



Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.

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

Winter/Spring 2021

Greetings

Greetings and welcome to the Winter/Spring 2021 edition of our newsletter. January is the coldest month of the year where we live in the Pacific Northwest, but in Yangon, Myanmar this is one of the nicest months of the year in terms of temperature and humidity.

MaryAnn and I really miss being there. This past year has changed so many things, and one of them was our travel schedule. We had hoped to go there last September, then we hoped maybe in December or January. Alas, neither trip was possible because of the COVID travel restrictions. We miss our Myanmar family!

We hope and pray that your own family has not been too severely impacted by the virus, and we join you in praying that our lives will get back to normal soon.

Thank you for continuing to pray for and support this work. Even though last year was traumatic in so many ways, you all really stepped up and supported the poor in Myanmar in incredible ways. For example, both the COVID Hunger Relief project and the annual Village Christmas Meals project exceeded all expectations!

The Scripture passage that comes to mind when I think of you is 2 Corinthians 9:6-15. Paul tells us that God loves a joyful giver. And he says that God will reward you in marvelous ways for your joyful generosity. So, giving is not only good for the Kingdom of God and good for the poor and needy in Myanmar, it is good for you!

“He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every

way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.” (2 Cor 9:10-11)

We pray that God will increase the harvest of your righteousness and that you will be enriched in every way in order to be generous in every way!

Military Takeover

By now everyone is most likely aware that the Tatmadaw, the Myanmar military, staged a peaceful coup on Monday, February 1st, 2021.

It began with the arrests of several high-level government officials, especially Myanmar’s top civilian leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and at least forty-five others. Since then more have been arrested, or, in the words of the Tatmadaw, “detained”.

This sort of thing is nothing new for Myanmar, formerly known as Burma. The first military coup was staged in 1962 when General Ne Win took over as dictator and implemented the disastrous “Burmese Way of Socialism”. From 1962 until 1974 Ne Win ruled the country through a “revolutionary council”.

In 1974 the country adopted a new constitution, and there was basically a one-party rule from 1974 until 1988. That year mass protests broke out over the extreme economic mismanagement and the resulting widespread poverty. These protests, which came to be known as the “8888 Uprising,” were put down with overwhelming force and much bloodshed on the part of the protesters.

Another coup was staged at that time by General Saw Maung, who formed the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). In 1989 the SLORC declared martial law, put down further protests, and set up the framework for national elections. They also changed

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the country’s name at that time from “Socialist Republic of Burma” to “Union of Myanmar”.

In May 1990 the first national election in 30 years was held, and the National League for Democracy, led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (daughter of famed WWII general U Aung San) won a landslide victory of 392 out of 492 seats (80 percent) in parliament.

The military refused to acknowledge the results of the election and Su Kyi was “detained” several times over the next few years, being put on house arrest for fifteen out of the next twenty-one years.

During the next decade and a half the mili-



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

tary continued to rule the country with an iron fist. Reports of widespread persecution of minority groups, including Christians, continued to leak out across the tightly closed borders. Ethnic cleansing, continued civil wars, police brutality, and worse, were the order of the day for the people.

In March 2007, when Palal and Chuck and MaryAnn first met, Myanmar was still under the iron-fisted grip of the latest military strong man, General Than Shwe. In August 2007, another mass protest began in response to a dramatic increase in the price of fuel. This protest, led largely by Buddhist monks, became known as the “Saffron Revolution” because of the color of the monks’ robes. Again, this protest was put down with extreme force, and many monks were killed.



Buddhist monks marching in 2007

This time, because of improved Internet, smaller video cameras, and the use of cell-phones (rare at the time in Myanmar, but used secretly by the few who could afford one), pictures and videos leaked out to the international community and these sparked widespread international condemnation and further economic sanctions.

Then in May 2008 the devastating Cyclone Nargis slammed into the southern coast of Myanmar, killing hundreds of thousands and putting millions at risk of starvation.

That year the military junta held a constitutional referendum with the goal of creat-



Cyclone Nargis was a pivotal event in Myanmar



Suu Kyi addressing crowds after her release in 2010 ing a “discipline-flourishing democracy”. The country’s name was again changed, this time to the “Republic of the Union of Myanmar”. In 2010 general elections were held again, and the military party claimed victory with eighty percent of the vote (mainly because the vote was boycotted by the NLD).

Then, in 2010, the junta agreed to release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest and announced amnesty for many of those who had been in prison since the 1988 uprising. In March 2011 the military junta was dissolved and General Than Shwe retired to private life.

In the April 2012 by-elections, the NLD again won a majority of the seats up for grabs that year (43 of 45). Then in 2015 another general election was held and the NLD won another landslide victory, this time with enough votes to ensure an absolute majority of seats in both houses of Parliament. Aung San Suu Kyi, who was forbidden to be president under the Myanmar constitution, was named to a newly created post of “State Counsellor” which could be compared to a Prime Minister.

