

"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving." - Amy Carmichael

Spring 2020

Greetings

As I write this, the world is in the midst of a global pandemic, and the rate of infections does not appear to be slackening anytime in the near future. So I would imagine that as you read this you are probably still in some form of lockdown or quarantine.

The good news is that most people who contract the virus will survive. The bad news is that thousands have already succumbed, and probably thousands more will do so by the time it's all over. We can only pray that all those who meet their Creator will embrace Him as Savior and Redeemer, and not as Judge.

We know, however, that many people will go to meet their Maker unprepared. Some will have rejected Him outright, and others will be totally surprised, having never heard the Good News of God's Kingdom. It is for the latter group that we must be doing a better job as emissaries of our King.





All humans are sinful creatures and we all do evil by nature. It is only through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit that we have the power to overcome sin and live a right-

eous and holy life in the sight of God.

I need to do more to spread the Good News that King Jesus has overcome sin and death, and that He will give us His Spirit to fill us and lead us to life everlasting.

We all need to do more. There are thousands of villages throughout Myanmar that are populated by Buddhists, Animists, and nominal Christians. Over 85% of the entire country is Buddhist. Many of those people will die of the COVID-19 virus, and other diseases (such as COPD which is the leading cause of death) and be ushered into an eternity without God.

Let us take this current crisis as a warning and a challenge to rededicate ourselves to the task of spreading the Good News of God's Kingdom throughout Myanmar and the entire world.

Isn't this what the King has tasked us to do? Why do we hesitate? People are dying daily, and they have been dying, without Christ and without the knowledge of His salvation. It is up to all of us to do our sacred duty as emissaries of King Jesus to

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spread His light and life to all.

If you cannot be one who goes, then be one who sends. And we can all be ones who pray. God bless you.

- Chuck Cherry

COVID-19 Hunger Relief

Everyone knows how the global pandemic has affected their own life, the life of their own families, and their own communities. What might not be as well known is how the pandemic is affecting poor communities in Myanmar and elsewhere in the developing world.

Myanmar is currently under a nationwide lockdown as they try to prevent the spread of the virus. What this means is that most businesses have closed, many workers have been fired or furloughed, and people are greatly restricted in their movements.

In prosperous countries, like America, there are government programs to help people in these situations. States have increased and/or expanded access to unemployment insurance. The federal govern-



These children could go hungry without our help

ment is sending out stimulus checks to millions of people. Local community food banks are working overtime to ensure that people have plenty of food. Churches are helping with food and other necessities. The result is that, at least as of now, no one in America needs to be going hungry.

This is not the situation in Myanmar. While the government has made some efforts to distribute food to the poor, and we applaud that effort, it has not been nearly enough. Also, when food is distributed, many times it does not make it out into the smaller rural villages.

The hunger situation in these rural villages is becoming acute. People are not allowed to leave their homes to go out and work. Most of them are daylaborers, and they get paid at the end of their working day. They use that day's wages to purchase food for their family in the market. If they do not work, there is no money for food.

Many of our pastors and elders have let us know that their congregations are suffering from hunger.

We have set up a special fund to collect donations for these villages. We are asking everyone to make a donation of at least \$30, which is enough to purchase a single 100 pound bag of rice for one poor family for one month.

A 100 pound bag of rice is not enough to provide the nutritional requirements

for a single family for an entire month, but it will certainly help, and it will stave off malnutrition.

We know that these are trying times, and nearly everyone reading this is being forced to make cutbacks in their normal family budgets. There are economic concerns for the future, and we get that.

It is at these times when the term "sacrificial giving" really comes into its own. Many of us give regularly, but not really to the point of sacrifice. We give "out of" our riches, and not necessarily "according to" our riches. But when things are tight financially is when our faith in God's provision is really tested. Will we pass the test?



Your \$30.00 could mean the difference between this village woman eating or going hungry

We pray that you will consider your brothers and sisters living in extreme poverty at this dangerous time, and that you will be able to find an extra \$30 (or more) in your monthly budget.

To make a donation to the COVID-19 Hunger Relief Fund, go to our website at https://myanmarhope.org/donate. In the giving form on that page, choose the "Special Projects: COVID-19 Hunger Relief" fund from the dropdown list.

