



# Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.

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

July/August 2015

## Greetings

Summer is in full swing, but in Central Illinois it doesn't really feel like it. We have been getting drenched with rain, so it feels more like living in a rainforest environment! This may not be a good year for harvests. Many fields are full of standing water, and those that have been planted have many acres of rotten crops.

So we pray for the farmers who are struggling this year, and also for many areas of America that are facing other problems, such as drought or flooding.

As Christians we live in this world, but thank God we are not of this world! And we know many in this world have problems much worse than our own.

*“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.”*  
- 2 Corinthians 4:18

## Hope Boarding School

The new school year (2015-2016) started at the end of May, and so the children are now settled into their daily routines.

There are twenty-one new students this year! **Praise God that all of them are now sponsored.** Everyone at MyHope and HBS are so happy and thankful for those of you who give sacrificially so that these children can have hope for a better future.

All of the children at Hope Boarding School come from extreme poverty. Most of their families are subsistence farmers. Some of the children are orphans and some are the children of single mothers - either because the father has died, or has abandoned the family, or is in prison.

For most of these children there were times during the year when they did not have anything to eat. They and their families were reduced to scavenging for food in the hills and forests. None of them had

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adequate medical care or access to a good education. *And none had any hope for a different or a better future.*

For **these children**, at least, all of that has changed! Thanks to the love gifts of their sponsors, they are now well fed, well cared for, and all of them have the opportunity for a decent education.

Will you please pray for these children and their sponsors who are giving sacrificially to love and help these children survive, thrive, and find a better life?

## Update on Ma Mang

Many of you are aware of the situation with our HBS student Mr. Thang Len Mang (Ma Mang). He has been valiantly battling leukemia for nearly five years.

Ma Mang has been receiving monthly chemotherapy treatments, as well as regular spinal taps (which are very painful) this whole time. Yet through all of this he has maintained a very positive attitude, and he always has a big smile on his face whenever we see him.



Eighteen of our students, all ready for school!

Last summer it appeared that Ma Mang had finally beaten the cancer. He seemed to be in remission, and we were ready to pronounce him healed.

Then in November of last year the disease came back with a vengeance. He was readmitted to the hospital cancer ward, where he had already spent so much time. The doctors said that Ma Mang had lived longer than anyone else who had been on that ward.



Praying for Ma Mang in the hospital

Last December several of us had the honor and privilege of visiting Ma Mang and his father (who was caring for him) in the hospital for the first time. It was heart breaking to see him lying there, in obvious pain, as we gave him his Christmas presents. He tried to smile, but we could see he was not doing well at all, so we did not stay long, but we did lay hands on him and pray for him before we left.

Then, last May, it appeared again that Ma Mang was well enough to return home to HBS. His father and grandmother, who were caring for his needs at the hospital, returned home to their village. We were all praising God for Ma Mang.

### A Turn for the Worse

Imagine our surprise and shock when we received a message from Palal on June 29th telling us that when Ma Mang woke that morning he could not stand or walk on his own, and was experiencing tremendous pain. They rushed him

back to the hospital, where he was readmitted to the cancer ward. His blood pressure was 80 over 40, and he had to be put on a breathing tube. His skin began to break out into large sores all over his body. He had tremendous burning pain in his side and had lost control of his bowels.

The oncologists said he was much worse, and there was nothing more they could do for him. It appeared that the cancer was finally going to win after all. He only had a few days left to live, apparently.

His father, his mother, and his grandmother returned to Yangon. His mother was extremely distraught, for this was the first time she had been able to see Ma Mang in over five years.

His parents and grandmother wanted to take Ma Mang back to their village, to visit one last time with all the relatives, and then to die there. However, the village is over five hundred miles from Yangon, and the trip takes at least two days. We would have to rent an ambulance for Ma Mang, and Palal would follow in his car with Ma Mang's family.

Through all of these discussions Ma Mang was very adamant that he did not want to return to the village. His father tried to convince him, but was unwilling

to force the issue. We began to make arrangements for either transportation to the village, or burial in Yangon.