Between 2015 and 2020, the NLD was the party in charge of running the country, but because of the way the constitution had been written under the military government, the Tatmadaw controls a minimum of 25 percent of seats in parliament, and a supermajority of 76 percent is required to change the constitution. Also, the military retained control of the most important ministries in the country, especially the all-powerful Ministry of Home Affairs.

In the November 2020 general election the NLD is supposed to have won another major landslide victory and Suu Kyi was re-elected to continue her post of State Counsellor. However, the main opposition party, the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) immediately

began crying “foul” over reports of widespread vote fraud.

And this brings us up to date. Suu Kyi and other leaders of the NLD remain in detention while charges are being formulated against them.

Protests are again beginning to form on the streets of Yangon and other cities throughout the country. So far the protests are peaceful, albeit loud. At eight-o-clock in the evening people all over the cities begin making loud noises by banging pots and pans, beating drums, banging on corrugated steel roofs, and blaring their car horns.

The Internet and social media have been off and on, and the latest as of today (Saturday, February 6th) the Internet is completely shut down, although cell phone service is still operational.

We spoke with Palal on the phone on Saturday morning. He reports that all are well, and they are experiencing peace in the midst of the storm. “Having grown up and lived under the military government, we are used to this,” he said.



Thousands protest the government takeover

They have everything they need for the moment, having purchased rice, fruit, and vegetables for the month of February before all of the troubles began in earnest. We maintain contact with Palal and Kikim every day, and we will be notified as soon as possible whenever there is new developments.

We post any news that we receive on our Facebook page, so we encourage folks to check in there regularly for updates. (No FB account is needed to read the page).

Palal asks that everyone continue praying for all of the Christians in Myanmar, and for peace and stability to return to the country.

It’s too early to know how the recent events will affect our ability to do the work

of God's Kingdom in Myanmar. We began our work under an extremely repressive and violent military dictatorship, and God always made a way for the work to get done. Many times miracles happened to enable our people to continue the work! So we are not worried. This is and always has been God's work, not ours. We are only "along for the ride". We try to remain faithful to do our part, and we trust God to do His part.

During our conversation this morning, I was reminded of the story of Noah. God chose Noah to be the one through whom the world would be saved. In preparation, God gave Noah many instructions for what to do. For nine verses, 6:13-21, God gives instructions or information. God is doing all of the talking.

At the end of this passage, we finally have a chance to hear from Noah. What will he say? Noah doesn't say a single word. He doesn't say, "Yes, Lord." He doesn't say, "But, Lord, what about...?" He doesn't ask questions, and he doesn't complain about the vast scope of the work that lies ahead. He doesn't ask for help. He doesn't say anything!

Then, verse 22 says, "Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him." Noah simply obeyed. No questions, no comments, no complaints; just simple obedience.

Another flood is now washing over the country of Myanmar. But this time the Ark has already been prepared and anyone can enter. The Ark is Jesus Christ. The people who enter into this Ark of God will be saved and protected from the chaotic waters of the rising flood outside.

Please pray for the Christians of Myanmar to stay safe inside the Ark of Jesus during the months to come. Please pray that they will experience the "peace of God which surpasses

"And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

- Philippians 4:7

es all understanding."

Pray that they will be provided for. But most of all, pray that the Christians will be a bright light shining out to the tribes and nations around them, and that the Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus, Animists, and other non-Christians will see their peace, love, and joy in the midst of their trials. Pray that they will be drawn into the Ark of our Salvation, Jesus Christ, and they, too, will find salvation, peace, and safety.

Thank you, and God bless you.

COVID-19 Hunger Relief

We continue to report on the COVID-19 Hunger Relief project because, unfortunately, the lockdowns are an ongoing problem. When the people are locked into their homes and villages, and are not able to go out for work, they have no food.

Most of the villages and families that we work with are day laborers and work on small, family farms. Very few of them have "regular" jobs as we would classify them in the West. Before the lockdowns, these men, women, and children would go out everyday looking for work wherever they could find it. It might be working on someone's farm, or working on a road crew, or some other labor-intensive job. These folks would normally get paid at the end of the day for that day's efforts.

Those working on farms would usually get paid in rice—enough for supper that night and breakfast the next morning.

If these folks cannot go out to work, they have no food, and it isn't long before extreme hunger and malnutrition sets in.

We began accepting donations for emergency food relief in April of last year, and since then we have made just under twenty major food distribution efforts all around northwest Myanmar and the city of Yangon. It's safe to say that thousands of families and individuals—the poorest of the poor—have been saved from starvation because of your generosity!

And, unfortunately, the lockdowns continue, and so we must continue to help the people. Thank you, and God bless you for your ongoing donations to provide food for the hungry!



Many widows were provided life-saving rice

New Hope Prison Outreach

Since the lockdowns began last year, it has been a constant struggle for Pastor Sei Lal to perform the work of his ministry. At first, the prison officials allowed him to continue to meet with prisoners, but only one at a time and then only once per week.

