



**MYanmar HOPE**  
Christian Mission, Inc.

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

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## Blessings to You!

Mingalaba! (That is a Burmese greeting which means "Blessings to you!") This latest edition of our newsletter has some great content about what God has done, is doing, and will be doing in Myanmar because of wonderful folks like you. Read on, and Mingalaba!

## December Mission Trip

The Myanmar Hope team traveling to Myanmar this December has grown! After much prayer and thoughtful consideration, the MyHope board agreed that this would be the year for additional people to travel with us on the December trip to Yangon.

The board felt that since the political situation is so much better now, and because the Myanmar Government is much more open to foreign travelers, the time was right to expand the travel and ministry team. The question then became, who should we ask? Several people had previously expressed interest, and God worked in the hearts of three people—and they excitedly said YES" to Him!

So, without further ado, here are the three new Myanmar Hope Ministry Team members for December 2012!

### Mrs. Laura Crater



Mrs. Laura Crater

I was born and raised in Springfield, Illinois. I have had a relationship with Christ almost as long as I can remember, but I accepted Him as my Savior when I was nine years old.

I am married to Luke and we have two children, Jacob who is five years old and Adelyn who is four. I was a teacher by trade and taught for six years before God led me into music and worship ministry at a church in Carbondale, Illinois.

We moved back to Springfield when our children were babies, and since then I have enjoyed being a full-time Mom

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while teaching piano lessons one day a week.

God began to grow in me a love for Myanmar when the Bible study I am a part of at West Side Christian church, "Alive With Christ" decided to support Mr. Tong Cin Mang at Hope Boarding School. Watching him grow, both physically and spiritually, and then seeing him accept Christ has been a true example to me of the ways that God is at work in Myanmar.



Tong Cin Mang

I'm SO humbled that God would allow me to go visit and learn from these amazing people. To know they are praying for me is almost more than I can handle...what a blessing! I can't wait to meet the children at Hope Boarding School and to be challenged by the "not so easy walk with Christ" that Christians in Myanmar experience.

I love Jesus more than anything in this world and am thrilled to obey His calling for me to "GO" and be with my brothers and sisters in Myanmar.

### Ms. Melissa Farley

I was born in Springfield, Illinois, and currently attend West Side Christian Church in Springfield, where I am also the

Director of Elementary Education. My primary responsibilities include developing reproducing Kingdom leaders throughout the ministry, creating an environment that assists kids in becoming spiritual champions, creating partnerships with parents as they lead their children toward Christ, and recruiting, equipping and shepherding teams of children's ministry volunteers who serve with purpose and passion. I love my job and my church!!



Missy Farley

I've been praying for MyHope and the kids in Myanmar ever since Palal first visited Springfield. To be honest, it's still somewhat surreal to comprehend that I'll soon be face to face with the beautiful children of Myanmar that I've been praying for. Over the past few years I've had the pleasure of working with elementary kids at West Side Christian Church. We've had several opportunities to bless, encourage and care for the kids beyond our borders in Myanmar by praying, rebuilding a home that was destroyed by fire, providing sandals, providing crafts, sending cards as well, as contributing funds to help accelerate the efforts of MyHope to bring the hope of Jesus Christ to the people of Myanmar.

My prayer is that God would direct our steps and provide our team peace throughout this upcoming Missions trip. I pray that those we encounter on our trip will be blessed by our words and efforts that come from God, that our hands will be filled with His work, and that we're continually filled with His grace for others. May we be a bright light to those around us as we plant seeds of faith, hope and love on our travels far from home.

I am humbled and blessed beyond measure to be included on this trip. I look forward to being the hands and feet of Jesus in some small way, shape or form on this journey.

**Mr. Robin Picket**

My name is Robin Picket. My wife, Sue and I have three children: Maggie, Annie and Luke. Maggie is just starting her first year of pharmacy school. Annie is in her second year at Lincoln Christian University, and Luke is a Junior at Rochester High School.



Robin Pickett

In addition to her work as

wife and mother, Sue is the office manager of our insurance agency. I have been in the insurance business for thirty-four years, and I specialize in insuring ministries. Our church home is Lakeside Christian Church in Springfield, Illinois.