All of his friends at HBS, who were more like brothers and sisters now, were devastated by the news. Palal put together a video slide show with pictures of Ma Mang. When he showed it to the other children at HBS, they wept many tears. Palal said, "Their tears even got the floor wet during watching the movie and praying."

We posted updates every day on Facebook, and thousands of people around the country and the world were praying for Ma Mang. It was very touching to see the number of people who had committed to pray for Ma Mang, his family, and the doctors.

On July 5th, the doctors removed his breathing tube and catheter. His father had to carry Ma Mang to and from the latrine so he could relieve himself. It seemed just a matter of time, yet somehow Ma Mang kept holding on. And he continued to refuse to be taken back to his village.

On July 7th, Ma Mang was still covered in sores and experiencing a lot of pain, but he was breathing fine on his own. He received two units of blood, and that seemed to help him feel better.



Watching a video of Ma Mang and praying for him



We continued to post updates and prayer requests...

**The Miracle**

On the morning of July 8th, we received this message from Palal:

*“Kikim and I just left from the hospital. Ma Mang’s condition is very improved. He can sit by himself. He feels no pain on his side. Praise God! Over 20 round sore spots on his skin (legs, arms, back) are healed!!”*

He also attached a copy of the oncology report, which said, “Cytological exam of CSF (cerebral spinal fluid) shows occasional lymphocytes (white blood cells). Malignant cells are not seen.” The remark stated, “Negative cytology for malignancy, CSF.”

Everyone, especially Ma Mang’s parents and grandmother, were overjoyed! This photo says it all:



Ma Mang with his mother and father

Needless to say, there was much rejoicing at this news! We can only attribute this recovery to God. One day Ma Mang was on his death bed, and they were preparing for his funeral. The next day, he was sitting up, smiling, and completely free of cancer cells! Is it a miracle? We think so. We believe that God heard and answered the prayers of his people everywhere.

We have said many times that we believe God has great things in store for Ma Mang. He is such a fighter, he has such a sweet spirit, and he loves Jesus

with all his heart. Thank you all for praying for him, and thank you to all who have contributed funds to pay for his medical treatment.

There is only one appropriate word with which to finish this story (for now): **Hallelujah!**

**Soy Milk for HBS**



Many thanks to a very generous couple who donated enough funds to purchase soy milk for all of our kids at HBS for the entire school year! Now, twice a week, each student will receive a 300 ml serving of soy milk.

Soy milk is a great addition to the diet provided to our kids. It is high in protein, easily digestible, and packed with essential nutrients. Dairy milk is not widely available in Myanmar, and most of the children are lactose intolerant. Soy milk is a delicious treat for them, and it is so healthy.

Thank you to our generous partners who provided the funds for this important addition to our students’ diet!

**Hope Boarding School Current Needs List**

Some of you may be wondering how you can help the students and staff at Hope Boarding School. We have a lot of items on that list! Here are a few:

One Commercial Washer .....	1,500.00
One Commercial Dryer .....	1,500.00
One Water Tank .....	1,500.00
Tile and Paint the Stairwells .....	4,000.00
Two Electric Meters (each) .....	300.00

***The dryer is an especially great need right now!***

Normally the children hang their clothes out to dry on poles, but during the rainy season this is not possible. So they hang their clothes inside, wherever they can find space. With all of the mois-

ture in the air, sometimes it take three or four days for their clothes to dry.

**Will you please consider a donation today to help us purchase a commercial dryer for use by our HBS students and staff? Thank you!**

**Update: Since we started writing this newsletter, all of the funds needed to purchase the dryer have been supplied by many of you! Praise God for His provision and thank you all for being so generous!**



The childrens’ clothes hanging out to dry

Now the students need a **washing machine** to go with the dryer. Having a washing machine will free up a lot of time for the students, as they will not need to wash their clothes by hand. Please consider donating any amount to help purchase a new Whirlpool commercial washer, which costs about \$1,500 (including delivery).

Another very pressing need is an **additional water tank** for the new building. One tank is barely supplying the water needs of 25 girls, Palal’s family, and two adult staff members.

A new tank will cost \$1,500 to purchase, deliver, and install (including additional plumbing). Please consider giving a gift of any size today to help with this need. Thank you!

