



Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.

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

Fall 2023

Greetings

“We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed...So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” 1 Corinthians 4:8—18

The words of the Apostle Paul are very appropriate for the believers in Myanmar. The past three years have been horrendous: first COVID lockdowns, then a military coup, followed by months and months of seemingly unending civil war.



Bomb damage to a church in Khamphat Village

Yes, the Christians are discouraged. Yes, they are severely grieved by the many losses they have experienced: loss of prop-

erty, loss of livelihoods and income. They are grieved most by the loss of lives, both friends and loved ones.

Yes, the Christians are at times anxious for their lives and their futures. And who could blame them? We in the West know little of their struggles—living in extreme poverty, surrounded by war, wakened in the night by explosions and the sound of bullets whizzing by. Many of them are unable to work their fields or their farms, afraid of being attacked at any time by either side in this conflict. They are afraid of stepping on any of the countless land mines that have been scattered throughout the countryside, in the forests, and in the hills.

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.”

—Proverbs 19:17

And yet, in the midst of all, the Body of Christ lives on. The work of ministry goes on. The Gospel is preached, the widows, orphans, and prisoners are cared for. The hungry are being fed, and new church buildings are being constructed. And all of this is made possible by your generous love gifts and your fervent prayers.

On behalf of Palal, Kikim, and all Christians in Myanmar, we say thank you and God bless you. God sees your works, and He makes a note of your generosity, and He will certainly repay you for your kindness.

In This issue:

Solomon’s Education.....	1
Church Rebuilding.....	2
New Hope Prison Outreach.....	3
Civil War.....	4
Hope Boarding School.....	4
Medical Treatment.....	5
Hope Theological Seminary.....	6
Agriculture Projects.....	6
Thanksgiving at HBS.....	7
Village Christmas Meals.....	8

Solomon’s Education

Good news! Solomon was accepted as a student at Johnson University in Knoxville, Tennessee, and will begin his education there in January 2024. Johnson University awarded him a “half scholarship”, meaning that his tuition and fees will be half of what a non-scholarship student would pay. We are very thankful!

We had hoped that he would be able to start at Johnson in the Fall semester of this year, but there were too many delays at the US Embassy in Yangon. However, he finally got an interview and was awarded an F-1 student visa for 2024.

Solomon graduated from high school as the Salutatorian of his class (one position behind the Valedictorian) with a GPA of 3.857. He has been extremely diligent in his studies all along, winning awards each year for academics and/or good character.

Palal and Kikim are justifiably proud of Solomon’s achievements and are thrilled about this new chapter in his life. It is both exciting and a little frightening to travel half-way around the globe to a new school,



a new community, and a new and different culture. But we know Solomon, and we know that he will adjust and do quite well in his new environment.

One great thing about him attending Johnson University is that we already have several friends and supporters living in the Knoxville, Tennessee area. Also, Woodlawn Christian Church is close to the campus and Myanmar Hope has a wonderful relationship with this congregation.

We are still hoping and praying for a family to host Solomon for the upcoming semester. It is possible for him to live in the dormitory, but we would prefer that he stay in a home with a host family.

If you know anyone who would be interested in hosting Solomon, or if you live in the area and are interested, please contact us right away.

Solomon will be arriving in Seattle on December 7th. He will stay with Chuck and MaryAnn Cherry for a couple of weeks before heading out to his new adventure in Tennessee. While in Washington we hope to get Solomon in front of some of our supporting churches out here.

We need help covering his educational expenses. Will you please pray about investing in Solomon? If the Lord leads you to help, please make a donation at our website, and choose the category "Solomon's Education Fund."

We view this fund as an investment,

not only in Solomon, but also in the future of Myanmar Hope. Solomon will be pursuing a double major of Bible and Business Administration. He plans to return to Myanmar after college and put his education, skills, and experience to work in ministry with Myanmar Hope Christian Mission.

Solomon has already been a great help with our ministry! When he was just ten years old he began serving as a translator for our mission trip teams and at our large conventions. He has also been serving as a worship leader and musician at Hope Boarding School and Yangon Christian Church.