Thank you on behalf of our brothers and sisters in rural Myanmar. I know that they are incredibly grateful for all of your love gifts for them, and even more so in this time of trial. God bless you!

East/West Garden Expansion Project

Most of you know that one year ago we received a matching grant from doTERRA Healing Hands to expand the East/West Garden Farm. Now we are finally able to report that the expansion project is finished!

Here is a listing of all that we were able to accomplish with the funds donated by you all, and matched by doTERRA:

- Land Expansion: 14.5 new acres
- New Barn
- New Farmhouse
- New Well (hand-dug)
- New Well (Machine-drilled)
- Three new water tanks and towers
- Water pipes for irrigation
- Air compressor and pump
- Four solar panels
- A cow barn
- Four cows

We praise God for the great expansion of our farm over the last year! We have long wanted and needed many of the items on the list, but did not have the funds for them. The new irrigation system, especially, has been a great need for quite a while.

(Please see page six and seven for photos from the farm project.)

Thank you to everyone who donated last year to the matching grant from doTERRA Healing Hands, thank you to doTERRA, and thank you to Anne Tetzlaff who organized and sponsored us for this amazing grant. God bless you!

New Pathway Home

The second floor of the New Pathway Home is basically complete! At the time of this writing, all of the major and mi-

christian horizons

nor construction has been completed, and now we are only waiting on the funds to purchase furniture for the widows who will be living on the second floor.

In March we held a dedication ceremony, even though the second floor was not quite finished. A group of about fifty people gathered on the veranda and stairs, and then spread throughout the rooms, praying over each one, and for the widows who will be coming there to live.



The general purpose room

There are six bedrooms, which are each large enough for two people. The widows will all have their own bed and any other furniture that we are able to purchase, such as a chair and a small end table.

There is also one large general purpose room which will be used for group activities and for church services. Tamu Christian Church will begin holding their weekly services at the New Pathway Home and the widows will be able

to join in the services without having to leave their home.

A generous friend of MyHope has offered a \$2,500 matching grant to help us purchase the needed furniture. Each single bed set, which includes a teak hardwood bed frame with posts for a mosquito net, mattress, pillow, sheets, blankets, etc., will cost between \$300 and \$350.

Will you send a love gift today to help us prepare the rooms for the new widows? Thank you!

Sponsors Needed!

The current twelve residents are sponsored by Christian Horizons for at least the next two years, so now we need people to step forward and help cover the costs of supporting these new widows and their children by sponsoring them for \$50 per month.

Why should you sponsor a widow at the New Pathway Home? There are many reasons, not the least of which you will be doing the will of God. He is the "father of the fatherless and the champion of widows". (Ps 68:5) God wants His people to "defend the rights of the fatherless and plead the cause of the widow". (Isa 1:17) And of course, the Apostle James informs us that "pure and undefiled religion" is to "look after orphans and widows in their distress." (James 1:27)

The scriptures make it very clear that widows and orphans have a special place in God's heart, and He wants us to



The hall leading into the bedrooms

care for their needs.

For less than the price of a daily cup of coffee you can lay up a great treasure in Heaven (Matt 6:20, 19:21; Mark 10:21; Luke 12:33, 18:12) and help fulfill the words of King Jesus in Matthew 25:40, "Whatever you did for the least of these, you did it for Me."

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in sponsoring a widow at the New Pathway Home for \$50 per month, please contact us right away.

100% of your monthly donation will go toward the support of your sponsored widow.

Finally, please continue to pray for the health and safety of our widows, especially now during the pandemic. Elderly people are very vulnerable to the virus. We have temporarily closed the NPH to all visitors, and only the staff are allowed in and out to purchase food and essential items.

Thank you and God bless you!





We are so happy and excited about the second floor at the New Pathway Home! It is beautiful!

New Hope Prison Outreach

Pastor Sei Lal continues to lead the New Hope Prison Outreach with dedication and integrity. One of the ways in which he works continually on behalf of prisoners and their families is by providing a much-needed communication link.

The families are not able to contact the prisoners directly, so they are able to call Sei Lal on his cellphone and arrange for visits, to send money, to pass along messages, and so forth.

When the families want to send money to a prisoner, they will wire the funds to a bank in Kalaymyo, and Sei Lal will then withdraw the money and give it to the prisoner at his next visit.