## HBS Building Update

Earlier this year, MyHope received a \$1,000 donation marked to be used for HBS. Palal asked if they could use the funds to expand the tiny kitchen area so that the cook would have more room to prepare food for everyone.



Leaky old water tank

The board was completely in agreement with this request. The little cooking area was only about the size of a small American bathroom, and really was inadequate for the number of people now at HBS.

In order to expand across the back of the old building they needed to remove an old water tank that was situated above the bathrooms, attached to the wall just outside the second floor windows. It was old and no longer used, but it still collected rainwater, and it was leaky and unstable.

As the contractors were in the process of removing the old tank, a large section of the back wall collapsed. Thankfully, no one was hurt!



Back wall collapsed

The building is very old, and while it is structurally sound, the process of removing that tank weakened the back

wall enough that the old concrete just gave way.

Now the \$1,000 donation was not going to be enough to finish the job. The back wall had to be rebuilt, and the windows and a door would also need to be replaced.

An emergency request was sent to I.D.E.S., and they very graciously responded with a grant of \$2,500. Now there was enough to at least get the walls, floor, door, and windows completed. THANK YOU I.D.E.S. for coming to the rescue again!

Palal still needs funds to complete the cabinets for storage, so if anyone would like to donate for that, it would be much appreciated!



Spacious new kitchen area

## More Help from I.D.E.S.

I.D.E.S. has helped us with several projects already this year. Here are a couple more.

### New House for a Poor Widow

Earlier this year, Palal made us aware of the desperate situation of Mrs. Nem Kho Lam, a member of Valpabung Christian Church.

She and her husband had one child, Mr. Hem Gou Len. Her husband died in November of 2014. As a widow she cannot make enough money to support her son, and many times they were very hungry.

Then, on April 23rd her little hut was destroyed when a big tree fell on it dur-



Widow Nem and her Son

ing a storm. Neither she nor her son were hurt, but their old hut was a total loss.

The church members and neighbors, (who are all very poor themselves) pitched in and tried to rebuild her house, but they could only finish the frame. They did not have enough money to pay for a roof, floor, or walls.

We again reached out to I.D.E.S. for help, and they graciously granted \$1,000 to finish the house.

Mrs. Nem Kho Lam and her son are staying with Pastor Lun Kho Thang while her new house is being finished. We also added her to our Family Support Program, so now she will at least be assured enough food each month.

Thank you to the generous people who donate funds each month so that poor widows, orphans, and the disabled can be fed and cared for.

### New Well for Hope Preschool

Another generous grant was given by I.D.E.S. earlier in the year for a new well, but the construction was delayed because of weather and other causes. The well has now been completed and is being used every day!

The old well ran nearly dry last fall, and when we held our annual convention there was not enough water to supply all the needs. We realized a new well was needed, as this well was also used for Tamu Preschool. Many of the neighbors also rely on water from this well.





New well for Hope Preschool in Tamu

Thank you so much to I.D.E.S. They have helped the people of Myanmar so many times and in so many ways!

## Sustainable Agriculture Project Update

In the January newsletter we shared about a new, long-term, sustainable agriculture project that Palal wanted to start and which needed some significant funding. If you haven't read that issue, please do so to get some background information on this important project:

[http://myanmarhope.org/newsletter/myhope\\_201501.pdf](http://myanmarhope.org/newsletter/myhope_201501.pdf)



Clearing the land for planting

Thanks to several individuals, West Side Christian Church, and I.D.E.S., enough funds were donated to get the project started. Praise God!

Six acres have been cleared, plowed, cultivated, and planted. That includes

five acres of sugar cane and one acre of rice.



The sugar cane crop

The new crop is growing well, even after a short period of drought when they really needed some rain.

Dozens of local people were hired to help clear and prepare the land, and then to help plant the crops.



One of the work crews

The family of Mr. Ngam Kho Len has been hired to live on the farm as caretakers. Ngam Len is a former HBS student. He decided to return home from HBS at the end of last school year. He was twenty-one years old and still not finished with high school. He felt it was time to go back home and help on the farm. He was a very hard worker and a good example for the younger boys at HBS, and we know he will be a great help to his mother and father.