We met Palal when he was living with Chuck and MaryAnn Cherry. It didn't take us long to recognize and respect Palal's integrity and sacrificial work in Myanmar. Supporting this mission has enabled our family to address many needs which are hard to imagine, having lived our entire lives on this side of the world. It is both meaningful and encouraging to us to witness how our modest donations are able to meet some of life's most basic needs for the Christians in Myanmar.

Our whole family is very encouraged and excited to see what is happening with the upcoming construction of the new girls' dormitory for Hope Boarding School, and I am looking forward to seeing the progress first-hand this coming December.

**Mission Trip Focus: Gummy Vitamins**

One of the many items that the mission team hopes to take to Myanmar this December is enough vitamins for the children and staff at HBS for all of next year (2013).

That is 14,600 individual vitamins! It sounds like a lot, but it works out to just 40 vitamins a day times 365 days. We are collecting "gummy" vitamins, which can be taken out of their bottles and put into Ziploc bags. This will allow them to be stored more easily in the luggage, and will hopefully make it easier to get them all through customs.

As of this writing, over one third of the vitamins needed have already been donated. Special thanks go out to two incredible young ladies, Miss Jillian (age seven) and Miss Anna (age five) who together collected over four thousand vitamins!



Jillian and Anna with their vitamin collection

They also baked and sold cookies, and then used the proceeds to purchase more vitamins. Great job, girls! And thanks to their awesome mom, Susan Cormeny, for helping!

If you would like to help collect vitamins for the school, here is what to do:

1. Purchase one or two bottles of children's gummy multi-vitamins (any brand, any size).

2. Take the vitamins out of the bottle and seal them in a heavy-duty Ziploc bag.
3. Put the bag in a mailer and send it to the following address **before December first:**

MyHope  
 624 Garvey Lane  
 Chatham, IL 62629

Thank you, and God bless you!

## Hope Boarding School Update



Praise God for the way He is providing for Hope Boarding School! Palal reports that the children are “very beautiful and healthy this year.” He said, “In 2010, most of the students were sick and did not look healthy. In 2011, half of the students were sick. Now, in 2012, all of the students are very healthy and look very beautiful.”

Of course, the reason for their improved health and physical appearance is because of the many student sponsors who faithfully send funds each month to provide healthy food, including a good variety of proteins, fruits, and vegetables, along with plenty of rice. And because of a financial grant from the Harvest of Talents (H.O.T.), Palal and Kikim have been able to purchase extra items, such as milk, fruit juice, bread, and occasional treats.

Unfortunately, our grant from H.O.T. will be running out this year, and so we are currently exploring ways to replace those funds. That extra money for food for the children has made a tremendous difference in their lives, and they are so grateful for it! Please pray that we will be able to replace the H.O.T. grant money with new donations over the coming year. Thank you!

### Welcome to our Newest Volunteer, Miss Vah Tin Chan!

Vah Tin Chan comes to HBS from Sulpi Village (some of you may remember that Sulpi is the



Miss Vah Tin Chan

village that was highlighted in the last newsletter, where My Hope helped to install a new water supply).

Before arriving at HBS, Vah worked at a tea shop in Kalay-Myo, cooking, cleaning, washing dishes, etc.

Now she lives in Yangon in the house with Palal, Kikim, Solomon, Cherry, and all the girls of HBS. Vah will help Kikim with cooking, cleaning, and managing the household. This will free up Kikim to do more work for HBS and Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, like in the next segment:

### Making Clothes for the Children

Many of you are aware that Kikim is an expert seamstress, having received training in Kalay before she and Palal were married. Since MyHope received a generous donation with which to purchase two sewing machines, she has been able to make new shirts, skirts, and other items of clothing. She has also been able to mend the children’s clothing, back-packs, and other items.

The sewing machines have been a great blessing to MyHope, saving a lot of money. Before the machines, Palal and Kikim had to take all of the mending to a local tailor, which was very inconvenient and expensive.

Here are some pictures of Kikim preparing to make some new white shirts for the children using those wonderful sewing machines!



## Hope Preschool Update

Hope Preschool has a new volunteer teacher! Miss Kim Boi, who faithfully worked with the children of Hope Boarding School in Yangon while she was attending Bible College, has returned to the Tamu area and is now volunteering her time and service to the children and families of Hope Preschool.

