

## Hope Boarding School Update

### New Students!

Thanks to the faithful prayers and support of many of you, we are able to add seven new girls to our roster this year! Please join us in welcoming our newest students to Hope Boarding School.

#### Miss Lam Hoi Vah



My name is Lam Hoi Vah. I am in Grade Seven. I was born on July 10, 2002. My parents are Mr. Hel Kho Lun and Mrs. Pao Tin Lam. I have a younger brother, Mr. Thang Chin Sei and a younger sister, Miss Lam Nei Neng. Our family lives in Hengjang Village, Tonzang Township, Chin State, Myanmar.

My father left our family in 2010 and moved to another village with his new wife. He never helped for my education and for our family. I am very sorry for my family.

My mother cultivates the hills and plants vegetables. She provides food for our family and money for my education. Every weekend I would go to the hills to help my mom in cultivation. Life is very hard in our village.

I am very happy to stay at Hope Boarding School in Yangon. Please pray for my mom, my brother, my sister and for my education in Yangon.

#### Miss Lam Nei Them



My name is Lam Nei Them. I am in Grade Six. I am ten years old. I was born on December 22, 2003. My parents are Mr. Lhun Ja Pao and Mrs. Hat Lam Cing. I have three sisters and three brothers. Our family lives in Hengjang Village, Tonzang Township, Chin State, Myanmar.

My father is a cultivator. Every year, my family cultivates the hills and plants rice paddy and vegetables. It is hard to get enough food from cultivation.

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I am happy to stay at Hope Boarding School in Yangon. Please pray for my education in Yangon. Thank you for praying for me and supporting my education in Yangon.

#### Miss Neng Dei Lhen Them



My name is Neng Dei Lhen Them. I am in Grade Seven. I was born on September 4, 2001. My parents are Mr. Pum Kho Mang (deceased) and Mrs. Cin Kho Vah. I have one older sister, Miss Vah Nei Them (deceased), and two brothers: Mr. Gin Len Sei (Grade Eight) and Mr. Gin Kho Lun (deceased). Our family lives in Khampat Town.

I am very sorry for my family. My father, my elder sister and my younger brother died a few years ago. My mom, my older brother and I live in sorrow. We face a difficult life and my mom struggles for our living and our education. Because of our family situation, I can't say or I can't imagine for my future life.

I am enclosing a gift in honor of my son, Stuart's football coaches: Buddy Omohundro, Boris Oglesby, and about 4 others. They are good men and very dedicated to the boys in teaching them virtues on and off the field.

- Mrs. Ann Campbell

I am happy to stay at Hope Boarding School. Thank you for praying for my mom, my younger brother and my life, especially for my education in Yangon.

### Miss Nei San Kim



My name is Nei San Kim. I am in Grade Six. I am ten years old. I was born on February 7, 2003. My parents are Mr. Lhun Ja Mang and Mrs. Tin Nei Lhing. I have two sisters and two brothers. Our family lives in Aungzeyah Village in Myotit Township, Sagaing Division, Myanmar.

My father is a wood cutter. He has a little income from cutting and selling wood in our village. My mother is taking care of us for our food and for our schooling. She has no income. We depend on my father's income, which is barely enough for our family and our education.

I am happy to stay at Hope Boarding School in Yangon. Please pray for my education in Yangon. I want to be a medical doctor in the future. Thank you for praying and supporting for my education in Yangon. I hope I will get a better life and education in Yangon.

### Miss Nen Khen Them



My name is Nen Khen Them. I am in Grade Six. My parents are Mr. Kon Kho Let and Mrs. Neng Dei Cing. I have one older sister, Miss Neng Nei Chong. She is in Grade Eight. Our family lives in Khumnoi Village.

My father used to be a pastor in the Baptist Church in Khumnoi village, but he became paralyzed in 2002 and was no longer able to serve as a pastor or work for income. My father has passed away in April 2013.

Now my mother is working for the whole family. My whole family depends on my mother's income from selling vegetables and weaving clothes, but it is not enough.

I am really happy to attend school at Hope Boarding School. I know if I can live at Hope Boarding School I will get a good education. If I stay in my village I will not have a good education.

Thank you for praying for me and my family and for supporting for my education. I will study hard and pray for you every day.

[Note: Soon after she arrived in Yangon, we found out that Miss Nen Khen Them has a serious heart condition. She is currently seeing a doctor at the nearby private clinic, and is taking medication. She is now doing fine.]