Later they made the rules even more strict and, recently, it became evident that the officials would not allow him into the prison at all. So, until the lockdowns are rescinded and Sei Lal is allowed back into the prison, he is moving temporarily down to the ever-growing IDP (Internally Displaced Persons) camp located about an hour north of Yangon.

Pastor Sei Lal has a real heart and passion



Measuring out rice at the IDP Camp

for sharing the Gospel, and the people at the camp are desperately in need of the Good News. The people living there are experiencing a sense of hopelessness and many are in a great depression.

Last year the people were forced to flee from their villages as fighting erupted between the government forces and local militia groups. Most of them fled with nothing at all except the clothes they were wearing at the time. Many have lost businesses, or savings, and several have experienced the loss of family members due to the ongoing conflict.

Palal and other volunteers have worked hard to improve the lives of the people in the camp. We have built temporary houses for those who were living under tarps. We installed a deep well that provides water for the entire camp. We built a school building for the hundreds of children in the camp. We supplied the families with portable solar lighting systems which include lighting, a radio, and a rechargeable battery. And, of course, we have provided them with rice on numerous occasions.

All of these efforts have indeed improved their living conditions, but these things can do little to give people long term hope for the future and peace in their hearts for the present.

Pastor Sei Lal will move into the camp and live among the people for as long as the prison remains closed to him. He will try to encourage the people by praying for them



Kikim shares the Good News with some of the IDP Camp residents

and with them, by preaching and teaching the Good News, and by sharing their pain and suffering. Please pray for Sei Lal and his wife as they make this transition; pray that they will be welcomed by the people living in the camp, and pray for the hearts of the people to be receptive to the Good News.

Thank you!

Sulpi Coffee Project Update

It has been about six months since we provided the Sulpi Village families with 11,000 coffee saplings to begin the new coffee farm project. Most of the plants are doing well, but a significant number of them did not fare very well during the transportation and re-planting process. We expected this, as many of the plants had to be transported over long distances to get to Sulpi Village up in the mountains.

We are not waiting to supplement the farm with new plants, though. Palal already had a plan in place to supplement the Sulpi farm and expand our project into some nearby villages, who are also ready to start planting coffee.

As this is being written, the villagers are in the process of planting 40,000 coffee seeds. These seeds will be grown in specially prepared soil under a shade canopy until they are ready for replanting later this year.

Since the seedlings will be very close to where they will be replanted, the time to transplant them will be measured in hours



Youth of Sulpi planting 40,000 coffee seeds

instead of days or weeks. They will also already be acclimated to the weather, the altitude, and the soil of that area. Because of these factors, we hope the new plants will do even better than the original plants from last April!

Please continue to pray for our coffee project. This is a long term project to help the families of Sulpi Village and other surrounding villages become self-sufficient and self-sustaining, and give them a cash crop to provide them with income to support their families.

One of the main drivers of our coffee project, in addition to the things noted above, is the need to provide these mountain villages with a cash crop alternative to working in the poppy fields. The villages which plant poppies to harvest and sell the opium make a lot of money, relatively speaking. However, that money comes at a deadly cost. Families are destroyed when moms and dads consume the opium and become addicted to it. Families are broken up when poppy fields are raided by the police and military, and moms and dads are sent away to prison. The opium problem in the mountains of north-west Myanmar is ongoing and systemic.

Please help us to help villages like Sulpi who have so far avoided the temptation to join the opium trade. They need help establishing crops that can sustain them and their families into the future. Coffee production promises one way to do that.

You can help make the coffee project a success and also help it to continue to expand to other villages. Please make a donation at our website or contact us for more information. **Thank you!**

Elephant's Foot Yam Project

In the last issue we presented to you a proposal for a new sustainable agriculture project. The aim of this project is to help small local farmers get started growing and selling Elephant Foot Yams on a large scale basis (at least one acre per farm family). If successful, this project has the potential to triple a poor family's annual income from around \$500 to at least \$1,500.

Several of you responded to this proposal. Thank you! Also, a new supporting church joined the MyHope family and they pledged to support this project.

Now that we had some funds to get started, the challenge was to know how to get started. Normally, Palal would go to the northwest to oversee the process of choosing the families, purchasing the seed (or bulbils in this case), distributing the bulbils, training the farmers, and so on.

Of course, we are not living in normal times! Palal is locked down in Yangon and travel to the northwest is forbidden at this time.



Preparing land for the Yam Project

Thankfully, though, Palal has surrounded himself with trustworthy and faithful leaders who can step in and oversee things when he is not around. One of these men is the chairman of Sulpi Village, a very capable young man who is overseeing the coffee project. Another is Pastor Jil Kho Mang of Khamphat Village, which sits at the foot of the mountain on which Sulpi Village is located. Between these two men and scores of volunteers and family workers in the villages surrounding Supli, the new project is get-



Elephant Foot Yam bulbils for sale

ting off to a great start.

After many fruitless phone calls, Palal was able to locate a sufficient quantity of bulbils from Chin State. Transportation was arranged via a private vehicle as all non-essential commercial and public transportation is on hold in the northwest.