Right now there is a lockdown and quarantine in place, so Sei Lal is not able to go into the prison, nor are families allowed to travel for a visit. We hope and pray that the quarantine will be lifted soon and life can get back to "normal" for the prisoners, their families, and for Sei Lal and his own family.

A Much Needed Christmas Gift

Pastor Sei Lal and his wife have been sleeping on the floor ever since they arrived at the New Hope Outreach. We have not had extra funds with which to purchase furniture for the ministry, or for Sei Lal's family.

Even though Sel Lal and his wife are not young, never once have either of them complained about a lack of furniture or the need to sleep on the cold, hard floor.

As Christmas neared, one of our friends, who found out that Sei Lal and his wife did not even have a bed to sleep on, decided to make this a Christmas gift to them. When we shared this need with one of our supporting churches, the missions committee decided that they would provide the funds for the bed,



Pastor Sei Lal and his wife with their new bed

and our friend's funds could be used elsewhere.

A bed was purchased in Kalay and presented to Sei Lal and his wife. They were so happy! Now they are able to sleep comfortably in a bed under warm blankets, and their life is just a little bit easier.

Urgent Needs

We still need to purchase furniture for the New Hope Prison Outreach. The items urgently needed at the guest house include:

- 2 Double Beds with mattress sets
- 3 Single Beds with mattress sets
- 5 Desks
- 1 Main Room Furniture Set
- A coffee table, 4 single chairs, and 1 double chair

All of the furniture is made from solid teak hardwood and is custom built by experienced carpenters. These quality pieces of furniture are made to last many, many years.

If you can help with any of these items, or any other items not listed here (ask us for more information), please let us know!

Thank you and God bless you!

March Trip Report

Our trip to Myanmar, from March 1st to March 17th, was not only an incredible blessing for all, it was obvious that God's hand was in it from beginning to end.

The team members from America were Katy Palmer, Sunny Dahlquist, Thad Kaylor, Annie Hamerlinck, Adam Hamerlinck, MaryAnn Cherry, and Chuck Cherry. The team members from Myanmar were Palal, Kikim, Solomon, and Cherry Khongsai.

In the weeks leading up to our departure, many people contacted us with concerns about the Corona virus, which was spreading quickly throughout Asia, but had yet to make much of an impact in the USA. We had been following news of the virus since it was first reported in early January, and we felt confident that our trip would not be affected in any material way by the virus itself. We believed that if God wanted us to be in Myanmar, He would keep the door open for us and, if He changed His mind, He would let us know by closing the door.



Our March Trip Team

The timing of our trip seems to have been quite providential. During the last week of our visit we started to hear many stories of flights out of Asia being delayed, rerouted, or outright cancelled.

We were not worried, but we kept an eye on the flight trackers and watched for messages from Korean Air (our chosen airline). Then came the word that Korean Air had cancelled all flights out of Yangon, so we needed to make other arrangements quickly.

Palal and Chuck went to the Yangon airport to speak with the Korean Air



Thad snuck across the border into India!

agents, but they had all left the airport. They had left their business cards at the airport information desks, though, and Chuck and Palal headed downtown to visit their main offices in Yangon.

As soon as they walked in the door, they were ushered into a back office and were waited on by a very polite and efficient agent who quickly arranged new flights for the entire team. We would fly Thai Airlines to Bangkok, then Korean Air to Seoul, and then on to Seattle and Chicago.

The flight change meant that instead of our usual eleven hour layover in Seoul, we would be there for thirty-three hours. That extra time between Yangon and our final destinations in the USA was actually an incredible blessing. We were able to get a great night's sleep in the airport's transit hotel, which is located in the center of the airport. That

extra sleep made a huge difference in that our jetlag was much reduced upon returning to the USA. Chuck was even able to return to work the next day after returning home, which he has never been able to do before. It usually takes several days, and sometimes up to a week, to get our bodies back on schedule.

Another providential aspect to the timing of our trip was also related to the Corona virus. Right after we got home we found out that the Myanmar government had just issued a ruling preventing any gatherings larger than ten people. Had we scheduled our 2020 convention for later in the month of March we would have been forced to cancel it. But because of the timing, we held our convention and nearly 1,500 people were able to attend.