### Miss Tin Nei Lam



My name is Tin Nei Lam. I was born on January 15, 2000 in Khumnoi Village. My parents are Mr. Kam Kho Let and Mrs. Neng Kho Kim. I have two sisters and three brothers. Three of my siblings are school age and two are not.

My father left our family and got married again. My mother is working to take care for all of us. It is a great burden for my mother.

I am now studying in Grade Seven. I like school, and I always get the second or third position out of the thirty-nine students in my school.

I am very happy that I can live and study at Hope Boarding School in Yangon. I know I will get a good education. If I stay in my village I will not be able to continue my school. My vision is to become a medical doctor.

Thank you for praying for me and my family and supporting for my education.

### Miss Vah Kho Nei



My name is Vah Kho Nei. My family lives in Kanmaygyi village. I am in Grade Eight. My parents are Mr. Thang Kho Sei and Mrs. Lam Kho Tin. I have three sisters and one brother.

My parents are farmers. They plant vegetables for our family. They work very hard, but there is not enough money for our food, clothes, and education.

I wanted to come to Hope Boarding School in Yangon for two years. Now Palal and Kikim select me for HBS. I am so happy to study at Hope Boarding School. I will work hard and do my best. When I grow up I want to be a worship leader in my church. Will you please pray for me and support for my education? I will pray for you.

### New Building Construction Update



Example of what the new building will look like when complete

There has been a tremendous amount of progress since our last newsletter! At that time, the lot had been cleared and leveled. Now the foundation, ground floor concrete structure, and first floor are in place, and the second floor is going up as this is written.

So far, MyHope has received enough

donations to pay for construction through the middle of June. Praise God, we have been overwhelmed with your love and generosity!

Our prayer is to have the building shell fully constructed by the end of July. After that, funds will need to be raised for the electricity, plumbing, windows and doors, etc.

To watch a short video slideshow of the progress to date, please go to <http://goo.gl/21vPE>



All of the HBS girls posing for a group photo

## Hope Preschool Update

On May 5th, Palal was in Tamu to preside over Hope Preschool's first ever graduation ceremony for eighteen of the young students. Over one hundred people attended the ceremony. These young children are now ready to attend kindergarten classes in their local schools. You can read more about the graduation in Palal's ministry update in this newsletter.

An additional note about Hope Preschool: In the last newsletter we put out a call for sponsorship for Miss Kim Boi, a volunteer assistant at the preschool. Soon after that issue was published, however, we received word that Kim Boi had accepted an offer of marriage and would be moving to her new husband's village. We were sad to see her go, but very happy for her, and we wish her all the best in her new marriage.

Soon after Kim Boi's departure, Palal hired Miss Neng Nei Ting to serve as the assistant teacher. Miss Ting had been working in Tamu sewing mosquito nets for her income. Now she is doing what she loves, which is serving in the Church and working with children. Please join us in welcoming Miss Neng Nei Ting to Hope Preschool.



Miss Neng Nei Ting

## Baby Layettes Donated by WSCC Quilters

Before the team left for the previous trip to Yangon, the Ladies Quilting Group\* at West Side Christian Church lovingly donated sixty packs of layettes (sets of clothing and items for newborns) to be distributed to young mothers in Myanmar.



They were given to Palal and Kikim to decide how best to distribute them. We took some of them to the Northwest, where they were enthusiastically received by the women at the conference in Kalay. More were given to some of the pastors to give to families in their churches.

Some of the layettes were given to Pastor Khup to distribute to young mothers in his church and community, and some were kept by Kikim to give as gifts to new mothers in the neighborhood around Hope Boarding School.

These are wonderful gifts to present to new mothers, and are very well received. We saw first-hand how women in the Northwest were so emotionally moved that women in America would think of them in this way. Pastor Khup reported that the young women in his community (one of the poorest in Yangon) were also very happy to receive these gifts.

\* Many of the supplies for the layettes were donated by two other groups at West Side, "Women in Study" and the TNT Adult Bible Fellowship.



Young mothers from Dalah Township receiving their layettes

## Mrs. Neng Nei Lhing

In January of this year we were informed of another tragedy that had befallen a poor family in northwest Myanmar. Mrs. Neng Nei Lhing was working in the fields with her two young children when her house caught fire and burned to the ground.



Mrs. Lhing's house burned down and her family lost everything

This devastating loss would have been tragic enough. But then we also learned that Mrs. Lhing had just lost her husband the previous month, when he died of an unknown sickness. On top of that, she had recently found out that she was with child from her now deceased husband. Also, her youngest child had just broken his arm in a bicycle accident.



