



# Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.

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

August 2016

## Greetings

It has been too long since our last newsletter! Many of you already know that MaryAnn and I moved from Chatham, Illinois, to Spanaway, Washington. Because of that, and because of all the subsequent details involved in moving, adjusting to the new location, getting settled in a new job, etc., we were not able to spend as much time on Myanmar Hope as we normally do. So please forgive the long delay between newsletters. We are all settled in now (mostly) so things are starting to get back to normal.

Please note our new address on the back page, and please update your address book and auto-pays if necessary. Our phone numbers remain the same, and of course our email addresses and websites also remain the same. Thank you!

## Khongsai Family Update

Dear Friends,

We would like to give thanks to our Lord Jesus and to all of you who are faithfully praying and supporting us in God's mission. We are just instruments for the ministry of our Lord Jesus. We are very happy that God has chosen us to serve Him and, through Him, the needy people of Myanmar.

I strongly believe that the Lord has called me to work in His ministry. There are many stories from the Bible which touched my heart and motivated my life for His Kingdom. The life of Noah showed me that he was the most faithful to God and he walked with Him. God used Noah to save His creatures from destruction.

The life of Abraham showed me that the Lord called him with many promises to leave his homeland and his relatives. The

Lord blessed him and his family as He promised.

The life of Moses showed me that the Lord called Moses to deliver His people who were living under Egyptian slavery for 430 years.

The life of Nehemiah showed me that the Lord called him from Shushan, about 800 miles from Jerusalem, to repair and rebuild the walls of the city.

There are many more stories which encourage and motivate my heart to serve the needy ones in His name. We humbly confess before Him and you all that we are just His servants. We feel that the Lord called us as he called Noah to save His people from destruction. He called Abraham to be blessed, and He has greatly blessed us. He called Moses to rescue the Israelites from slavery, and we feel called to rescue our people from slavery to fear



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and oppression. As He called the Prophet Nehemiah to repair the ruined walls of Jerusalem, we feel called to rebuild and repair the ruined churches of northwest Myanmar. We strongly feel that the Lord really called us to serve Him and His people.

Sometimes I wish that the Lord had called me with his voice like He called His people in the time of Old Testament and New Testament. I wanted to hear God speaking directly. However, God didn't call me in that way. He called me by speaking to my heart through His Word.

Kikim is taking care of Noah, the whole family, and all students. Mostly she is busy with her daily accounting of all the expenses. Solomon is in Grade 6 and Cherry is in Kindergarten. They study very hard. Please pray that the Lord will give them wisdom to understand what they learn from the school. Solomon and Cherry are doing very well with their study.

We love their school. They teach the lessons in English from Christian perspectives. Solomon is trying to get caught up on all the lessons which he missed while he was in the hospital (with typhoid fever). We had a parent-teacher meeting on Wednesday, August 24. His teachers told

us that Solomon is doing well with his study and with all of his classmates.

Cherry can speak in English very well even though she is just in Kindergarten. She mostly gets A and A+ in her work. She is studying very hard and praying to get the top academic award this year. Noah is growing and is strong. He has a distinctive personality in that he listens carefully when someone is talking.

Thank you all for praying, supporting, and encouraging us.

Palal and Kikim

## Hope Boarding School Update



HBS Students taking Bible lessons

Much has happened at Hope Boarding School since our last newsletter. **The most exciting news is that three of our students graduated high school!** The students are Mr. Tong Cin Mang, Mr. Hao Gao Mang, and Mr. Jang Min Lun.

Passing the high school exam is extremely difficult. Nationwide, only about thirty percent of all those who take it are able to pass. The numbers are much lower in the rural areas, where our students come from. Most children there never even make it to high school, let alone pass the exam. It is a great accomplishment for these students, and

Mr. Tong Cin Mang



Mr. Hao Gao Mang



Mr. Jang Min Lun



### 2016 Hope Boarding School Graduates



Miss Lhing Za Kim (Grade Six)



Mr. Hem Cin Gao Lal (Grade Six)

we are very proud and happy for them. It is safe to say that without Hope Boarding School these students would never have had the chance to finish school.

Thank you, especially, to their sponsors. Your ongoing monthly support is what enables Palal and Kikim and the staff to love, care for, and support all of the HBS students in their quest to finish school and earn a better life for themselves and their families. Your gifts are truly making a lasting impact in their lives!

And, thanks to your generous support, there are now fifteen new students at Hope Boarding School. (Actually there are fourteen "new" students and one returning student, Mr. Pao Min Thang, who was able to return after a year back in his home village.)

### Sponsors Needed

The new students are all sponsored except for two: Mr. Hem Cin Gao Lal (grade six) and Miss Lhing Za Kim (grade six). Would you please consider

sponsoring one or both of these children? Fifty dollars per month covers nearly all of their needs—food, clothing, shelter, education, medical, and anything else they might need.

### New Bunk Beds



The new bunk beds will last for many years.

Last issue we told you that we needed new bunk beds in order to have beds for all of the new students. Thank you for responding! Palal was able to purchase custom made steel frame bunk beds, and now every student has a bed of their own. These beds are very well



made and should last for many years.