Miss Kim Boi is a very talented person with a strong dedication to serving the Lord. She was such a great blessing to the children and staff of HBS, and we know that she will be just as great a blessing to the preschool.

As a young single woman, she does not have a viable means of financial support other than the love gifts she receives



Hope Preschool—Miss Kim Boi is on the left



The children sit for a class photo



Some of the boys showing their Hope Preschool shirts, provided through donations from Lakeside Christian Church in Springfield, Illinois

from the church members in Tamu. Of course, they are all very poor, so there is not much to share. Myanmar Hope is trying to help her as funds are available, but she really needs a sponsoring family in the US to help her meet her daily needs.

Will you sponsor Miss Kim Boi? If just a couple families in the West would commit to sending in thirty dollars per month, she would have enough to live on and would be able to serve the Lord without worrying about where her next meal will come from. Please contact us at (217) 415-9187, or email us at [info@myanmarhope.org](mailto:info@myanmarhope.org) for more information. Thank you!

## Bible and Leadership Training

### Youth Leader Training and Community Health Evangelism



Members of the Bokkan Area Youth Leaders (Palal is in the back row on the right)

As this edition is being written, Palal is on his way back to northwest Myanmar to conduct a three-week intensive leadership training seminar for pastors and elders from village churches in that area. Many of the local elders have been pressing him to come again and teach them. He also hopes to spend some time with the youth leaders, continuing training for their future roles as church elders.

Palal also plans to conduct Community Health Evangelism workshops for leaders in some of the more remote villages that rarely, if ever, get visits from government health workers.

MyHope thanks West Side Christian Church for their generosity in donating the funds to enable this training! Hopefully, a full report from this training will be in the next newsletter.

### Brick-making Training Update

While in Tamu, Palal will meet with the church leaders and the church Executive Committee to discuss plans for using the more than 30,000 bricks which were made during the brick-making training conducted last Spring. The tentative plan is to sell half of the bricks, and then use the remaining bricks and the

proceeds from the sale to construct a new church training facility in Tamu to be used by all the churches.



Some of the more than thirty-thousand bricks made during our brick-making training during March and April of this year

### Annual Kuki Christian Convention— December 2012

This year's annual convention in Kalay is shaping up to be the largest and best convention yet! If enough funds come in to cover all the expenses, Palal expects that at least three hundred people will attend the convention this year.

He is especially hopeful that many of the outlying and more remote village churches will be represented this year. For some of these churches, the trip to Kalay is very expensive and can take two or three days, by boat, bus, and foot. It would be a blessing to be able to help them with travel funds so that they can at last join together with their brothers and sisters in Christ in this annual festival of worship, Bible teaching, leadership training, and fellowship.

Please pray for the annual convention in December, and please consider making a special donation to help some of the remote villages with food and travel money so that they can make the trip to and from Kalay.



Some of the travelers to the first convention in 2010

## Support Programs Update

### Pan Hu Ngai's Dream Comes True

Mr. Pan Hu Ngai is a disabled man who lives in northwest Myanmar. A couple of years ago he undertook a difficult journey across the border to India, where he was able to learn how to repair motorcycle engines. When he came home, Pan had a dream of starting his own motorcycle repair shop. If he could do this, he would virtually be guaranteed an income, since the primary means of powered transportation in that part of the country is small motorcycles, and good repairmen are in short supply.

Unfortunately, as with most people in his situation, Pan had no money. As a disabled man, he could not work in the fields or do any sort of hard physical labor. Skilled jobs working for other people are nearly impossible to find, and do not pay enough to make a living and still save for the future.

Pan heard about Palal and Myanmar Hope, and how we have been able to help many disabled individuals like him. When Palal was in the northwest earlier this Spring, Pan Hu Ngai sought him out and asked if there was any way he could get a small grant to start a business. Palal did not promise him anything, but said that he would inform the Myanmar Hope board of the request.

The board did not hesitate to say "yes" when they heard about Pan Hu Ngai and his request for \$250.00 to start a motorcycle repair business. Unfortunately there were no extra funds at that time with which to help to him. However, Pan's story and the request were posted on our Facebook page, and within just a day a very generous individual stepped forward with an offer to donate the entire amount!