Needless to say, this young widow was at her wit's end. Her minister approached Palal and asked if there was anything that Myanmar Hope could do for her. Palal wrote a grant request for help from I.D.E.S. to help rebuild her house.

Rick Jett and the Board of Directors at I.D.E.S. approved the request, and the funds were forwarded as soon as MyHope received them.

The bad news was not yet complete, though. We found out that, due to all of the stress she had been suffering, Widow Lhing miscarried and lost her baby.

You can read the latest about Widow Lhing in Palal's minister update later in this newsletter.

**"We strongly feel that this mission is truly the very best that we can in some small way assist. Palal and his family and associates there are progressing with wonderful results."**

— Elderly couple who support MyHope

## Khongsai Family Update

It is hard to believe, but Cherry Nem Nei Them is starting preschool! Even though she will only be three years old in July, she is definitely ready for school.



When we visited in December, Cherry was already learning to read and write the Burmese alphabet and numbers, and she was speaking in three languages—Kuki (Palal and Kikim's native tongue), Burmese, and English. Her primary English teacher is Solomon, which is no surprise.

Speaking of Solomon, his English speaking skills continue to improve, even to the point that he was able to translate for us on several occasions. Translating is a very difficult thing to do, even for experienced adults, but Solomon seems to have a real knack for it.

Kikim's mother, Nu Kha recently returned to the Northwest to spend some time with her husband, who is in poor health. Kikim's oldest sister, Mrs. Vah Hoi came down to Yangon with three of the new HBS girls to help manage the household and watch over the other seventeen girls living in the home.

Palal and Kikim are as busy as ever. Palal has been managing the new construction, supervising the children, serving on the government school board, overseeing the church leadership in the Northwest, and preparing training materials for the leaders.

Kikim stays very busy managing the household and the school, keeping all of the books (a very intense, manual task), shopping for food and supplies, mending clothes, and so much more.

We would like to remind everyone that Palal and Kikim do all of these tasks in a very large city of over five million people without a vehicle! How they manage to do all this without even a car of their own, and still keep their sanity, is a miracle. Anytime they need to go to the market, or downtown for paperwork or money exchange, or to take Solomon and Cherry to school, they must use a taxi. This is not only inconvenient and



Palal, Solomon, and Cherry

costly, it can also be dangerous. Not all of the taxi drivers are trustworthy.

Palal and Kikim and HBS really do need a passenger van, such as the one in the picture below:



Our current, major fundraising efforts are focused on the new building, but we haven't forgotten the need for a vehicle for the ministry. Would you please pray about this need with us? Perhaps the Lord will lay the burden on the heart of someone to make a special donation to take care of this pressing need once and for all.

## Support Programs Update



Mr. Jang Kho Lun with his wheelchair

Thanks to many generous donations, MyHope has been able to provide custom-made wheelchairs to five disabled brothers and sisters in north-west Myanmar.

We have wanted to provide them with wheelchairs for a long time, but the funds were never there, and the wheelchairs that could be purchased were very flimsy and would not last in the rugged

conditions of rural northwest Myanmar.

Finally, last fall Palal found someone who could make a custom-designed wheelchair that would be strong enough to last, yet would be usable by our friends.

The wheelchairs are actually more like a cross between a tricycle and a wheelchair. The chairs are constructed using bicycle parts and a strong, welded steel frame, as you can see

in the pictures.

Our disabled friends are so happy to have these new wheelchairs. Now it is much easier for them to get out and about on their own. For instance, Mr. Jang Kho Lun never used to venture very far from his house, but now he feels comfortable riding even several miles from home, visiting friends, going to the market, and so on.

Thank you so much to all of you who donated funds to purchase and construct these wheelchairs. You have really changed the lives of those who gladly received them!



Miss Pha Hat trying out her new wheelchair

## Ministry Update Report

By Palal and Kikim

We are happy to give you a report on our trip to north-west Myanmar from April 27, 2013 to May 10, 2013 (fourteen days). Our main plan for traveling to the northwest was to hold the first preschool graduation. However, we got a chance to be involved in other works, church activities and social events with our people.

We left Yangon at 5:00 pm on April 27, 2013. We traveled by bus from Yangon to Tamu, about 700 miles. The bus we took turned out to be too long to drive safely on the Tamu road. It was very dangerous! On the steep hills it could not make it to the top, and so it rolled back down (backwards) many times.

