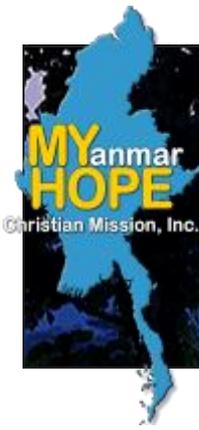


"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving"  
- Amy Carmichael



# MyHope Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 2 April 2014

Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc. • 624 Garvey Lane • Chatham, Illinois • 62629-5086  
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## Spring Greetings

Spring has sprung! After a long, cold, seemingly unending winter, spring has finally arrived in Central Illinois. The vibrant colors, sweet smells, delicious sights, and soothing sounds of spring renew the hope and joy in our hearts, and remind us of the hope that springs eternal because of the resurrection of the Son of God! And speaking of hope, let us tell you about some of the goings on at MyHope this spring!

## April Trip to Yangon

### Caren Hughs

Ever since I met Palal, my mind and heart has been with the believers in Myanmar. When Chuck and MaryAnn first started talking about going to Myanmar, I knew immediately that I wanted to go some day. Then the Holy Spirit started in on me and that settled it.

Being able to go to Myanmar is the most humbling thing to me because I have wanted to go for so long but have been unable to go. The main reason was because my husband and I have an 11 year old boy who has Autism. His name is Noah. We adopted Noah when he was 3 1/2 years old and since



Joseph, Caren, Kevin, and Noah Hughs

that time he has been extremely attached to me. There were times when I couldn't even go to the bathroom without him getting upset. With the help of God and some great behavior therapy, Noah is finally in a place where he can cope without me.

I know without a shadow of a doubt that God has brought me to this time in my life where I can serve Him in Myanmar. That fact humbles me and leaves me with a huge, thankful heart. I am so grateful that I am going to be able to help MaryAnn teach English to the children at Hope Boarding

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School. I also know they will be teaching me more than I could ever teach them!

### Susan Cormeny

My name is Susan Cormeny. I was born and raised in Jacksonville, Illinois. I grew up attending church and was baptized as a teenager. I have had a more personal relationship with Christ since 2001 and enjoy growing in Him through women's Bible study. I am married to Tyler and we have two children, Jillian (9) and Anna (7). I was an elementary school teacher before choosing to serve my family as a stay-at-home Mom. I enjoy serving at West Side Christian Church, where I am a member, and Springfield Christian School, where my children attend. Some of my various involvements include coaching "Girl's on the Run," substitute teaching, and leading a Life Group with my husband.



Susan, Tyler, Anna, and Jillian Cormeny

My family and I were first connected to the Khongsai family when our daughter, Jillian, attended preschool and church

with their son, Solomon. From a distance we observed what God was doing in and through this family for those in Myanmar. Through "Alive with Christ" Bible study and my friend, Laura Crater, I was kept informed of the ministry. Each time I heard an update on the ministry, my heart was overflowed with love for the children of MyHope! For a few years we have been praying for them and seeking God's leading for our involvement in this ministry. By the prompting of the Holy Spirit and my daughters, this journey began with collecting vitamins to send to MyHope and now with me on the journey to teach at MyHope.

The decision to go has been a precious journey of faith. I am so thankful for the call to go and live out that faith. He is my provider, may He use me to His glory! God continues to impress on me a need to step out of my "little world" and experience what He is doing in the lives of Christians on the other side of the world. I'm overjoyed to get to meet and serve these children by teaching them English. My prayer is that God will use our team to improve the students' English for His purposes in their lives. It's been wonderful to see how God has brought this team together. I am truly honored to be a part of God's plan in this way!

**Laura Crater**

God has brought me through many stages in the last year and a half since my first visit to Hope Boarding School. I remember, as I cried most of the way home on my 20 hour journey, that I told God I wasn't going to go back without my whole family. As I readjusted to life in America, I realized my kids weren't quite old enough, so I told God that I wasn't going back without Luke. However, as it seemed Luke wouldn't be able to make the trip, my courage grew, as did my desire to see the HBS kids I call "my kids," and I told God, "I'm going unless you stop me!"



