



Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.

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

Fall 2022

Jubilee Greetings

Greetings in the Name of the Lord Jesus Messiah! Today is Rosh Hashana, the beginning of the new year on the Jewish calendar (5783). Happy New Year!

Yesterday was the last day of the previous shemithah (sabbath year). It was the seventh year of the seven year agricultural cycle (shevi'it) mandated in the Jewish Torah. It was also the last day of the seven cycles of shemithah, or 49 years, marking this new year as a “Yobel,” a “Jubilee” year, a year of release and freedom.

We are praying that this will truly be a Jubilee Year for the people of Myanmar, who have been under the yoke of oppression for so long now. Please pray with us that God will bring physical and spiritual release to all those who are bound by chains of darkness.

God bless you. Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter, and we pray that God will shower you with blessings this Jubilee Year!

Hunger Relief

Even though the worst part of COVID is behind us, the Civil War has still prevented people from living a normal life. Even under normal conditions, most people in the northwest live in poverty. Now many villages have been cut off and the people really suffer. In addition, we help hundreds of families living in refugee conditions with regular distributions of food and other aid.

Since our last edition, the fighting has intensified around the Tamu area, forcing even more families to flee into India. Several large camps have been established there, and for the most part the people are cut off from any aid. We are thankful for a grant from IDES that allowed us to purchase food for many of these families.

Unfortunately that food has run out, and the people are in need again. And not only them, but we are receiving requests from villages all over northwest Myanmar for help. This is the time of year (rainy season) when many families run out of the food that they harvested back in December and January, and many are forced to go into the hills and forests to forage for roots, bamboo, and other edible plants. This year, however, they cannot go into the forests without fear of being shot or stepping on a land mine.

In addition, many villages were unable to plant crops this year, and so there will be nothing to harvest come December and January. Without significant help, many people will starve to death in the coming months.

We are not exaggerating the need; if anything, it is much worse than what we can describe in words. A 100lb bag of rice costs \$30, and will provide a family of four with about 500 calories each per day for one month.

Five hundred calories per day isn't enough to thrive (Americans consume an average of 2,000 calories per day or

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more), but if supplemented with vegetables it will stave off extreme hunger and even starvation.



Your donations are helping to keep these families alive
Will you please consider a special do-

nation for our hunger relief effort? Your love gift could mean the difference between life and death. Thank you!

Wetinpauk Christian Church

We are excited to report about our newest Christian congregation in Myanmar, Wetinpauk Christian Church!

The new congregation was established this summer at the IDP camp where Palal and Kikim have been working so diligently over the past several years. [Please see our previous newsletters for all of the work accomplished at the camp].

One of the refugees at the camp, which is majority Buddhist, is a Christian pastor. He and his wife agreed to take on the leadership role under the direction of Palal.

Thanks to several generous donations, we were able to supply the new congregation with furniture and supplies needed to operate, including electric lights, fans, and more.

New Baptisms!

We are so happy to report that twelve men and two women from the camp were baptized in September! These are all converts from Buddhism, which is a miracle in itself. In fact, the entire congregation is almost entirely made up of Buddhists or former Bud-



14 former Buddhists were baptized in September and October at the camp

dhists. There are quite a few more who are considering Christian baptism, so please be praying for them.

New Kanan Christian Church

The congregation at New Kanan Christian Church have been preparing to build a new building for several years by setting aside lumber and other building materials as they have been able to. The congregation is very poor, and so it took them a long time just to get the point where they were able to put up a frame for the new building.

In November of 2021 they built as much as they could with the funds and

materials they had available, but they were only able to lay a foundation and put up a basic frame with a metal roof and partially covered walls.

The elders reached out to Palal to see if there was any way to get help even during a time of crisis. We put the information out to our friends and supporters on social media and elsewhere. We were amazed at the amount of support that became available to help this poor congregation!

Since that time, the church members have been working very hard to get their new building up a little at a time, as funds became available.



New Kanan Christian Church—Old Building

At first we thought they would have enough for a floor and walls, but now they have a fully finished building!

The members of NKCC now meet in a building that keeps out the wind and rain that will last for many years. It is a great testimony to them of the love and faithfulness of God and of the generosity of their brothers and sisters in Christ



Wetinpauk Refugee Camp



New Kanan Christian Church—New Building

who sacrificed their own funds to help them in their time of need. Thank you to everyone who gave to help finish this construction! God bless you.

Hope Preschool : New Construction Finished

In our last issue we let you know that we would be constructing a new building for the preschool on our existing campus in the village of Namihan, on the outskirts of Tamu.

We are happy to report that the new construction has been completed, and the preschool was opened to new students in June/July of this year. Praise God!