We were so worried when the bus rolled backwards down the hills. Many women were crying and sometimes screaming in fright. Finally I suggested to the driver that all the men get out and help push the bus over the hills. We finally arrived safely in Tamu at 9:15 pm on April 28, 2013. The trip took almost thirty hours.

For our return trip, Chuck and Mary Ann suggested us to take the plane instead of the bus. We left from Kalay on the

morning of May 10th, and safely arrived in Yangon at 5:00 pm that same day.

I hope you will enjoy reading of our activities during our recent visit to the Northwest.

**Visiting Mrs. Neng Nei Lhing**

We visited the widow Mrs. Neng Nei Lhing and her children. When we met her early this year, she was pregnant. Due



Palal, Mrs. Lhing, her two children, and her minister, Father Ngul Mang, in the new house

to her many stresses, she had a miscarriage. When her husband was alive, they operated a small shop. All the stuffs from the shop were burnt. Their friends in Kalay helped them to continue the small shop. She sells rice, salt, oil, onions, garlic, soap, candles, soft drinks, vegetables, etc. She is very happy as she lives in a new

house with her children. She said to say thanks a lot to the donors in the States.

Her minister, Father Ngul Kho Mang, is a young Roman Catholic Priest. He is helping Mrs. Neng Nei Lhing in many ways. He is the one who organized the villagers to help in her resettlement. The church members and villagers comfort her in the times of sorrow. Our visit to her family was a great encouragement for her. The village leaders and church Father shared how much they are thankful to the believers in the USA through MyHope and IDES. (<http://goo.gl/qYhXw>)

**Preschool Graduation**

On May 6, 2013, we held the first Hope Preschool graduation in Tamu. We have about 50 preschool students in the list; however the parents can't bring them every day. The average attendance is from 25 to 30.

We began the service at 9:30 am. The parents and students were so excited for the celebration. I shared why we operate this preschool. I shared that the Christians in America love to help the poor fami-



lies like us, as they love God.

Because of their poverty, many parents can't believe that their children would become educated. I encouraged the parents not to lose their hope for their children. Many of them are from Buddhist and other denominations. They are very happy for the preschool in their community.

The parents and students love their gown, hood, and cap. They really love it. They took many pictures until 12:30 pm. They took group photos, single photos, and photos with their parents and teachers. It was such a joyful day!

Now we still have about 30 students with two dedicated teachers. They both have a strong desire to teach and care for the children. The parents know how much they love the children. They all love Hope Preschool!

**Preaching at Football Tournament**

The Kanmaygyi Area Sporting Club (KASC) held its 53rd tournament at Kanmahgyi Village. There are 11 villages from

Khampat Township and Tonzang Township. It was organized for having fellowship in this area. April 27, 2013 was the final day of their tournament. The chairman of KASC is the elder (Chairman) of Tingkaya Christian Church and



their secretary is from Canaan Village. The chairman and secretary requested us to attend their final day and preach at the closing service.

We watched the final game, Canaan vs. Kanmaygyi. We really enjoyed the tournament. It was my first time of attending the tournament in our area.

At night we attended the closing service, and I got a chance to preach. I preached from John 1, "In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

We did not have enough electricity. It was dark, and I could not see the congregation, but they all sat on the playing field and heard the Gospel of Light.

**Speaking at Literature and Culture Convention**

On May 3rd the Kuki Literature and Culture Central Committee (KLCCC—Homalin) held a consultation at Phailen Village. The committee invited leaders from 14 villages in Tamu District. In the meeting 115 leaders registered.

The moderator invited me by phone when we were at Kanmahgyi Area Sporting Club's farewell service. We did not know about this consultation ahead of time. We thought it would be a good opportunity to meet our people. Pastor Lun Kho Thang, Mr Then Kho Mang, Kikim and I decided to attend the consultation. We left on May 2, 2013 from Tamu to go to Phailen. We rode motorbikes, and it took us about four hours to get there.



They asked me to speak about my theses (MA and MRes) from Yangon University. My research focused on "Culture and Unity" among the Kuki-Chin people in Myanmar. I shared my

theses and also introduced some of my research findings about things that need to be changed in the future.

Under the leadership of the Central Committee, the KLCCC for Tamu District was formed. Twenty-seven leaders were elected as committee members for Tamu District. I also advised them to do things such as create a Kuki-language Curriculum for the Kuki villages.