Laura, Luke, Jacob, and Addie Crater

You can imagine my excitement, as it turns out my husband is accompanying me on this trip. I can't wait to see how God will mold and shape us as a couple experiencing My Hope together! I am also excited to go back because God has allowed a beautiful partnership to blossom between Springfield Christian School and Hope Boarding School. I feel a bit like an ambassador as I travel and take letters and gifts from SCS to HBS and vice versa. They have an amazing prayer partnership

around the world, so I'm honored to get to facilitate much of that relationship.

Mostly, though, this trip feels so different from the last one, and I think it is because, instead of taking a "mission trip," I am simply going to visit those that I consider family... my sisters and brothers in the Body of Christ. What a beautiful thing!

**Missy Farley**

I wasn't the same person when I returned from Myanmar in January 2013. That visit changed me. I left a huge part of my heart with the kids at Hope Boarding School. God burdened



Missy Farley with Thang Len Mang

my heart like never before. He opened my eyes firsthand to the need in this far-away country.

Like many of you, I pray for the kids at the boarding school daily. They are 'my' kids. They are my family. To say that I'm excited to see 'my' kids again this month would be a gross understatement!! I'm even more

excited to see what God has planned for this trip. I pray that God uses our team to further expand His kingdom in all that we do.

**MaryAnn Cherry**

Words cannot express how excited I am to have the opportunity to go back to Myanmar for the fifth time! Besides Palal, Kikim, Solomon, Cherry, the Hope Boarding School students and staff, and believers in the Northwest being family to us, I have fallen more and more in love with the country and people of Myanmar. The journey is far and not-so-pleasant, but as soon as my feet hit the ground, it is so worth it! After each previous trip, I update the countdown app on my cell phone in anticipation for the next visit.



MaryAnn and Chuck Cherry

For over two years, Palal has asked if someone could come to HBS to help the students with conversational English. They have English classes at their school, and they can read and write English. But their classes are taught by teachers who learned

English from someone, who learned English from someone else, who learned English from someone else, etc., who learned English from a British textbook translated into Burmese. None of their teachers have ever traveled to an English speaking country, and the students never have an opportunity to practice conversational English.

Three of us on the team have been taking an online TESOL certification course, and Susan and Laura have spent a lot of time putting together lesson plans. I feel so blessed to have this opportunity to work with the rest of our amazing trip team to help the HBS students and staff improve their English skills. Not only do they express a desire to be able to better communicate with us when we visit, good English speaking skills will greatly increase their chances of getting a good-paying job when they finish high school.

I plan to be in Yangon for one month. Thankfully, I am feeling less and less anxious about the probability of roaches in my hotel room at night. The only downside of the trip is that my husband, Chuck will not be able to go along. I thank God for him, and I thank him for his support and unselfishness in encouraging me to go. Please pray for Chuck while he stays behind, here on this side of the globe, while I get to enjoy time with our Myanmar loved ones.

## Thank You, Luers Shoes!

A BIG Shout out and Thank You to Luers Shoes in Springfield, Illinois!

When they found out that we were trying to purchase new sneakers for all of our children and staff at Hope Boarding School in Yangon, they said they would help by finding the right sizes, and then giving us the very best price possible for their high-quality shoes.



One of the owners, Melanie, took all of the foot tracings (we traced around all of the feet of our kids and staff when we were in Yangon in January) and then went through all of their stock to find just the right sizes for each person. This took her a lot of time, and we so appreciate that she gave of her time in this way!

We cannot say THANK YOU enough to the staff of Luers Shoes! If you are in need of shoes, school uniforms, dance uniforms, or anything like that, please check with Luers first!

They are great people and they run a great business. In

fact, they have been serving central Illinois for OVER 150 years! They started way back in 1850! That's right—before Abraham Lincoln was president and before the American Civil War! You don't stay in business as a company for that long unless you are doing something right!



Pupu Chuck tracing the kids' feet at HBS

Visit them on the web at <http://www.luersgroup.com> or stop by their current store location at 1520 South MacArthur Blvd in Springfield, Illinois. They are open Monday through Friday from 10 AM to 7 PM, and Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM.

## HBS Van Project Update

We are more than half-way to our goal of purchasing a new van for Hope Boarding School!