During the month of January the farm families have been clearing land and preparing the soil for the planting, which will be happening over the next month or two.

Stay tuned for more updates and photos of this exciting new project! Also, please pray for the long-term success of this project and for the families involved. It will be three years before the first marketable harvest, so much patience is required.

Thank you, and God bless all who have given to this life changing project!

Hope Boarding School

The students, who are currently at HBS (about 80% of our normal class) are doing very well, undoubtedly better than their classmates who were stranded in their villages by the COVID lockdown last year. They continue to get daily tutoring classes by our college-level students as well as Bible and theology by Palal.

What hasn't been doing well for quite some time now is the boys' dorm/kitchen/cafeteria/garage. This is our original building. Those of you who have been with us for a long time remember how bad this building was when we first purchased it.

We invested enough money at the beginning to make the building livable, with the intention to use the building as long as the Lord allowed.

Several years ago the wall and roof above the kitchen in the back of the building actually collapsed (thankfully, no one was hurt), and so we rebuilt the kitchen with new walls and roof at that time.

In the last few years we have witnessed the continued deterioration of the building, but in late 2020 the building actually started to become unsafe for the boys to live on the second floor.

Funds were short, however, and we did not think this would be a good time to launch a major fund-raising effort to tear the building down and build a new one—quite a large undertaking even in the best of times.

We asked Palal to get some professional estimates on what it would cost to at least make the building safe for a few more years.

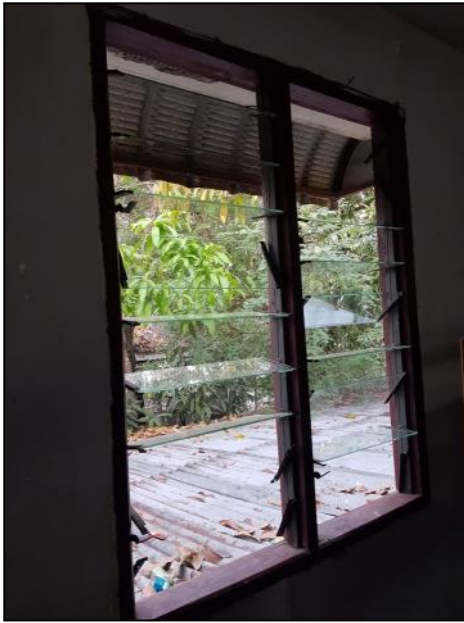
The building was originally built with wooden structural pillars instead of concrete and steel which we built on the girls' dorm next door. Several of these pillars were rotten from both weather and termites, and were useless for holding up the wall in case of an earthquake or even the weight of the wall and roof.

The windows were nearly all rotten and broken, and the concrete around the windows was crumbling. The wooden frames holding up the garage roof were eaten away by termites, and it was very unsafe.



Poor condition of the walls and windows

At least one construction company refused to even give us an estimate because of the age and poor condition of the building. However, Palal was persistent as always and finally got a good company to work with us.



Old windows are broken and rotten

As Palal was searching out estimates, God was working to help us. One of our supporting churches contacted MaryAnn and was concerned that a check they had sent earlier in the year had not been cashed. MaryAnn looked into the matter and informed them that we had no record of ever receiving the check. Our friend then said they would send out a replacement check immediately.

Also, in the 4th quarter of 2020, several new donors became part of the MyHope Family, and they had donated funds to be applied to the General Fund. We had planned to hold those funds back to use for Covid Hunger Relief in 2021, or for any emergencies that might arise. So, between those extra funds and the replacement check, we found that there was enough money for the renovation of the boys' dormitory!



The new windows are so much better!

This is the way that God always provides for us. We never know how or from where the needed funds for our project will come, but we no longer worry that there will never be enough. God always provides just in time! Praise God!

We still need to think about replacing the boys' dorm with a new, larger building, but now we have a little more breathing space before we need to undertake another major fundraising campaign.

Thank you to everyone who gives regularly to both our General Fund and to Hope Boarding School! Your love gifts truly are making a huge difference in the lives of so many poor children and families. God bless you all.

2020 Ministry Progress Report

By Dr. Neh Kho Lal (Palal)

Here are a few highlights from the ministry work of Myanmar Hope during the previous year.

Cheti Church Well

The families of Cheti Church and the surrounding community had been using a shallow, hand-dug well for many years. It was dangerous for the community because it was not protected by concrete, or even a wooden enclosure, but was open to the elements. Because of this, and especially during the rainy season, the well would fill up with muddy water and fecal contamination from livestock.



Cheti villagers are very happy for their well!

In January and February, using funds previously provided by Mr. Dirk Homeir's water company, we were able to pour a new concrete wall and foundation around the well to protect the water from contamination. This new wall also protects the children from falling down into the well.

Now, the well is very well protected and

very nice! It is so clean, and it does not run dry even during the hot season. We are so thankful to Dirk for donating funds for this clean water project.

8th Kuki Christian Convention

The 8th Kuki Christian Convention was held at Namihan Christian Church in Tamu from March 6-9, 2020. The theme of our convention was "Jesus Christ is Lord" based on Philippians 2:11. It inspired everyone and it was a great convention!