The convention was a great success, and Christians from all denominations and from villages far and wide, were able to attend. There is a new bridge and road across the mighty Chindwin River north of Homalin, so this year almost 150 people from our northernmost villages were able to attend for the first time.

Another highlight of our trip was being able to visit Sulpi Village, high up in the northern Chin Hills. Sulpi is the village where we are helping to establish a coffee plantation so that the villagers will have a cash crop and not be forced into working in the opium fields, as so



Annie and Katy being loaded down with gifts at the Kuki Christian Convention

many other villages in that area have done.

The "road" to Sulpi Village from Khamphat is about nine miles long. It is really just a dirt path carved out of the side of the mountain for most of the distance.

Using motorized transport, the journey can take between two and four hours, depending on the time of year, the weather, and the mode of transportation. We were fortunate in that Palal was able to rent three small SUV-type vehicles for us to ride in. Most people go up and down on motorbikes or on foot, which obviously takes a lot longer.

From Khampat Village down in the valley, the road leads through fields planted with rice, mustard, and other crops for about a mile, before it starts winding its way up into the mountains. It is very narrow, steep, and rough, with many hairpin twists and turns. At some points it is barely wide enough for one vehicle. One side rises steeply up the



The 2020 Kuki Christian Convention at Namihan Christian Church in Tamu

mountain, and the other side is open and drops precipitously hundreds of feet into the forest below. We had a close call when we met a large truck coming down the mountain but, fortunately, we were at a curve in the road and we could back up enough to give him some room. There was literally about three inches of space between us and him, but he got by.

We were visiting during the dry season, so we did not have to worry about getting stuck in the mud or sliding off the path into the abyss. However, one of our vehicles did not have very good tires (they were basically as bald as an eagle) and there were several times we had to get out and "help" the car get up some of the steeper grades.

After a long, winding, very steep and very bumpy ride, we finally made it to the little village of Sulpi, which sits near the summit of the hill, about 3,700 feet above sea level. The views up there are spectacular!

We spent several wonderful hours visiting with the chairman and the villagers. We walked into the forest and inspected the beginnings of the coffee farm, and we even got to sample some coffee that they had already grown as an experiment. One of the village elders is an expert at making rice wine, and we were treated to sample of that as well. It was delicious.

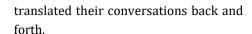


MaryAnn with VahSi and her baby

A very pleasant surprise for Chuck and MaryAnn was being able to visit with Vah Si, who lived and worked at Hope Boarding School several years ago. We did not know she was from Sulpi Village! She is now married and has a child of her own. Her husband is working in Singapore, so she is staying with her family in Sulpi until he earns enough to make a home for them and is able to return.

The children of Sulpi were fascinated by Adam and his drone. Adam has a gift for relating to children, who really love him and Annie, and they were always surrounding them both.

MaryAnn had a great time fellowshipping with the women of the village, and Solomon was a big help to them as he



At one point the women all started laughing and giggling, and MaryAnn asked Solomon what they were talking about. "They want you to stay in their village tonight," he said. "We would love to!" said MaryAnn, but of course we could not, as we had to get back down the mountain and get on our way before nightfall.

At one point, while Palal and the village Chairman were off talking business, MaryAnn was visiting with the women up in the village, Adam and Annie were off playing with the kids, and Chuck and Thad were down by the vehicles hanging out with the drivers.

We had parked near the lower end of the village in a large flat area that served double duty as a cow pasture and as the school playground. The village has a small herd of cattle which were keeping their distance from us as best they could.

One of the drivers suddenly reached into his car and turned up his stereo, blasting out some Myanmar love songs or something like that. Then he and one of the other drivers, both men in their thirties or forties, started dancing to the music. Before long it was obvious they were trying to out-dance each other.

Thad couldn't resist, and soon he was dancing right along with them. Then our third driver, a young man from our seminary, joined in, and it was an all-out dance party.

Of course, Thad had to live-stream it on Facebook, and I have no idea what the people watching thought of it. It was sure fun to watch in person, however.

Later on, Thad, who grew up on a farm in central Illinois and has had a lot of "hands-on" experience with cattle, decided he would teach the poor Myanmar folk a lesson in how to properly throw a cow pie.



The cow pasture / soccer field / dance studio

The two older drivers, still a bit winded from the dance contest, stood and stared in disbelief as Thad reached down and picked up a cow pie and promptly challenged our younger driver to a cow pie throwing contest.