**Meeting and Encouraging the Disabled**

We are glad that we were able to meet our disabled group. We met first with Mr. Thang Kho Hang of Khampat Town, who



received a wheel chair, and Mr. Tha Thang (Pan Hu Ngai) of Khampat Town, who got help to start his motorbike workshop. Mr Thang Kho Hang is very happy for receiving a wheel chair. He uses his wheel chair to go around in the village. Mr Tha Thang now has a good income from repairing motorbikes.

We also met Mrs Chong Pi (widow). She can no longer sit, and cannot recognize us. She was lying on the floor by her son, who takes care of her. We encouraged her son, as he is the one who patiently takes care of her. We also met with Mr. Myint Aung, who is in our support program. We met him while he was

delivering bricks on a bull cart. He is healthy and very happy though he is still suffering effects from his leprosy.

**Meeting with Church Leaders**

To oversee our churches in the Northwest, we have some new leaders whom we elected in September 2012. We held a meeting with our leaders on May 6, 2013 after our preschool graduation. In the meeting, we were six leaders: Pastor Lun Kho Thang, Pastor Ot Kho Let, Mr. Jam Kho Thang, Pastor Jam Kho Let, Mr. Then Kho Mang and myself.

Pastor Jam Kho Let came from a very far location. He walked on foot, took motorboat, then truck. The truck's wheel gave out and they slept in the jungle under the rains. We are thankful to God for His protection. We gave the reports from our churches and responsibilities. We had a very good meeting.



**Meeting with HBS Parents and Relatives**

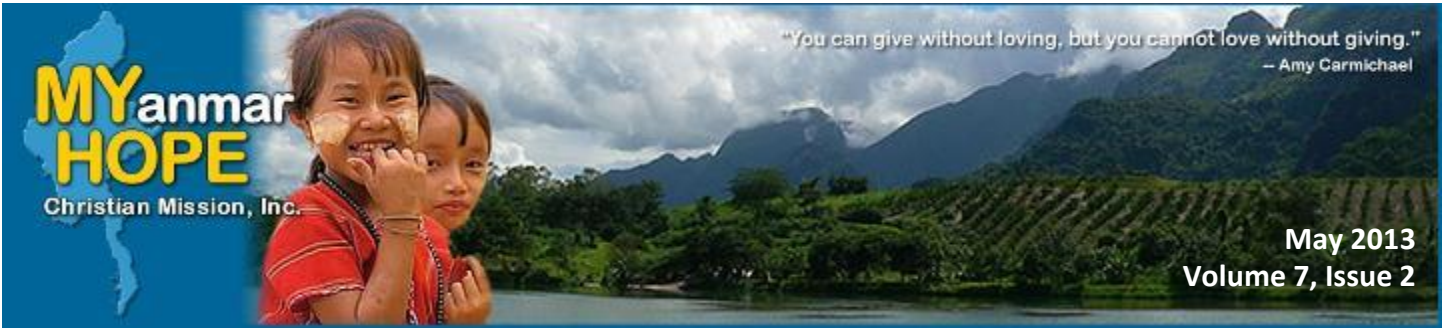
We also met some of our Hope Boarding School students' parents and relatives. They shared how much they are thankful to the believers in USA.

**Delivering Two Motorbikes for Pastors**



On May 2, 2013, we purchased two motorbikes in Tamu. Motorbikes are the main form of transportation in Northwest Myanmar. For the ministers, it becomes one of their main needs to get to the churches and for their activities.

We are so thankful to IDES for their understanding of our needs and their response for our request for two motorbikes for ministers Pastor Lun Kho Thang and Pastor Then Kho Mang. To visit the churches, they would have to take a bus or a tri-wheel vehicle, which have no fixed time schedules. Most of the time they had to wait long hours. However, whenever the



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needs arise, now they can visit churches by using their own motorbikes. Thanks a lot to IDES!

**Conclusion**

Myanmar Hope Christian Mission is helping many poor families, poor children for their education, many disabled and widows, meeting medical needs, providing emergency relief and home reconstruction, helping ministers, elders, etc.

MyHope gives a new hope to those who were living in hopelessness!

We would like to say thank you so much for your prayers and financial support for our people in Myanmar. I would like to invite you to please help MyHope to reach many more people. Please remember a hymn: "Little is much when God is in it".

In His Service,

*Palal Khongsai*  
Dr. Nehkholal (Palal) and Kikim Khongsai  
May 21, 2013



Solomon



A Hope Preschool Graduate



Some HBS Parents



Mr. Thang Kho Hang's wheelchair



Cherry Nem Nei Them