There were over 1,200 participants at the convention, representing several different denominations from churches in northwest Myanmar. The churches in America were represented by seven brothers and sisters: Chuck & Mary Ann Cherry, Adam & Annie Hamerlinck, Sunny (Dalhquist) Boatman, Thad Kaylor, and Katy Palmer.

Dr. T. Lunkim, from the Kuki Christian Church Mission in Manipur, India, attended the convention and delivered an inspiring and encouraging message to the younger generations to stand in faith, truth, unity, and service.

Our people really loved the convention with the mission team from America. We can surely say that we experienced what the Scripture says, "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!" (Psalm 133:1). Jesus Christ is our Lord!

Everyone appreciated hearing the Word of God from the preachers, teachers, and reciters during the convention. All of the preaching and activities focused on the topic of Jesus Christ as the Lord and foundation of our faith. We all enjoyed the fellowship with our mission team members, even though they come from a different culture and country.

During the convention we had a special Bible memorization recitation program using Psalm 105:1-40. Thirty people from age twelve (Miss Neng Khen Them) to seventy-five (Mrs. Tin Mang) participated in the Bible recitation program!

It is very hard for our people to memorize even a single Bible verse. But during our weekend convention, at each service a few of the thirty recited the whole chapter of Psalm 105! By the end of the weekend all thirty had finished their recitations.

We were so overwhelmed by listening to the Bible being recited from memory! It took great effort and commitment for these believers to memorize that whole chapter.

All Christians experienced a great spiritual revival and many were liberated from the bondage of spiritual darkness! We hope that we can hold the next convention in 2022, if the Lord is willing. We invite you all in advance to come and enjoy our next convention which is tentatively scheduled for March 4-7, 2022.

Miracle Babies

Chuck Cherry, our mission team leader, was moved to pray for any young couples who could not yet have children. We received encouragement by reading the faith of some barren women in the Bible like Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Hannah, and Samson's mother.

We invited any young couples who had a strong desire to have children to step forward for prayer. The pastors and elders came forward and laid their hands on each of them, and we all joined together in heartfelt prayers for the couples.

The prayers of the humble congregations were not in vain! During the summer after the convention we heard the good news from three of the couples!

In January, Katy & Luke Palmer had a son. They named him Jedidiah James Palmer and will call him "J.J." for short.

Adam and Annie Hamerlinck and Mr. Thang Len and Mrs. Neng Ja Hoi from Tamu are expecting and they will have babies soon!

God answers the prayers and the desires of His children! We pray for you and your con-

gregation, that you all will experience miracles in own your community as we experienced from our convention.

New Solar Pump, Well, Water Tower, and Cows

We are so thankful to the doTERRA company, and we were so blessed with their generous matching donations for our East/West farm development projects.

Most of those funds were spent in 2019 on various projects which you can read about in our previous newsletters, but it took us longer than expected to put in the new water system.

Thankfully, in April we were finally able to build two new water towers with large tanks and to install solar panels and a new pump for watering the plants on the farm.

There were enough funds remaining that we were able to purchase two more cows! Now we have twenty cattle in our herd, which is growing in number year by year. Praise God!

Rebuilt Six Homes Destroyed by Fire

In 2020 we were able to rebuild six homes in three villages with the help of IDES.

Those families live in the remote areas and they did not have enough income to rebuild their homes on their own.

Many families in Myanmar are living in extreme poverty. They cannot make enough income for their families. In most of the villages, there are no fire trucks! When a home



Homes in the villages are at great risk of fire

burns down in the villages, the people run to fetch water with buckets to try to extinguish the fire. However, this method is not sufficient to extinguish the fires completely. Most homes burn down completely, destroying everything inside.

We are so thankful to IDES for their special grants which helped us to rebuild these homes and re-supply the families:

- Mr Kam Thang and Mrs Kam Lam of Hangken village (Burned on October 21, 2019)
- Mr Thang Za Pao and Mrs Dim Kho Chin of Aisi village (Burned on April 4, 2020)
- Mr Hol Kho Pao and Mrs Nei Lam Neng of Kanan village (Burned on April 4, 2020)
- Mrs Vei Lhing of Kanan village (Burned on April 13, 2020)
- Mr Mang Min Len and Mrs Nengjalhing of Kanan village (Burned on April 13, 2020)
- Mr Kyaw Soe and Mrs Themchin of Kanan village (Burned on April 13, 2020)

These families who lost their homes to the fires are so thankful to God, to MyHope, and to IDES!

300 Families Helped at IDP Camp

MyHope has a great concern for the hurting individuals, families, and groups in the



The 8th Kuki Christian Convention at Tamu in March, 2020

whole country of Myanmar. In early 2020, because of the unrest in Rakhine State in southwest Myanmar, over 300 families fled their homes, farms, properties, and lands for their survival.

They settled temporarily at an Internally Displaced Persons camp in Hlegu Township in Yangon Region.