When we sent out a fundraising letter in mid-February, we had collected about \$9,000.00 in donations toward the purchase. Since that letter went out, we have received an additional \$16,000.00 dollars! Praise God and thank you for your generosity!

The full cost of the new van, along with all of the licenses and fees, will be about \$40,000.00, so we are more than half-way to our goal!



A new Toyota HiAce van. We hope to purchase something similar to this model.

As we mentioned in the letter, Palal and Kikim have been overseeing the very busy ministry of Hope Boarding School in Yangon (in addition to all of their other responsibilities in Yangon and in northwest Myanmar) for many years now without a vehicle. They have never complained about it, even though Yangon is a city of over five million people and

Online Donations can be made securely at our website: <http://www.myanmarhope.org/Donate>  
Checks can be made out to "MyHope" and sent to:  
**Myanmar Hope Christian Mission**  
**624 Garvey Lane, Chatham, IL 62629**

All donations are tax deductible and 96 cents of every dollar goes directly to the people of Myanmar.

getting around in the city by taxi and bus is very expensive and time-consuming, and sometimes dangerous as well.

We are making it a priority to get this van purchased for HBS this year, and hopefully before the year is half over. You can help make this a reality! Please send a donation of any amount today! You can donate online at our website, [www.myanmarhope.org](http://www.myanmarhope.org), or send a check to:

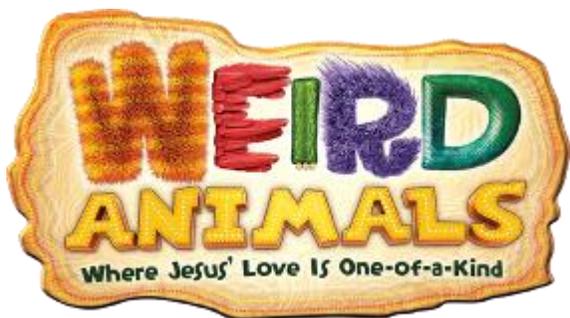
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**Chatham, Illinois 62629**

Please write "Van Project" in the memo. Thank you and God bless you!

## April VBX in Yangon

One of the main activities that our team will be coordinating will be a VBX (Vacation Bible Experience) for the children in the neighborhood around Hope Boarding School. The vast majority of these children are from Buddhist families, and many of them will know little or nothing about Jesus and His Good News.

The theme of this year's VBX will be "Weird Animals: Where Jesus' Love is One of a Kind"



The team has a full day of teaching, activities, games, crafts, and snacks all prepared for an expected turnout of about two hundred children.

Please pray for our team as they prepare mentally, physically, and most of all spiritually, for this intense day of ministry. We know that Satan will do all in his power to thwart our plans and prevent these children from hearing the Word of God. There are several Buddhist monasteries and compounds in the



A group of young Buddhist monks out collecting their daily alms

area, and the monks are never happy when they walk down the street in front of HBS! Please also pray for them to somehow hear the Word of God and be drawn into His Kingdom.

## Abi's Sweet Hope Bake Sale



Abi (holding the "Everyone" sign) surrounded by her friends and Mom, Jen, who all worked hard to make the Sweet Hope Bake Sale a great success!

Abi Fitzgibbon is a very creative young lady from Springfield, Illinois who has a big heart for missions! When she heard about the team going to Myanmar in April, she decided she wanted to do something to help. She began thinking about different ways of raising money to help the team, and finally settled on a bake sale. Here is her report of the sale:

This year the students at Springfield Christian School have been learning more about Myanmar and what is happening at MyHope. My friends and I have been trying to find ways to help provide things to the kids in Myanmar that we take for granted here.



What we wanted at first was to make about one hundred dollars. We expected that would be enough to pay for the VBS snacks for the kids at MyHope when our friends go visit. Boy, were we wrong! Our customers were very generous and our final amount was ten times that! \$1,011!! We were very, very surprised! We had a lot of help from friends and family.

When I found out what our total amount was, I felt happy, glad, thankful and amazed. The Lord sure did provide. I am excited about how this money can provide for the kids in Myanmar. We just want them to know they are loved and thought about. And we want them to be able to experience some of the good things we get to experience.