He quickly explained the rules, and fortunately our young driver spoke enough English to get the gist of what Thad was talking about.

Then Thad, in a very dramatic fashion, reached back, spun around a couple of times, and with form and technique reminiscent of an Olympic-class discus thrower, let it fly.

We all clapped respectfully, but for some reason the Myanmar crowd didn't seem all that impressed.

His worthy adversary, who was much younger, with a slight frame and wearing a somewhat "academic" appearance, was apparently no stranger to this old game.

To our utter surprise the young man, without the slightest amount of hesitation, reached down and picked up the nearest cow pie (he didn't have to look far), spun himself around with an air of grace and agility, and threw his pie about twice as far.

The Myanmar crowd went wild!

Thad made some sort of excuse under his breath about his pie not being quite dry enough or something like that, but of course he gave hearty congratulations to the winner. It was all great fun.

These were just a few of the many exciting spiritual adventures of missionaries on the field—literally.

Seriously, though, our time in Sulpi and our entire visit to northwest Myanmar and Yangon was time well spent for the Kingdom of God. Many lives were impacted and many people were blessed by our visit, in ways too numerous to recount.



Nurse Katy giving a medical exam to Pastor Lhun Za Ngam of Canaan Christian Church

For example, Katy is a Nurse Practitioner, and she was able to practice her nursing skills several times during our trip. She even saved one person's life by administering CPR in the middle of the night!

The lives of our team members were greatly impacted as well, and each one has related to us how much this trip meant to them and to their walk with God. We encourage all of you to read the blog posts written by our team during the trip. You can find them online at our website, at https://myanmarhope.org/myhopeblog.



Adam and Solomon munching their ducks heads

Sunny's Report

Praise the Lord for HIS provisions during our recent visit to Myanmar Hope and all the ministries! Such a **JOY** to once again interact with our brothers and sisters at the Kuki Christian Convention! All who come benefit from the sharing and the spiritual and physical nourishment. One of the challenges to the attendees: Memorize and recite each verse of the entire Psalm 105! Thirty-one people,

ages 11 to 75, accepted the challenge! Oh, that we too might accept that challenge for memorizing God's Word!

The <u>New Hope Prison Outreach</u> certainly has a nice building and yard to provide respite for families coming to visit those in prison. The lovely couple ministering there is continually creating new ways to share the love and hope of Jesus Christ.

How fun, also, to see <u>Hope Preschool</u> classroom's expanded space as well as learning materials for the walls. Even more important, the teachers are loved and respected by the children!

At the New Pathway Widows Home, our celebration of the second floor completion included a "concert of prayer". As a widow myself, I understand the need for clean shelter and meaningful relationships! The widows had such a sweet spirit of caring for one another – beautiful to behold!

One widow demonstrated the traditional Kuki weaving. There are years of skill in those hands as well as years of stories with these precious ladies!

The <u>Hope Boarding School</u> students a person just has to love! So shy initially and hesitant to use their English, they gradually "warmed". We had a great time of singing, playing games, doing crafts, exploring the Hlawga Wildlife Park and sharing life. What a day of rejoicing it will be, when once again we meet – whether here on Earth or in eternity!



Sunny and the team with the HBS Kids at the Golden Duck restaurant after the field trip

YOU may be one who kneels faithfully in prayer on behalf of Myanmar Hope or YOU may be one who prays and gives financially, or you may simply be an interested follower. I commend Palal and KiKim Kongsai, Chuck and MaryAnn Cherry, and the many others who form the backbone of this work with such grace, love, and humility for the sake of building up the body of believers in Christ Jesus. - Sunny Dahlqhist

[Sunny is a former missionary, a retired nurse, and is now the leader of the missions committee at Lakeside Christian Church in Springfield, Illinois.]

Sulpi Village Coffee Project

During our visit to Sulpi Village we had a good chance to look over the land where some of the coffee trees will be planted, and to inspect the work already in progress.

Earlier in the year over 500 coffee seedlings were purchased, and they are currently being stored in a shaded area awaiting the time for planting.



Checking out the existing coffee trees

The villagers had already planted some coffee a few years ago as an experiment, and it has grown well. There is not enough of it to sustain even one family, but it was a good test to see if coffee would grow well in the forest around the village.