Please consider investing in Solomon's future and the future of Myanmar Hope by sponsoring Solomon's education.

THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU!



2023 Global Fest Church Rebuilding Project

Speaking of Woodlawn Christian Church, many of you know that the congregation dedicated the funds from their 2023 annual missions project, named "GlobalFest," to MyHope for the purpose of constructing new church buildings.

Our volunteers have worked tire-

lessly alongside the members of the various churches to get as much construction done as possible this year. Sometimes the work was dangerous, and sometimes the work had to be put on hold while they wait for fighting to stop or subside enough to continue. At least one project is still on hold (Bokkan) because the area is still a hotbed of military activity.

So far this year, the following churches have new buildings, thanks to Woodlawn Christian Church:

1. Munnomjang Church—May 7
2. Shwepyita Church—June 8
3. Mongjang Church—June 28
4. Vokso Church—August 20
5. Maingdaungphai Church—October 15
6. Zedy Church—November 3
7. Wetinpauk Church—November 17

Here are a few images of the new buildings:



Zedy Church Dedication



Monjong Christian Church



Wetinpaok Church Guest House



Vokso Christian Church—Old Building



Vokso Christian Church—New Building



Shwepyita Christian Church—Old Building



Shwepyita Christian Church—Old Building



Shwepyita Christian Church—New Building

1. Homalin Church
2. Jangnoi Church
3. Joljam Church
4. Kanan Church
5. Khampat Church
6. Lallim Church
7. Maingdaungphai Church
8. Moldumphai Church
9. Mongjang Church
10. Munnomjang Church
11. Namihan Church
12. Shwepyiaye Church
13. Shwepyita Church
14. Tingkaya Church
15. Valpabung South Church
16. Vokso Church
17. Zedy Church

Thank you, again, to Woodlawn Christian Church, and to all of you for your continued prayers and financial support!

New Hope Prison Outreach

The New Hope Prison Outreach has been mostly quiet since the COVID lockdowns and the civil war, but in the past few months Pastor Sei Lal was able to do ministry work for the prisoners and families. He was also able to help out the prison administration, which we trust will yield fruit in the future.

Occasionally the central government will announce a prisoner amnesty, allowing certain prisoners to be released. This happened earlier in the year, and Pastor Sei Lal was there to help arrange temporary lodging, food, and transportation.

Another situation caused by the war has been very distressing for the families of a certain group of prisoners—Indian nationals who were arrested in Myanmar and sent to prison.

When a prisoner dies in custody, it is the government’s responsibility to return the deceased’s body to the family. In the case of Indian nationals, there is a lot of extra paperwork involved because of the cross-border situation. Normally,

the prison administration handles it without much difficulty.

However, because of the civil war, parts of the road that leads from the prison, just north of Kalay, to the India border in Tamu has been in the control of the militia forces. These forces will shoot Myanmar government workers on sight. Because of this, no one at the prison would agree to transport the bodies of dead prisoners to the border crossing in Tamu.

One of the prison officials contacted Pastor Sei-Lal and asked him if he would be willing to transport the body for them, since the deceased was a member of his tribe (Kuki). Pastor Sei Lal agreed, even though it was very dangerous for him to do as well.

The prison administration entrusted him with the necessary paperwork, and arranged for an ambulance for transportation. They arrived to the border with minimal problems, and the militia checkpoints let them pass.



Pr Sei Lal receiving official paperwork

When they arrived at the border, there was an official ceremony to hand over the body to the Indian officials, and then Pastor Sei Lal returned home safely.



The transfer ceremony at the border

As a reminder, here is the list of all of the new churches Myanmar Hope has built since we started in 2007:

It is a great honor that the prison officials trusted Pastor Sei Lal with this very important duty, and a great blessing to the family of the deceased. They had been waiting several months for the body to be returned to them.