— Abi Fitzgibbon

## IDES Comes Through Again!

We are so thankful for IDES (International Disaster Emergency Services)! They have helped the people of Myanmar in so many ways over the years with grants for a variety of natural disasters, from cyclones and earthquakes to rat plagues and forest fires. Now they have helped us again.

One of our major projects this year is helping the Christians in northwest Myanmar to rebuild and repair their broken-down old church buildings, or to build completely new buildings. The congregations are doing what they can to gather materials, and prepare the properties for the rebuilding effort.

One of those congregations had just spent a lot of time, money, and effort gathering logs in the forest and sawing them into lumber. They were going to use this wood as part of their church rebuilding effort. Unfortunately, one day a few weeks ago a fire broke out in the forest and burned up all of their work!

The Christians were very discouraged. They had invested all of what little money they had collected to purchase the logs and pay for the “saw men” to come and cut the wood. They had also invested a lot of time and effort providing the labor to haul the logs and do most of the heavy work involved. They thought that all of their work and investment had been in vain, and now they did not know how they would be able to rebuild their church, even with the help of Myanmar Hope.



Discouraged believers looking over the remains of their burned-up work

Another small congregation in the area, one of the poorest, had lost their church building to the military government several years ago. The military leaders had forced them to tear down and destroy their little building, and they have never been able to fully recover from that disaster.

Since then they have been able to lay a brick foundation for a new building, and collect some lumber in preparation, but they have been saving since 2003 and they are not even close to having enough money to rebuild their church.

Last month Palal informed us of the situation and how discouraged the Christians were. We put together a grant request to IDES, asking for their help with the fire disaster and also for the disaster resulting from the military oppression. We were delighted to receive a grant from them to help both of these congregations!

The grant is enough to help them both recover some of what was lost, but not all. It is up to us to help them the rest of the way. We still need several thousand dollars to help both of these congregations completely finish their church buildings.



The unfinished foundation of Namihan Christian Church

### We Need Your Help!

In addition to these two, there are at least eight other very poor congregations that need help building or re-building their churches. They need our help! For years the military government forbade the building or repairing of Christian churches. Now the political situation has improved, and the congregations have the freedom to rebuild and repair—they just do not have the resources they need.

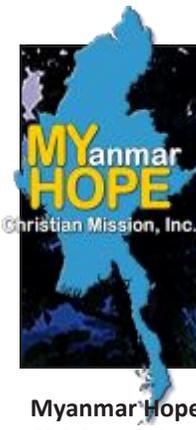
Will you please help the Christians to have a decent place to gather in to worship God? The conditions they are in now are very bad—I know I would not want to have to meet in the buildings they are forced to use! Please help us to help them. Send a donation today to help the churches rebuild. For every board you purchase, you will be adding to your treasure in heaven!

Donations can be made online at our website, or you can send a check or money order to:

**MyHope**  
**624 Garvey Lane,**  
**Chatham, Illinois 62629**

Please write “Church Project” in the memo. Thank you and God bless you!

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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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## Prayer Points for April and May

The Myanmar trip team members and their families humbly request your prayers during the next month. Here are the travel dates for each team member:

- MaryAnn Cherry, April 21—May 20
- Luke and Laura Crater, April 23—April 30
- Missy Farley, April 23—April 30
- Susan Cormeny, April 23—April 30
- Caren Hughs, May 5—May 20

Please pray for:

- Travel safety
- No problems going through Customs
- Good health, peace, and rest
- Energy, patience, and wisdom for Palal and Kikim
- Unity and harmony among all team members
- Children participating in the VBX on Saturday, April 26
- Good communication between our team and HBS kids
- Spouses and children here in the U.S., and for a covering over our marriages and families
- Positive experiences for all involved in the conversational English classes

- The Holy Spirit's guidance for Bible lessons
- A good witness to all we come in contact with during travels and while in Yangon
- Thanksgiving to God for all donors and prayer partners of MyHope ministry
- Thanksgiving for those caring for the children of Luke and Laura, Susan, and Caren while they are away

If you would like a copy of our detailed prayer calendar, please send an email to Chuck Cherry at [info@myanmarhope.org](mailto:info@myanmarhope.org). Thank you very much for your love for the people of Myanmar!

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