We were very concerned about food for the women, the children, the elderly, and all the families. We first visited the camp on May 29, 2020 and spent a lot of time with them to learn what they had faced in their villages, to hear their experiences and concerns, and to know how best to help them. We learned that they needed food most, and then they needed help for their long-term living. On the other hand, we had a great concern because of the government's negative response toward them.

We shared their needs and our prayer request with our local churches in northwest Myanmar and to our friends in the USA. We also sent a special request to IDES for help in providing food, solar lights and batteries for each family, a machine-drilled well, and a temporary school building.

Seeds and Farming Tools

We asked our local churches in the northwest to collect vegetable seeds so the families at the IDP camp could plant gardens in the area where they are settled. Our congregations sent many seeds just in time for the planting season! We distributed those seeds along with new farming tools to the families at the camp. They planted the seeds and were able to have fresh vegetables for several months. This was very helpful for them in order to get curry (vegetable soup) for each family to eat.

Help from IDES

We requested help from IDES for the families at the IDP camp. With the funds we received from them we could complete the following projects:

1. Food Distribution: On July 31, 2020, we purchased 125 bags of rice (100 lb bags) in Hlegu market and distributed them to 878 people. They all got food equally with the help of the distribution team. They were very happy as they received food in the time of their great hunger.

2. Solar Panels and Lighting: Over one

hundred families at the IDP camp lived without any lighting. As there is no electricity at the camp the area is totally dark at night. This made living very difficult and dangerous.



Solar light and battery systems

On June 18, 2020 we distributed 128 solar lighting kits for 128 families. The kits are designed for rural homes and come with a solar panel, lights and cords, a battery, an inverter, a built-in radio, a phone charger, and more. They were so happy to have light and radio from the solar kits!

3. School Building: Our original plan for the school was to build it with the Nipa Palm leaves and all bamboo materials. However, as we have funds left from the Solar Light Project, we changed the original plan. We purchased hard wood and lumber for the pillars and the frames. We used steel roofing and bamboo walls. We finished the construction on August 12, 2020. Now, the community uses the building for school.



School building under construction

4. Fifteen Houses: We originally requested funds for thirteen families who were living under tarps. The construction team went to a location further away where they found

the construction materials much cheaper than near the camp, and with the savings we were able to build two additional houses for two new families.

5. A Drilled Well: We machine-drilled a 300-foot well next to the school building, where it could be easily accessible to many families. We purchased a generator to pump the water up, and bought a 2,000 liter water tank to store the water. We built a water tower to put the water tank on top. The camp villagers go there and get water from this tank. This is a great blessing for them all as now they are able to get clean water for their living.



Drilling a well is a messy job!

Coffee Plantation Project for Sulpi Village

On February 7, 2020, I went with five people from Sulpi village to Haihit Village in Chin State where some families have been growing Arabica coffee for several years. We wanted to see how their coffee plants are growing there. We learned that their coffee grows well, and that some families have made a good income by selling their coffee.

On February 12, 2020 we bought coffee sprouts in Tamu from one of my friends who works at the government's Agricultural Department. We also bought more coffee sprouts in Haihit Village. We bought 11,000 coffee sprouts in all.

In July 2020 we helped twelve families in Sulpi village to plant the coffee near their village. Each family received enough coffee seedlings for one acre for the first year. They also received training for preparing the soil, planting, and caring for the coffee plants.

This project gives great hope to many

poor families for their future income, and it also protects them from having to plant opium in their region. This is a long-term, sustainable project for the villagers for their livelihood.

The villagers are so happy for this coffee project! They worked very hard at planting coffee and taking care of them. Now they have hope from their coffee farm!

Furniture for New Pathway Home and New Hope Prison Outreach

We are so thankful to Mrs. Jami Friend, who loves our family and the MyHope ministry ever since the ministry was established in 2007 in Springfield, Illinois.

She visited our family in Myanmar and she joined the Kuki Christian Convention in Tamu in March of 2016. She made a great commitment when she visited us in Myanmar. She was so pleased with all the MyHope projects and so she donated funds to purchase some much-needed furniture at the New Pathway Home and the New Hope Prison Outreach.

In August 2020 we bought new teakwood benches, a long table, and a settee for the New Pathway Home. We also bought three beds, a settee, and a dining table and chairs set for the New Hope Prison Outreach.

The residents at the New Pathway Home and the families that visit the New Hope Prison Outreach are all very happy for new furniture. The prisoners' families who visit the inmates can now sleep on the new beds instead of on the floor. They feel so blessed even though they are sad for their family members in the prison.



Some of the new teakwood furniture at the NHPO

Christmas Meals for 103 Villages

None of us expected to get Christmas gifts this year because the COVID virus caused so

many problems all over the world. So we are so thankful for such a large amount of funds for the Christmas meals for the year of 2020!

When I informed the pastors and elders in northwest, they could not believe it, as everyone was in a great depression because of the COVID restrictions. But God is so faithful and He provided for the needs of His children in the right time! We experience His love and His care year after year.