We are planning to make request to the prison officials to have another Christmas celebration at the prison this year, like we did for Christmas in 2019, just before the COVID lockdowns. Please pray that they will allow us to do this, and that Pastor Sei Lal will soon be allowed back into the prison every for preaching, counseling, and distributing food and gifts from families.

New Lighting at New Hope

Thanks to a generous donation from one of our Canadian friends, we were able to replace some of the lighting at the NHPO Guest House. Pastor Sei Lal purchased a new solar panel, controller, inverter, battery, and other accessories.

Now they have light from the solar power supply again, and they are very happy for this.

Civil War

The civil war, sparked by the military coup in February of 2021, seems to have no end. There are several main hot spots in the country, and one of those is in the area where much of our work is located.

Many of our villagers have fled across the border into India, and then back into Myanmar, several times over the past couple of years. Many of them fled across the border and have not yet returned.

Even more tragically, those who fled into Manipur and into the area around Imphal were caught up in the raging destruction caused by the attacks of the Manipur Meitei tribe (predominantly Hindu). The Hindu government of India has made it a policy that Hinduism is the religion of India, and this has led to

Mr Tong Cin Mang



2011



2016



2023

outbreaks of persecution against the Christians (and other religions).

The Myanmar military uses advanced equipment and weapons against the citizens of Myanmar, including fighter jets, tanks, mortars, artillery, and more. The opposition forces, which goes by various names, but mostly the PDF (Peoples' Defense Force) has recently teamed up with the Kachin Army, which



has been in a state of civil war with the central government for over 50 years. The Kachin Army has been providing weapons and training to the PDF, which now controls many areas in northwest Myanmar.

One recent example of the destructive power of the Myanmar army can be

seen in these images from one of our main villages, Khampat. These are pictures of churches that sustained damage from bombs dropped by government jets.

Please pray for the peace of Myanmar. Thank you.

Hope Boarding School

Mr. Tong Cin Mang

Mr. Tong Cin Mang of Joljam Village was among the first class of students to attend Hope Boarding School, starting in 2010. He stayed at HBS until he graduated from high school in 2016. He was our very first student to pass his high school matriculation exams on the first try.

The next year he was accepted into a government college where he began training to take a government administration job in his home district.

Unfortunately his education was cut short, along with thousands of other college and university students, when the COVID lockdowns were ordered. Then, of course, the military coup happened, and that was followed by civil war.

It was not until recently that some students were allowed to return to school to finish their degrees. Tong Cin Mang was among them, and thankfully he just graduated in October!

We are very proud of him for his

Miss San Kim (Sunny)



2013



2016



2016



2017



2023—Palal and the students at HBS praying for Sunny's life in Japan

persistence and dedication to his education, and we look forward to working with him in the future as he provides oversight to his home district as a government official.

Miss San Kim (Sunny)

Miss San Kim (Sunny) was studying to be a lawyer at Dagon University when the COVID lockdowns interrupted her education. However, that did not stop her from moving forward with her life.

Over the past couple of years, Sunny has been studying the Japanese language and culture, and taking courses at a school where she trained for a position in the Senior Service, working in a senior care home.

In September she was accepted into the program and was awarded a five year visa to Japan. In early October she flew to Japan to begin her service. We are very proud of her accomplishments and we look forward to hearing more about her work and life in Japan.

**Mr. On Kho Chung Thang
(June 11, 2006—Sept 19, 2023)**

Mr. On Kho Chung Thang, from Mongjang Village in Chin State, came to HBS in April of 2019. He was thirteen years old and in seventh grade. He stayed with us until all the HBS students were forced to return to their home villages in May of 2020 because of the COVID lockdowns.

We are very sad to report that he passed away on September 19th, 2023, from leukemia.

Mr On Kho Chung Thang



2019



2020

Medical Treatment

Two men, both of who have been suffering very painful or debilitating diseases, approached us for help earlier

in the year. One was Mr. Sei Kho Kam, and the other was Mr. Jang Kho Len, both from Jangnoi Village.