When harvested, the first crop will be used as seed for next year and for expanding the farm into as many more acres as MyHope can afford to clear. Clearing the land is the most expensive part, as it is the most labor intensive. Please consider helping to fund this wonderful project that will impact so many lives in the future.

## Church Rebuilding

Last fall, Myanmar Hope held a fund-raising dinner to raise money for the construction of at least two new church buildings for our brothers and sisters in Northwest Myanmar.

Please see the January Newsletter for more background information on the Church Rebuilding Project.

[http://myanmarhope.org/newsletter/myhope\\_201501.pdf](http://myanmarhope.org/newsletter/myhope_201501.pdf)

Since fundraising began for this project, **four** new church buildings have been constructed, one is nearly completed, and one is about to begin construction!

### Completed Churches:

- Tingkaya Christian Church
- Khamphat Christian Church
- Namihan Christian Church
- Valpabung North Christian Church

### Nearing Completion or in Progress

- Canaan Christian Church
  - Joljam Christian Church
- There is currently about \$6,500 in our church building fund for Joljam. Another \$8,500 is needed to complete the construction on this building.

The following two churches need to have buildings constructed:

- Jagnoi Christian Church
- Homalin Christian Church

Will you please pray for the leaders as they begin the construction, and will you also pray that enough funds will be raised to finish Joljam, Jagnoi, and Homalin?

Thank you and God bless you.

## Upcoming Trip

This September, MaryAnn Cherry will be leading a team of volunteers on another trip to Yangon and northwest Myanmar. The trip team includes MaryAnn and the husband and wife team of Tim and MaryFern Phillippe.

### Church Construction Photos



Khamphat Christian Church



Namihan Christian Church



North Valpabung Christian Church



Tingkaya Christian Church (now finished)



Joljam Christian Church



Jagnoi Christian Church



Canaan Christian Church



Women of Canaan Christian Church helping with the construction



Women of Canaan Christian Church helping with the construction

MaryFern is a MyHope board member. This will be the first time in Myanmar for both her and Tim.

All three will be assisting Palal with leadership training in Tamu. Palal expects at least one hundred pastors, elders, and other leaders from congregations all around the Tamu area and even as far away as the Homalin area.

Tim and MaryFern, of St. Charles, Missouri, both work for Christian Homes, Incorporated. Christian Homes is a not-for-profit family of continuing care re-



Tim and MaryFern Phillippe

tirement communities located in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa and Missouri. Tim is the Executive Director, and MaryFern is the Lifestyle Development Director.

We are excited for them as they get a chance to experience Myanmar first-hand, and we know that they will be a great blessing to the Church in Myanmar.

#### September Trip Wish List

Following is a wish-list of items that the trip team hope to take with them in September. The list is in no particular order. If you wish to donate any of these, please call MaryAnn at (217) 415-9187 or email us at [info@myanmarhope.org](mailto:info@myanmarhope.org).



- Childrens' Gummi Vitamins (any brand—need 12,250 total)
- Good quality digital camera (can be used but good condition)
- Bingo game
- Small bean bags for games
- Yarn and crochet hooks (to teach students how to crochet)
- Embroidery floss, assorted colors (for crafts)
- Embroidery hoops
- Needlework kits (counted cross-stitch, crewel embroidery)
- Batteries for toys for Tamu Pre-school (AA and AAA)
- Tylenol PM
- DVDs:
  - Big Hero 6
  - Eleanor's Secret
  - Sound of Music (soundtrack)
  - The Borrowers (original, 1973 version)
  - The Mouse and the Motorcycle
- Movie Night Treats:
  - Red Licorice
  - Chunky Peanut Butter
  - Nutella
  - Graham Crackers
  - Fruit Snacks
  - Tang Drink Powder
  - Peanuts (Dry Roasted)
  - Tootsie Roll Pops
  - Tootsie Rolls
  - Marshmallow Cream



## Thank You Letter from Palal & Kikim

Dear All MyHope Partners:

We are so thankful to God and to all of you who are faithfully following the updates of our ministry in Myanmar. Because of your help, there are many great things that the Lord has done through MyHope in Myanmar.