Pan will soon have the funds in hand to start his new business, and we are looking forward to reporting back to you on how he is doing. Please keep Pan Hu Ngai in your prayers, along with the many other disabled individuals living in extreme poverty in Myanmar, who have no government social "safety nets" or organizations that specialize in helping the disabled to find meaningful work that pays a living wage.

To watch a video of Pan Hu Ngai, please click this link (or copy and paste it into your browser): <http://goo.gl/2tetS>



Pan Hu Ngai is one of the many disabled individuals that Myanmar Hope is able to help, thanks to your generation donations!

## The Need for Wheelchairs is Very Great

**YOU can make a HUGE, POSITIVE IMPACT in the life of a disabled person in rural Myanmar!**

Wheelchairs are very expensive and hard to find in this part of the world. Even if they were readily available, western-style wheelchairs just don't work very well here - the roads and paths are mostly just dirt or are very roughly paved, and the buildings are not wheelchair accessible.

However, all is not lost! There are locally hand-crafted custom-made heavy-duty wheelchairs that work well in the remote towns and villages. These are really more like a hybrid bicycle-wheelchair, and they are propelled using hand-cranked and bicycle chains.

( See this video for an example: <http://goo.gl/hR0Wt> )

The men love these because they already have very strong hands and arms, which they have been using to move around their entire lives.

MyHope's Mission Team will be traveling to northwest Myanmar in December (God willing!) and would love to present at least **FIVE disabled persons with a NEW WHEELCHAIR for CHRISTMAS!**

Each chair costs roughly \$250.00 for construction and labor. (Remember that the average family makes about \$20.00 to \$30.00 dollars a month, and a disabled person has even less).

What an excellent Christmas gift! This will be a **ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME** gift that will change forever the life of a poor disabled man in remote northwest Myanmar!

This Christmas, will you please consider how you, your family, your Sunday School class, your home Bible study, or even your whole church can supply one disabled person with this wonderful, life-changing gift? And, if you send a photo and



Meeting with some of our disabled brothers and sisters at our convention in Kalay

a personal note, we can present them with the chair as a Christmas gift directly from you to them! (Even if you can only send part of the amount needed for a chair, your gift can be added to those of others to make up the whole amount.)

If the Holy Spirit is prompting you to help, the funds are needed prior to December 1st in order to get the chair made by Christmas.

Please send a check made out to "MyHope" to:

**Myanmar Hope Christian Mission  
624 Garvey Lane  
Chatham, IL 62629**

Please write "Wheelchair" on the memo line, and don't forget to include a picture of yourself or your group! Thank you and God Bless You!!



Mr. Jang Kho Lun is a faithful Christian brother who has a very thankful heart

## Khongsai Family Update

Palal, Kikim, Solomon, and Cherry are all doing well. Palal was sick with a case of viral bronchitis for the month of August, but he appears to be over it and now feels quite well.

Solomon will be attending a new English-speaking school this year. MISY is a great school, and Solomon has learned much from the teachers there. His English speaking skills are much improved as a result of the education he received from MISY. Unfortunately, Palal and Kikim can no longer afford the cost, so a less-expensive school had to be found. The distance is about the same to the new school, so transportation costs remain the same.

Cherry is now over two years old; she is growing so fast! And, thanks to her brother Solomon, she is learning English along with Burmese and Kuki. Recently Chuck and MaryAnn were video-chatting with Palal, and Cherry came on to sing the "A-B-C" song for them, just as clear as can be. It's easy to see that she is just as gifted as the rest of her family!

### Pray for the Purchase of a Vehicle

Some years ago Palal was given fifteen acres of farm land in northwest Myanmar from a friend. Not being a farmer himself, at first he allowed members of his family and village (including his elderly parents) to farm the land.

Recently, however, it has been very difficult to find anyone to actively farm it because the land is quite a distance from their village and most people in the villages either farm their own little plots or they must work for larger farms to earn an income. Palal's father has become too feeble to farm anymore, and his brother is too busy volunteering as an administrator for Myanmar Hope.

As a result, the government recently warned Palal that if he did not continue actively farming the land they will confiscate it and use it for their own purposes, or they might give it away to someone else.