Mr. Sei Kho Kam had a disease on his foot which caused severe swelling of his right toe, which prevented him from walking or working. Mr. Jang Kho Len had been treated several years ago for a broken leg, and several pins had been inserted in his leg. However, the work was shoddy and he has had severe pain in his leg ever since. This pain was debilitating to the point where walking was extremely difficult, making it almost impossible for him to work. Both men are extremely poor.



Thanks to your donations to our medical fund, we were able to provide both men with funds for medical care, transportation to and from the hospitals, and food for the time away from home.

Mr. Sei Kho Kam went to Homalin on October 20, 2023 for medical treatment. He was hospitalized at Homalin Military Hospital. He took medicines for several days and then his toe was removed. He was discharged from the hospital on November 1st and returned home on November 3rd, 2023. He is so thankful to MyHope because his pain is gone!

Mr. Jang Kho Len went to Homalin on October 20, 2023 for medical treatment. He was hospitalized at Homalin Military Hospital and treated for his leg pain. There was no Orthopedist at Homalin when they first arrived so he had to wait several weeks.

The Orthopedist arrived at Homalin on November 4th and did the surgery

on the same day. He removed the steel and screws which were causing him so much pain. The surgery went well and he was discharged on November 9th and he returned home on November 10th.

One miracle that happened for them was right after they departed from Homalin and returned home, all modes of transportation in Layshi Township (where Jagnoi Village and Homalin are located) were closed due to a military operation on November 11th. Had they waited one more day, they would still be in Homalin waiting to get home. Praise God!

Thank you for your donations to our medical emergency fund. Most people in the villages are too poor to pay for hospital treatment, and those that are able to get to a hospital usually go deep into debt to pay for it. This causes many people to die needlessly from easily treatable or preventable diseases and/or injuries. Thank you that you empower us to help at least some of them.

Hope Theological Seminary

The seminary is still on hold pending the outcome of the civil war. We have made the final payment on the land for the seminary buildings, which is adjacent to Namihan Christian Church (where we held our last couple of Chris-

tian Conventions). We still have some funds set aside for the seminary buildings, and once the land payment transactions are complete, we plan to put up a proper gate and brick fence around the property.

There are many young people in northwest Myanmar who are hungry to study the Word of God and learn how to be a minister of the Word. Please pray for peace to reign over the area so that we can resume classes and continue the process of building Hope Theological Seminary.

Agriculture Projects

There isn't much good news to share about our agricultural projects. The East/West Garden is still operating, and our cattle herd is still alive, thankfully. Our farm families have had to move around several times to avoid the heavy fighting in that area, and Bokkan Village (just to the south) is still considered a "hot" zone. Pastor Jonah, who runs the farm for us, has moved the herd several times back and forth between India and Myanmar to protect them from both the fighting and the fighters.

Our coffee projects and yam projects are basically on hold, as the mountain villagers have been unable to tend to the crops because of fighting in their areas, and because of land mines placed by both sides in the conflict.



Thanksgiving service at the HBS Worship Center



Some of the cows in our cattle herd.

Please pray for our villagers and for their crops to be spared and saved from destruction during this difficult time.

Thanksgiving at HBS (Chavang Taokhom)

On Nov 18th we celebrated a Thanksgiving gathering at the campus of Hope Boarding School. This is our first time gathering together in a large group since the COVID lockdowns in 2020 and the civil war started in 2021.

There were about 250 people in attendance, including our HBS family. As we had such a large number of people, we removed most of the chairs from the worship center and let all of the younger people sit on the floor.

Our worship center could only hold about 170 people at a time, so another 80 people couldn't join in the service. They stayed outside on the ground, inside of our fence, and listened to the service through the loud speakers.

We collected funds from the attendees and had chicken rice (Chet Si Htamen) for dinner. We spent time praising God, singing songs, performing cultural dances, and saying prayers. We prayed for the peace of Myanmar and for our Kuki people in Manipur.



Praying for peace in Myanmar and India

Many people shared their thanks for Myanmar Hope Christian Mission as we have a good place for gathering for our people in Yangon. Ours is the only space large enough to hold a gathering of this size in all of Yangon among our Kuki people.