God is the one who gives us many great visions and He helps us to accomplish those visions. We give Him great honor and praise as He always provides the needs for our family and our ministry through the many generous friends in the United States of America and beyond.

Please continue praying and helping poor children to receive an education, good food, and good health care. Your gifts provide job opportunities for needy families; training for church leaders, building construction projects for our local churches, and help fund our sustainable agricultural project, which will continue to provide jobs and relief for poor families for many years into the future.

It is only through your generous love gifts that many needy people in Myanmar are being helped. Here is a list of some of the main projects in our ministry:

1. Support for sixty-six students: forty-one students in Yangon and twenty-five students in Tamu.
2. Rebuilding the broken-down homes of poor families and widows.
3. Building new churches for poor congregations throughout northwest Myanmar.
4. Providing monthly financial help and training for many ministers and elders.
5. Providing monthly support for many widows, widowers, and disabled persons.
6. Growing and expanding our agri-

cultural project: Sugarcane fields and Rice Paddies.

7. Medical care for Thang Len Mang for his leukemia.

The Scriptures say "Give generously to the poor...for the LORD your God will bless you in everything you do" (Deut. 15:10, NLT).

We all will harvest the crops together when the time is come! Please give us any advice and help us to accomplish many more projects in the future.

God bless you all,

Palal & Kikim Khongsai



## Update from Chuck and MaryAnn Cherry

Dear MyHope Partners,

My wife, MaryAnn, and I have been so greatly blessed to be a small part of this incredible ministry since it was founded in May, 2007. Our fellowship with Palal and Kikim Khongsai has truly been the highlight of our lives!

Ever since the beginning many generous people (too many to mention all by name) have come alongside Palal and Kikim and have added their gifts, talents, resources, time, treasure, prayers, and most of all, **love**, to help the people of Myanmar. This has been a real team effort from the beginning.

MaryAnn and I (but mostly MaryAnn) have been operating MyHope out of our home—first in



Cherry enjoying her first taste of Nutella during a recent movie night at HBS

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



# MyHope Newsletter

July/August 2015

**Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.**  
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Here

Place address label here

**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**

[www.myanmarhope.org](http://www.myanmarhope.org) | [info@myanmarhope.org](mailto:info@myanmarhope.org) | [facebook.com/myanmarhope](https://facebook.com/myanmarhope) | [twitter.com/myanmarhope](https://twitter.com/myanmarhope)

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Springfield, Illinois, and then later from our home in nearby Chatham, Illinois.

Well, now its time for another change. Later this fall MaryAnn and I will be relocating to the state of Washington.

God willing, we plan to continue doing what we have been doing, with the only difference being the location. We are certainly going to miss all of our friends and loved ones in Central Illinois!

And even though we are moving, we believe the only thing that will change about MyHope will be the address where donations are sent and processed and from where publications are mailed.

The seeds of love for Palal, Kikim,

and the people of Myanmar were planted deep in the hearts of many people in Central Illinois. They have since developed deep roots and have born much fruit. We know that those deep roots will sustain that relationship for many years to come.

We will publish our new mailing address as soon as we know it. Will you please keep us in prayer as we make the move?

Thank you for loving MyHope! This is YOUR ministry, and it is made possible by YOU. The rest of us are merely conduits for YOUR generosity.

For His Glory,  
Chuck and MaryAnn Cherry

Please support our Sponsors!

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www.TalkToJoe.com

## Current MyHope Needs

Here are some of the most pressing needs for Myanmar Hope Christian Mission at this moment (in addition to the HBS needs)

- Monthly Pastor Sponsors (15) .....\$60.00**
- Concrete work for HBS ..... \$2,500.00
- Joljam Christian Church .....\$8,500.00**
- Homalin Christian Church..... \$15,000.00
- Janoi Christian Church ..... \$15,000.00
- Agricultural Project (per acre) .... \$2,500.00
- Palal & Kikim's Budget ..... \$Any Amount**
- General Fund Donations..... \$Any Amount

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GIVE SACRIFICIALLY TO MYANMAR HOPE EACH MONTH!!** Your regular donations are what make this work possible.

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