We were able to sample some of the coffee that the village chairman's wife had roasted over the fire before we arrived. It was very good! Chuck surprised the villagers with how much coffee he used in a single cup as he was doing a



The forest where coffee will be planted.

taste test. They were not used to seeing people drink their coffee quite that strong and without any sugar and milk.

We discussed plans to build a house in Sulpi that could be used as an office and a place to stay when people come to check on the project or to do coffee business. The village chairman generously offered to give us the land and to build the house for us, all we need to do is to supply funds for the lumber.

We determined that there are eleven families that want to take part in the coffee project. Each family will get one acre of forest to clear and cultivate. One acre of land will support up to 1,000 coffee trees. The families have already started clearing the land in preparation for the new trees.

A coffee seedling costs 50 cents, so to provide 1,000 trees for one family will cost \$500. For all eleven families we will need a total of \$5,500. We have already received \$2,500, so we are almost halfway to our goal of having enough to plant one acre of coffee for each family.



Coffee seedlings for sale

Remember that the goal of our coffee project for Sulpi Village is to provide them with a cash crop that will support their families. Because of recent changes to the land laws in Myanmar, the villages can no longer plant and cultivate the way they have for hundreds of years. As a result of this they cannot make enough income from their traditional crops.

Many villages are being lured into working in the nearby poppy fields to harvest opium for the drug lords. The villagers at Sulpi and elsewhere do not want to do that, but they are feeling pressured to do so.

It's a matter of having food to eat and money for the basic necessities of life. If they cannot make enough money from traditional farming anymore, they need an alternative. We want to help them so they will not be forced into the slavery of the opium fields.

Will you also help? We need to purchase the rest of the coffee plants before the end of May, when they have to be planted. We need an additional \$3,000 to fully fund the purchase of the additional plants. Please make a donation at our website, and select the "Sulpi Village Coffee Project" fund.

THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU!

2019 Village Christmas Meals Report

We are so happy to report that once again you all came through with blessing upon blessing for the poor and needy in Myanmar at Christmastime!

This year was an especially trying time for many in the northwest and upper northwest. There was a severe drought in some areas, causing a loss of crops, and in other areas another rat plague affected many villages by wiping out all of their crops and food stores.

Thanks to you, however, these families were at least able to celebrate



Christmas at Cheti Village

Christmas with plenty of good food.

Our goal in December of 2019 was to provide the meat (a cow or a pig) for SEVENTY (70) villages and/or churches for their Christmas Eve and Christmas Day meals. However, thanks to your generosity, funds were distributed to NINE-TY (90) churches or villages to help them purchase meat for Christmas! PRAISE GOD!

The average amount distributed was \$238. A few larger communities received more (between \$300 and \$400) and a few smaller one received less (\$150) but most received \$250. All of them were incredibly grateful for what they received, and they all want you to know how much your love gifts mean to them.

Again, we want to give a big shout out to our board member, Mr. Kevin Hughs, for his hard work and dedication to this project. **THANK YOU, KEVIN!**

And thank you to everyone who gave to the Village Christmas Meals Project!

Photos from the East/West Garden Expansion Project



Clearing land for cultivation





















2019 Rice Harvest

Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc. 1104 206th St E Spanaway, WA 98387-1858 217-415-9187

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Disaster Relief by IDES



The dry season is a dangerous time for families in northwest Myanmar, with house fires and forest fires breaking out all over the country.

So far this season, with the help of IDES, we have helped or are in the process of helping six families who have lost everything because of fires. In one situation, an elderly deaf widow's house caught fire early in the morning, and quickly spread to two of her neighbors. Thankfully they were awakened in time to get out of their houses before anyone

was seriously injured!

These families lost everything—all savings, food, cooking utensils, clothing, and even lumber which they were saving to rebuild their homes. Because of IDES we are able to keep them from starvation and homelessness. **Thank you IDES!!**



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Most Pressing Needs:

COVID-19 Relief\$30
Sponsors for Coffee ProjectAny Amount
Furniture for New Pathway Home \$Any
Furniture for Prison Outreach \$Any
Monthly Sponsors for Widows\$50
Monthly Sponsors for Families\$30
Monthly Sponsors for Pastors\$60
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