Hope Preschool New Construction

This new building is well constructed, and has three large rooms that can be used for classrooms and other activities. The floors are made with hardwood, rather than the usual tile or concrete. This makes the floor much safer



Hope Preschool—New Building

for the children, in addition to being more comfortable for the teachers and the students.

Palal recently sent this note of thanks to all those who have donated for the new building and who have been supporting Hope Preschool with their prayers and financial resources:

Dear Friends, On behalf of our preschool staff and all of our parents and students, I would like to say thank you very much to our friends who donated funds for this beautiful new preschool building which is for the many poor children in the Namihan Community.

We started the paperwork for the building construction on January 14th, 2022. We began laying the foundation on January 19th, 2022. Our construction team worked very hard in the midst of the civil war. After many months of hard work, and with many interruptions from the war, we finally were able to hold the new preschool building dedication service on July 2nd, 2022. Praise God!

Because of intense fighting around Namihan in the months of July and August, we could not start classes until September 12th. Many of the parents in the area were too afraid to send their children until then. But now we have twelve new students who are being taught by our dedicated preschool staff, Ms. Lucy and Miss Vei Nei Lam.

Our staff, our students, and their parents really love the new preschool building. They also feel this is a very safe place for their children.

The Namihan community is located in an active war zone. Almost every day there is fighting between the Myanmar military and the PDF (Peoples' Defense Force) in and around the preschool community. Please pray for God's protection upon our preschool children, our staff, and the all of the families in

the area.



First class in the new building

We discussed with the parents whether we should keep the school closed or open it up, because of the fighting. The parents want us to keep the school open. If there is an outbreak of fighting they will come pick up their children. However, some of the parents said that the preschool building is much safer than their own homes!

Since we opened, each day more families feel safe enough to bring their children. Please pray that more families will feel comfortable bringing their children to Hope Preschool so their children can begin to get an education.



Learning in the new classrooms

It is a tragedy that almost no children from Namihan, of any age, have been to school since March of 2020. Without an education these children will be trapped in perpetual chains of poverty and oppression. Thank you everyone, again, for praying and helping us to build this new preschool building. It was and is a much-needed project for

this extremely poor community and for their children's education, now and in the future. God bless you all,

- Palal (Dr. Nehkholal)

Hope Boarding School

After many consultations with families, pastors, and elders in the villages, Palal and Kikim made the decision to slowly try to re-start a groups of students at Hope Boarding School.

Normally the students would ride a bus from their villages down to Yangon, but this is far too dangerous at this time. There are numerous check-points on the roads, manned by soldiers from the Myanmar military, or by soldiers in the PDF (Peoples' Defense Force). At the checkpoints people are forced off the bus, and are sometimes made to wait for hours. In addition to the inconvenience and lost time, there have been much worse things happening at the checkpoints.

Because of the danger of road travel,

we paid for the students to fly from the closest airport (in Homalin) down to Yangon, where they were met at the airport and transported safely to the HBS campus.

Over the summer thirteen students made their way to Hope Boarding School and are now attending classes (as long as it is deemed safe to do so).

There are still ongoing targeted attacks on government buildings and government personnel, and that includes the schools and the teachers. Each day a decision must be made whether it is safe to attend classes. On the days when the students are not at classes at the government school, they receive tutoring from Palal, other staff, and older students who have already graduated.

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting Hope Boarding School, even through these difficult times. We are still using your student support funds for hunger relief for the families of students who are not able to return

to HBS yet.

Building Renovations

Over the past few months, we have been able to complete many much needed renovations at the campus.

The roofs over the kitchen area, the boy's latrines, and the garage were in really bad shape, and those have now been replaced with new corrugated steel roofing. There were some extra funds left over from the previous Boy's Dorm renovations, and these were used to pay for the roofing materials and installations.

New Pathway Home & New Hope Prison Outreach

The New Pathway Home has been near "ground zero" of much of the fighting in Tamu. This city, a major border crossing into India, has been a target of the PDF and the Military government since the civil war began.

Initially most of the widows left the home and returned to their villages where it was thought they would be safer. However, many of them have returned to the NPH, as they could not be well cared for in their villages. Unfortunately, one of our ladies died while back in her village, so now she is safe in heaven with our Lord Jesus.

Recently the city of Tamu decided to run a water line to our building, and they said they will not charge us for the service! Praise God, this is a great blessing. We still have our own well and water tanks, which we will continue to use as a backup in case the city water is shut off for any reason.

The ladies are all happy, and they feel safe behind our thick concrete walls and fence, even though the bombs and flying bullets make them afraid at times. Please continue to pray for our ladies, and for peace and stability to return to the city of Tamu.