Because of this, and because Palal and Kikim really need a vehicle for the ministry in Yangon, Palal is going to try to sell the land and use the proceeds to purchase a used vehicle. The land is located along a major road leading through that area, so he thinks that some business people might want to purchase it.

Please pray that Palal will be able to sell the land for a good price before the government decides to confiscate it, and that they will be able to use the proceeds to purchase a much-needed vehicle. Thank you for your continued prayers!



Baby Cherry is growing so fast!

## Christmas Meals for Poor Villages

Each year at Christmas time the Christians in northwest 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. Christmas is the one time of year that Christians can reach out and evangelize their Buddhist neighbors without fear of reprisals or persecution.

For the past several years, Myanmar Hope tries to help as many poor villages as possible share this once-a-year "Christmas Feast." The villages need our help because most of the people are so poor that even when they pool their resources they cannot afford the pig or cow to provide the meat.

Last year, thanks to your generous donations, twenty-seven village Christmas Feasts were supplemented with a cow or pig (depending on the size of the village) and extra rice and vegetables! By helping them in this way, they are able to invite more of their non-Christian neighbors to join them, and thus to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Will you help a poor village share a Christmas feast this year? A cow costs \$500.00 and a pig costs \$150 to \$250.00. Because the villages are different sizes, the donation amount for a Village Christmas Feast is set at \$250.00, and then hopefully enough comes in to cover the larger villages while not neglecting the smaller villages.

Last year your donations provided for twenty-seven villages. Will you help reach thirty villages this year? Please pray about it and if the Lord is prompting you to help, send a check made out to MyHope to:

**Myanmar Hope Christian Mission**  
**624 Garvey Lane**  
**Chatham, IL 62629**

Please write "Christmas Feast" on the memo line. Questions are always welcome; we love to talk about what we see God doing in Myanmar — please feel free to call! The number is (217) 415-9187. **Thank you and God bless You!**



Pastor Lam Kho Thang and the elders of Valpabung North Christian Church with their "Christmas Cow"



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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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Dear Friends,

Most of you are probably aware by now of the many sweeping changes that have been taking place in Myanmar over the past two and a half years. A great many of these changes are direct answers to prayer!

When Palal and Kikim returned to Myanmar in December of 2009, that country was still suffering greatly under the heavy thumb of a harsh and brutal military dictatorship.

MaryAnn and I, along with the large group of friends who joined us that day to say goodbye, shed many tears as we watched Palal, Kikim, and Solomon walk through the security gate at the small airport in Springfield, Illinois. We had no idea what trials and tribulations might await them in Yangon. Indeed, Palal had confided to us that he was concerned that he might be arrested as he got off the plane.

Well, as you all know, Palal was not arrested. In fact, soon after they arrived back in Myanmar, things began changing for the better! First, in March a massively unpopular, multi-billion dollar dam project, financed and constructed by the Chinese government, was abruptly halted "because of the will of the people." This was the first of many positive changes to come.

Then, in April, the long-suffering Nobel Peace Laureate, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was released from her thirteen-year house arrest, along with many other high-profile political prisoners. In November, a new Parliamentarian government was elected, replacing the military dictatorship. A new reform-minded president was elected, and then Aung San Suu Kyi was even allowed to take a seat as a member of Parliament!

Since then, many more incredible changes have occurred—

government censorship of the media was lifted, more local elections were held, many foreign governments (including America) began lifting or easing some of the long-held economic sanctions against the country, and more.

In short, the past two and half years have been witness to a whirlwind of monumental changes, the likes of which none of us could have foreseen on that sad December day back in 2009.

Now, as I think about all of these things, I am reminded once again that our God still moves mountains. I also know, without a shadow of a doubt, that these changes are a result of God working in Myanmar—answering the many heartfelt prayers of His people—to bring food to the hungry, healing to the sick, sight to the blind, freedom to the prisoners, hope to the helpless, and light to the darkness. He does this through the many prayers and generous financial support provided by you and other like-minded Christ-Followers.

There are still so many things yet to be done! Please don't stop praying for the people of Myanmar, and for Myanmar Hope Christian Mission. And please send a donation today to keep this great work moving forward. God will certainly bless you!

Chuck Cherry, Director  
Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.



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