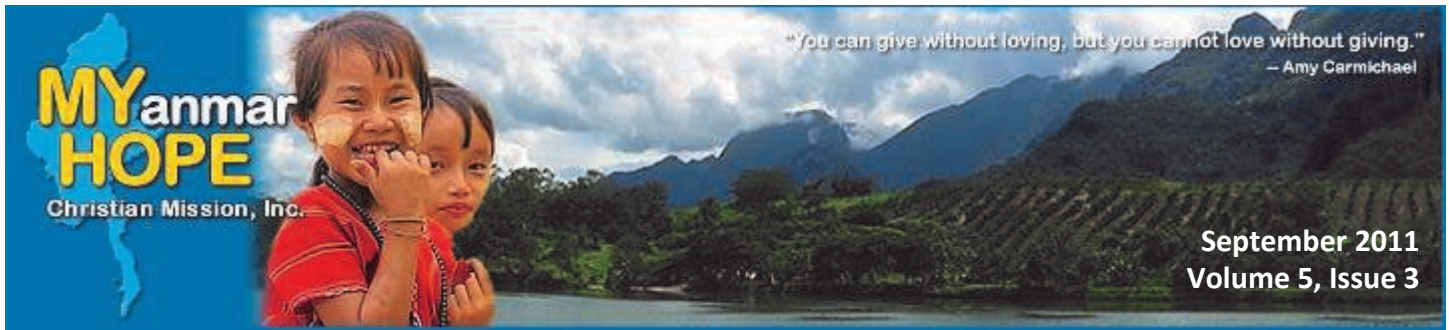
The sisters preparing a meal for leadership training



CLT in Shwepyiaye Village



The front fence under construction



Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.
624 Garvey Lane
Chatham, Illinois 62629-5086
217-415-9187

Place
Stamp
Here

Place address label here

**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**

www.myanmarhope.org | info@myanmarhope.org | facebook.com/myanmarhope | twitter.com/myanmarhope

Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc. is a federally recognized, not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Illinois. All donations made to this organization are 100% tax deductible according to the IRS Code, Section 501(c)(3). Federal Tax Identification: 26-0324244. NGO License Number: BU-1679.

Palal is Coming!

Lord willing, Palal will be returning to the U.S. for about six weeks, starting in November. He will attend the annual board meeting, which will be held at the National Missionary Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. He also hopes to visit as many of our supporting churches as possible during his stay.

If you are in the Midwest and would like to have Dr. Nehkholal Khongsai (our beloved Palal) come and speak to your congregation, please let us know as soon as possible.

Just before Christmas, Palal will return to Yangon, accompanied by Chuck and MaryAnn Cherry, who will stay in Myanmar for three weeks. They will help out at Hope Boarding School, participate in leadership training, assist with the Christmas outreaches to the Buddhists, fellowship with the believers and spend some much needed time with Palal, Kikim, and the rest of the family.

We want to take this opportunity to remind all of our current and future donors that 100% of all donations are used for ministry expenses. My Hope has no full-time staff in the U.S. All of the work here (accounting, publishing, fund-raising, etc.) is accomplished by volunteers. For instance, when Chuck and

MaryAnn Cherry travel to Yangon, they provide for their own travel expenses, rather than take money away from the general fund. When Palal travels to the U.S., his airfare will be covered by a special gift from good friends of the ministry. A small portion of our donation income is spent on administrative expenses, such as postage, printing, and communications. We really try to keep our expenses as low as absolutely possible.

If you are considering a donation to Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, and have any questions at all about our finances, please do not hesitate to ask us. You can call us at the number listed above, send us an email, or even send us a message on Facebook. As always, all donations are 100% tax deductible.

Thank you so much for your kind and generous support. Next May will mark the five-year anniversary of My Hope. It truly is humbling and amazing what the Lord has accomplished in this short time, thanks in large part to people like you. God bless you, and may you be continually blessed this upcoming Thanksgiving season!



Follow @myanmarhope



<http://facebook.com/myanmarhope>