The students who have returned to Hope Boarding School in 2022



Two returning widows receiving prayer

New Hope Prison Outreach

There isn't much to report on for the prison outreach, unfortunately. The prisons are still off-limits because of the civil war, so our people cannot get inside to minister to the prisoners. Please pray that Mawlaikalay Prison, at least, would open up and allow Pastor Sei Lal to come in and pray with the prisoners.

Elephant Foot Yam and Coffee Update

I would like to give you an update on the elephant foot yam project this year. In 2022 we purchased 2.25 tons of elephant foot yam bulbils (approximately 35 acres worth) from southern Chin State and transported them to northern Chin State in February 2022.

We then distributed those bulbils to forty-four families in five different villages: Thingpel, Jonglon, Sulpi, Kanaan and Khampat. The families were chosen from among the poorest in the villages, who could not afford to purchase the bulbils. They were very happy to re-



Some families receive yam bulbils for planting

ceive them, for now they have a new hope for income to help relieve their poverty in the future.

We made four different distributions, on February 17th, 23rd, March 1st, and 2nd. Some of the families started planting in March and some of them planted the bulbils in April and May. Planting time was dependent on the weather in their regions.

On August 2nd our project coordinators spent a day with the cultivators, visiting several of the farms. They found most of the plants were growing very well, but some were not growing as well because of different types of soil, sometimes even in the same village. Even so, we believe that most of the families will have a good harvest in three years time.



New yam crop doing well

On behalf of the cultivators, I would like to share my deepest and most humble thanks to all the donors for this project. I would especially like to say thank you to Mason City Christian Church for your great commitment for helping many poor families who need financial support during the time of this project and before they are able to harvest.

Coffee Project Update

2022 has been a year of expansion for our coffee project. Pastor Pamang of Khampat Village and Chairman Paono of Sulpi village have overseen the expansion and distribution of thousands of new coffee plants to new families in several different villages.

Early in the year land was cleared and made ready to plant and grow thousands of coffee seedlings, which were harvested from our own coffee plants in



Coffee sprouts growing at Khampat

the area. Many volunteers came together to clear and cultivate the land, and build the shade shelters for the new coffee plants.

Then in July we distributed 5,040 coffee sprouts to fourteen new families from Jonglon, Sulpi, and Kanaan villages. The distribution took place at Khampat Christian Church's compound.

I believe that the Lord will surely repay all of you as you are helping the poor. As the Scripture says, "If you help the poor, you are lending to the LORD—and he will repay you!" Proverbs 19:17 (NLT).

Palal Khongsai



"Now there is hope for my family!"

VBS at Jagnoi Village

Our churches in the upper Homalin region held Vacation Bible School at Jangnoi Christian Church from March 31st to April 3rd. Mrs. Hoi Neng, our Christian Children’s Ministry Moderator, and her husband, Mr. Dem Pao (the Dean of Students Hope Theological Seminary), Evangelist Joel Hawl Pao, and his wife, Mrs. Kim Boi (former Sunday School teacher at Hope Boarding School) led the VBS. Two of our former HBS students who live in the area, Mr. Let Tin Pao and Miss Ngai Si, also helped with all of the activities.

Seventy children from Jangnoi, New Jangnoi, Shwepyita, and Moldumphai villages attended the VBS. All of the children loved learning Bible stories, playing outdoor activities, eating and fellowshiping with children from the other villages. They all had a wonderful time learning more about God. They really loved the VBS!

Sunday School Training

Mrs. Hoi Neng, our Christian Children’s Ministry Moderator, and her husband Mr. Dem Pao, Dean of Students at HTS, conducted Sunday School Teachers’ Training in Homalin, March 22-26, 2022.

Sixteen Sunday school teachers from eleven churches in the Homalin area attended the training. This is the first time we were able to provide special training for Sunday school teachers in this area.



Participants at the Sunday School Training

During the training they learned lessons from selected Bible Stories, different class activities, teamwork and practical works. The teachers were very happy and learned a lot of new and creative skills that they can use back in their churches. We believe that the teachers received many benefits from this training and they will use them in their churches to grow the children in the knowledge of Christ and to follow His steps in their future.

Bracelets for Supporting Cancer Victims

[Editors Note: Jami Friend is the sister of Chuck Cherry, Director of Myanmar Hope Christian Mission.]

By Jami Friend

On February 17, 2020, I was diagnosed with adrenal cortex carcinoma, a rare cancer of the adrenal gland. A large tumor had developed which, at 4.61 inches, was larger than the adrenal gland itself.