Children at Huihuai enjoying some Christmas food

Since we received a large amount of funds, we shared Christmas meals with one hundred three (103) villages, which included many denominational churches such as Baptist, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Assembly of God, Evangelical Baptist, United Pentecostal, Methodist, Brethren, and so on.

We were also able to include many Naga-tribe churches in the Naga Self-Administered Zone, Burmese-tribe churches, and Lahu-tribe churches in Shan State for Christmas meals.

They all were so amazed with the funds as they got them in the hardest time during the COVID restrictions. These love gifts, especially from the Kukis to the Nagas, were very important for long-term peace between the tribes, which have traditionally been mortal enemies for hundreds of years.

Many churches could not celebrate Christmas in 2020 and they could not join together for their Christmas meals because of the COVID laws. So, in some villages the elders cooked the meat and curry and shared with each family. But in some places the elders butchered the meat and then shared the raw meat with their people. Some churches were able to join for meals on New Year's Day.

On behalf of all of the families and churches, I very humbly want to express my deep and heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated funds for the Christmas meals. We pray that the Lord would bless you over and above

what you sowed in His Kingdom this year.

The Scripture says, "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17 (ESV). We give our great thanks to the Father through Jesus Christ for YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFTS to many poor Christian families in Myanmar!

Covid Hunger Relief

Many people, especially in the rural northwest, suffered food shortages because of the COVID restrictions. The villagers were not allowed to go out to work and so they could not make any money for their living. They all were in a great hunger and they asked us for food.



Residents of Bangala Village with life-saving food

We were so overwhelmed with the funds from the United State of America for the COVID relief efforts for many hungry people in Myanmar. We are so thankful to God and to all our friends who generously donated funds for the COVID Hunger Relief project.

From the relief funds we were able to purchase and distribute 2,019 bags of rice (100 lbs each) to 15,560 people from 2,019 families. These include families from the Kuki tribe, the Naga tribe, the Burmese tribe, the



One of the thousands of people helped with food from our COVID Hunger Relief project

Zo tribe, and the Mro tribe. Both Christians and Buddhists from over sixty different villages in upper Sagaing Region, upper Chin State, and Yangon Region received emergency food because of your love gifts.

Thank you all for your generosity in 2020! There are many other things we were able to do thanks to your prayers and your financial giving which were not included above. These were just the main projects. We pray God will continue to bless and keep you all in His love, mercy, and grace in the coming year.

- Dr. Nehkholal (Palal) Kongsai
- Kikim Khongsai

Eagle Scout Project for Myanmar

On Saturday, December 20th, we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Pratik Vangal, a high school junior from Portland, Oregon, who contacted us last summer about a project he was working on.

Here is a little background from Pratik: "A few years ago, I visited a small village in rural India. I observed high-smoke concentrations in poorly ventilated rural kitchens from extensive solid biomass fuel use for every-day cooking. The women complained of breathing discomfort, chest-pain, cough and eye irritation from chronic smoke exposure. I was deeply moved by their plight."

"Upon return to the US, my study revealed the serious health risks from biomass smoke and the staggering size of the problem, impacting billions worldwide. I then began experimenting possibilities for low-cost ventilation to help underprivileged families in developing countries."

The result of his experimentation led him to develop a low-cost ventilation system made from recycled computer fans and

throw-away solar panels. These could be used to help remove cooking fire smoke from houses in the rural villages.

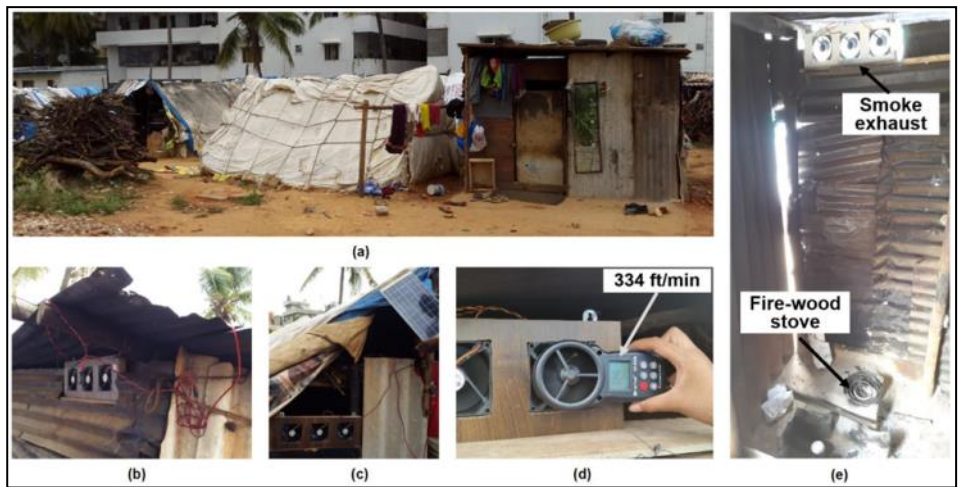
Pratik and his friend, Aaron Li, decided to find an organization working in rural India or Southeast Asia that might be able to work with them to implement their ideas. They searched the Internet and found Myanmar Hope Christian Mission.