Our Thanksgiving gathering was so fruitful and blessed. It gave us a time for praising God together and we asked many prayers for Myanmar and Manipur. It was also a great relief event for everyone to finally be able to come together as a large group to worship and praise God.



Cultural Dance at Chavang Taokhom 2023



Kuki Christian Leaders of Yangon at Chavang Taokhom 2023



Palal addressing the attendees at Chavang Taokhom (Thanksgiving) 2023 at Hope Boarding School

Thank you to everyone who has supported and donated for Hope Boarding School over the many years now. Your love gifts continue bearing much fruit for the Kingdom of God in Myanmar and beyond.

Village Christmas Meals

Each year at Christmas time the Christians in Myanmar come together in their villages for a time of celebration, singing, preaching, and sharing meals together. For some of the poorest congregations, this is the one time of year that the people get a chance to eat meat!

For several months leading up to Christmas, the Christians donate small amounts of rice, or money, into a common fund. Then, just before Christmas, the elders use the money to purchase a pig or a cow. Everyone pitches in with rice and vegetables, and the churches host a feast.

The people usually begin their festivities on Christmas Eve with a celebratory meal and service, then spend all night singing Christmas songs, and dancing their tribal cultural dances.

On Christmas Day they gather again

for a day of celebration, singing, dancing, playing games, and preaching Gospel messages, and, of course, sharing communal meals. Christmas is the one time of year that Christians can reach out and evangelize their Buddhist neighbors without fear of reprisals or persecution by inviting them to share in their feast!

There are many people who are too poor to contribute to the communal fund, and they feel ashamed to join in the meals. However, we have always believed that Christmas is a time for EVERYONE to share in the blessings of Christ, so ever since 2007 we have tried to help as many poor villages as possi-

ble by providing the meat for their meals.

There are so many villages and churches that need our help, especially now because of the past three years of lockdowns and civil war. The people were poor before. Now there is such widespread poverty and hunger that more villages than ever are requesting our help.

Last year, thanks to your generous donations, over THREE HUNDRED villages received funds for Village Christmas Meals. We have determined that the average size group receiving funds for VCMs is about 175 people. Each VCM



Villagers enjoying a Christmas Meal thanks to MyHope Donors



is designed to provide the meat for four meals. So one VCM donation of \$250.00 will provide up to **700 meals!**

By helping the poor Christians in this way, they are able to invite their non-Christian neighbors to join them, and thus to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and His Advent.

Will you help the poor in Myanmar to enjoy meat with their Christmas meals this year? A single cow costs over \$500.00, and a pig can cost \$250.00. However, because the groups are different sizes, we set the donation amount for a single village for VCMs at \$250.00 (but you can give any amount).

Last year your donations provided for over three hundred villages' VCMs in all fourteen states and regions of Myanmar. Will you help us reach three hundred fifty this year?

Do you have Questions? Call our VCM project coordinator, Mr. Kevin Hughs at (217) 306-5567, or Mrs. MaryAnn Cherry at (217) 415-9187. Alternately, you can send an email to info@myanmarhope.org. You can read more about Village Christmas Meals at our website:

<https://myanmarhope.org/village-christmas-meals>

Donations for VCMs need to be received no later than December 10th in order to be distributed to the villages on time, so they can try to find and purchase the livestock. Thank you, God bless you, and Merry Christmas!



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



MyHope Newsletter

Fall 2023

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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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Village Christmas Meals—2022



Most Pressing Needs:

- Village Christmas Meals \$250 or any amount
- Hunger Relief.....\$35 per bag of rice
- Monthly Sponsors for Widows\$50
- Monthly Sponsors for Families\$30
- Monthly Sponsors for Pastors\$60
- Monthly Sponsors for General Fund
- Suggested Amount.....\$50
- Solomon Education Fund any amount
- Monthly Sponsors for Yangon HQ Budget
- Suggested DonationAny Amount
- Coffee Project.....Any Amount
- Land at Refugee CampAny Amount
- Hope Theological SeminaryAny Amount

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