The doctor immediately ordered surgery to remove the tumor, with the warning that I might also lose my kidney and spleen. Thanks be to God, the



Mr. Dem Pao and Mrs. Hoi Neng

surgery was successful and the tumor was completely removed. My spleen was removed, but I kept my kidney.

This type of cancer is rare, with less than two hundred people in the USA being diagnosed with it each year. It is so rare that they do not even do clinical studies or trials on this type of cancer. It is an aggressive cancer with a very high rate of return. Because of this, the treatment is oral chemotherapy for at least five years.

Not long after that surgery, I was diagnosed with thyroid cancer, which required the removal of my thyroid gland.

God has blessed me with a job that has very good health insurance. The cost of the first two surgeries exceeded over \$100,000, but the insurance paid the majority of that, and I was able to pay my portion of the bill.

However, I am now on medications for the rest of my life, and oral chemo for several more years. The cost of the chemo, without insurance, is between \$3,500 and \$3,900 monthly. That



VBS at Jagnoi Village

amount is more than I earn each year!

I have said all this because there are people all over the world without the benefits of health insurance and, while their medical costs might be lower, they still must pay those costs out of pocket.

I especially think of my brothers and sisters in Myanmar who have very limited healthcare and no insurance benefits of any kind. I have a very strong passion for my Christian family in Myanmar, and for Myanmar Hope Christian Mission.

There have been several people in northwest Myanmar who have suffered with various cancers. For most of them, the cost of treatment is far beyond their ability to pay. And many families go deep into debt as they attempt to find ways to pay for the needed medical treatment.

Cancer has no borders and no boundaries and does not discriminate. Almost every person has been touched by cancer in one way or another, and we all know at least one person who has been attacked by this deadly disease.

So many times we wonder what we can do, but we feel helpless as we stare down this terrible giant. But I think there are ways we each can help, even in very small ways.

I wanted to help raise funds for these cancer victims—for their medical treatment and also for the many costs associated with this terrible disease, but was unsure what to do. Then I came up with an idea, related to my love of crafting.

I have designed a beaded bracelet to remind me of Myanmar and all the victims of cancer. The colors of red, yellow and green are the colors of the Myanmar flag, and the three purple beads represent all types of cancer.

I have made a batch of these bracelets, and MyHope is giving them out in return for a small donation of only \$10 per bracelet.



MyHope Cancer Bracelets

You can wear this bracelet to show your support for the cancer victims in Myanmar, and one hundred percent (100%) of the funds raised will be used to help cover the costs of medical treatment. If there are additional funds available, we will provide household support for the families of the cancer victims.

The bracelets are made of silicone beads on an elastic cord and will fit most people comfortably. If you would like a special size, either larger or smaller, I would happily customize one for you.

This might be a little thing, but we know that in God's economy little things make a big difference. May God bless you all.

Other Church News

Throughout the year the civil war has been taking a real toll on the local churches. Many congregations have fled their villages and are staying in refugee camps in India. The area between Tamu and Kalay is an important trade corridor and both sides in the conflict want to control that area.

The opposition forces are targeting anyone they suspect of sympathizing with the government, and the government is targeting anyone they suspect of sympathizing with the opposition. The result is that many people have been killed, many businesses and houses have been burned, and the people are living in

fear of both sides.

At Lallim Christian Church, the chairman's home was targeted and his storefront was burned to the ground. There was a lot of fighting and bombing in the Lallim area, and the entire village fled across the border into India, and most are still there.

Many other things have happened that we cannot share in public. Please pray for our people to stand strong and be courageous in these difficult times.



Lallim Christian Church Chairman's home

Village Christmas Meals

It hardly seems possible, but it is time to start thinking about Village Christmas Meals already!

If you are not familiar with this vital annual program, we encourage you to see our previous newsletters for all of the details, including why this is such a needed program every year. This year, again, the needs are even greater because of the ongoing civil war.

We are receiving requests from villages all over northwest and northern Myanmar for help this Christmas, even villages that we have never heard of before, including villages in Naga Land where no aid agencies ever go. Many of the villages are extremely remote and difficult to reach, but we have never let that stop us before!

Please, please, please help us this year to provide food for hungry families at Christmastime. One hundred percent of

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



MyHope Newsletter

Fall 2022

Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.
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**Bringing the eternal hope of Jesus Christ to the people of Myanmar in a holistic manner
by addressing their spiritual, physical, emotional and educational needs**

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every dollar you give will be used to purchase a cow or a pig for each village, church, or community to provide meat with their Christmas meals. For many, this is the only time of year they get to enjoy beef or pork with their rice and vegetables!

Because of very high inflation, the cost for pigs and cows have risen a lot. We need your help this year more than ever.

THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU



Hungry children need our help

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