We engaged in several online video meetings, discussing the problems, the proposed solution, the materials, and ways to bring the project to a complete success. We were very interested in his project, because we know that COPD and related lung diseases



Mothers and children are most at risk

scouts to assemble the finished systems. Pratik's mother, Reshma, also helped with some expert packing! That part will be very important when we transport the finished systems to Myanmar.



In-field smoke relief installation (a) Huts in Kanakapura, Karnataka, India where the pilot ventilation solution is implemented (b) Fan panel in house #1 (c) Photovoltaic panel with fans (house #2) (d) Checking exhaust airflow and (e) Inside view of rural kitchen

are one of the leading causes of death in rural Myanmar, primarily because of the smoke inhaled during cooking.

Early this fall, Pratik notified us that he was going to use his solution as his final Eagle Scout project. We thought that was a great idea, too! He and his father scoured the Internet to find the best deals on parts, and then he recruited the help of his fellow

On Saturday the 20th we met up with Pratik and his father, Sri, at a half-way point between our homes in order to pick up the finished systems. It was great to finally meet them in person, and to get some photos.

Our plan is to bring the ventilation systems with us on our next trip to Myanmar, God willing, and hopefully get them installed in some homes where they can be of good use. We also will try to help anyone interested in starting a local business making ventilation systems in Myanmar for sale to other homes throughout the region.

We are so happy that Pratik found us on the Internet, and we are thankful for his ingenuity and his desire to use his knowledge and skills to help the poor and needy. Pratik is a junior in high school, and does not yet know where he will be attending university. Wherever that is, we are sure they will be glad to have someone of his



(a) Rural family cooking in a poorly ventilated kitchen. (b) Countries where people are most at risk.

caliber among their students!

Thank you, Pratik, and also thank you Sri and Reshma, for your help in making all of this a reality. We know you are very proud of your son. Pratik published a paper about his project in a peer-reviewed science journal, "International Journal of High School Research:"

https://terra-docs.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/IJHSR/Articles/2020_V2111_p29_Vangal.pdf



Chuck Cherry, Pratik Vangal, and MaryAnn Cherry



Back of system, showing fan assemblies



Some completed systems prior to packing



Some completed systems prior to packing

Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc. Financial Report for 2020

Income	
Starting Balance	4.6%
Donations Income	94.4%
Other Income	1.0%
Total Income	100.0%

Expenditures	
Special Projects	
Disaster Relief / Covid Hunger Relief / IDP Camp Relief	25.3%
Village Christmas Meals (103 Villages)	7.0%
Agriculture Projects (Coffee & Yams)	6.1%
Bth Kuki Christian Convention & Leadership Training	4.0%
Medical Relief	1.4%
Clean Water Projects	0.2%
Total Special Projects	44.0%
Ongoing Projects	
Hope Boarding School	12.9%
New Pathway Home	6.9%
Yangon HQ Operating Budget	6.5%
East/West Garden	6.1%
Pastor Support	6.0%
Family, Widow, and Disabled Support	3.3%
Travel Expenses	2.0%
Hope Preschool	1.6%
New Hope Prison Ministry	1.0%
Hope Theological Seminary	0.1%
Total Ongoing Projects	46.5%
Administrative	
Accounting and Legal Fees	1.3%
Fundraising Expenses	1.2%
Office Expenses	0.6%
Telecommunications	0.6%
Bank Charges and Wire Fees	0.5%
Hardware, Software, and Online Presence	0.3%
Printing and Publishing	0.2%
Miscellaneous	0.1%
Total Administrative	4.8%
Total Expenditures	95.4%

Cash on Hand 12/31/2020	
Checking Account	4.0%
Savings Account	0.6%
Balance Forward	4.6%
Total Expenses + Balance Forward	100.0%

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



MyHope Newsletter

Winter/Spring 2021

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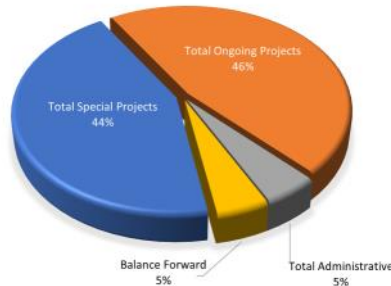
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2020 Financial Report

Our end of year financial report is on page 11 of this newsletter. It includes the details of how the funds were distributed among the various projects. (We cannot include dollar amounts in this publication for security reasons.)

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us via email or phone between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM Pacific Time.

We are so thankful that you trust us with your generous donations. We do our best to keep costs as low as possible in order to send as much as possible to the field. Chuck and I do all of our MyHope work on a volunteer



basis, and we take nothing from the ministry except the spiritual and emotional blessings. Thank you to everyone who gives to the General Fund which covers the admin costs and makes up any shortfalls in other projects.

- MaryAnn Cherry, Secretary/Treasurer

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