### HBS Pressing Needs

Hope Boarding School has several needs to be met, some more urgent than others. We still need to tile the floor in the dining area, as well as finish tiling the stairs in the girl's dorm. There are other needs, too, but these are the most pressing now. Thank you!

## Crater Family Report

Our family had the distinct privilege of traveling to Yangon, Myanmar last December to visit our friends and family at Hope Boarding School. God had been



prompting us for some time to push beyond our comfort, as a family.

Luke and I had been to Myanmar previously, so we knew what the journey entailed. We also knew, however, that once there you receive some of the richest blessings possible. So we embarked on a quest to raise enough money for the entire family to take the adventure. We watched so many generous people **#move4myanmar** in so many amazing ways and the money was quickly raised. How amazing is the Body of Christ????!!!!

God held us so close for the trip... the flights and connections went smoothly (including the 16-hour leg from Chicago to Hong Kong!), the kids did amazingly well—we are certain they handled the whole journey much better than us! They never complained once about the travel. (We know that having our dear friend Missy Farley along with us had a great deal to do with Jacob and Adelyn's contentment.)

But what a joy for all four of us to be together with our Myanmar family—the Khongsais! On our first morning, as Palal picked us up for the day, he turned to Jacob and Adelyn very intently and

told them that they should not feel as though they were in a strange land, that Myanmar was his home and so it was their home also. How encouraging for him to stop in the middle of his many duties to make sure our children were at ease.

And, of course, the Hope Boarding School kids were such an encouragement as well. It was interesting to see that language is no barrier for children. They welcomed and loved our children quickly and completely whether that was helping Jacob hunt for lizards or marching through the entire three story building banging pots and performing a rhythm parade with Adelyn. We loved just seeing and doing daily life with all of them for the week. The VBX, the field trip, and the object lessons were wonderful. Solomon and Cherry were also quick friends with Jacob and Adelyn and were able to hang out with us, as we toured Yangon.

Overall, we feel strongly that God did not call us to go on a "mission trip" ... He called us to encourage our brothers and sisters with our presence—nothing more than the simple practice of "being with." There is something powerful about being together as a Global Church and seeing the beautiful people created in God's image. We were not on a mission to help and fix them...we were on a mission to love with our whole selves and to be present to see God working in a different place. The Holy Spirit is working and evident in all Palal and Kikim are striving to do for their people.

What a joy for all of us... Here is what Jacob and Adelyn wanted you to know:

**Jacob:** I loved meeting the kids and seeing what Myanmar looked like. My



Cherry, Adelyn, Jacob, and Solomon

parents told me about it, but I understood it more when I saw it. I loved it and didn't really want to leave!

**Adelyn:** Just getting to meet the kids was my favorite. And a favorite memory is sitting with them on the bus for the field trip. We went to Golden Duck for dinner, and playing with all my new friends was awesome!

Thank you again to all who supported and prayed for us! And be on the lookout for a new round of **#move4myanmar** in the next few weeks. You can help bring the Khongsai family here in March by simple movements you enjoy! Your prayers and support help encourage our brothers and sisters in Myanmar more than you will ever know on this side of heaven!

With our love and admiration,

- The Craters (Luke, Laura, Jacob-age 8, and Adelyn-age 7)





## Sustainable Agriculture Project Update

The new section of the farm, which Palal named the “East/West Garden” was cleared, cultivated, and planted in late April and May. Even though the planting was later than we would have liked, the sugar cane is growing well. The second crop of sugar cane, in our original plot, is also growing well.

Thanks to your many generous donations, Palal was able to hire and pay over thirty local people to work during the entire time of clearing, cultivating, and planting.



Some of the local young people that were able to earn some income by working at the East/West Garden

With your help we can continue to expand the farm operations and provide employment to even more people. Giving them work is so much better than giving them a handout! As the farm grows and expands, it will eventually become self-sustaining. However, until that time we will need your help to make it grow. Thank you!

ship Training, and then again in April of 2016 to plan for construction and attend a Jubilee celebration. The people of Jangnoi Christian Church are extremely poor and their elders are very unhealthy. However, they are very devoted Christians. Though they live in fear and poverty, they are very humble and lovely people.



Clearing and cultivating the new land

## Church Rebuilding Update

By Palal

We are so happy to inform you that the Lord has done one more great thing through your prayers and support to MyHope ministry in Myanmar. The new church building of Jangnoi is dedicated to the Lord on August 14, 2016! The prophecy of prophet Haggai is still happening in our days.

In April 2016, I, along with Pastor Ngam Hao and Pastor Then Kho Mang, visited Jangnoi Village. We had fellowship with the congregation and had several meetings. Their greatest desire was for us to help them build a new church building for worship services as their old one was in ruins.

I asked the congregation to pray for the funds and for the construction

"The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the LORD Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the LORD Almighty." Haggai 2:9

Jangnoi Village is located in upper Sagaing Region, northwest Myanmar, in the Naga Self-Administered Zone. It is about 900 miles from Yangon. We can get there from Yangon by traveling to Monyaw by bus for one day. Then we ride by speed boat for two days from Monyaw to Htamanti, then we ride a truck for another hour. We can also get there by bus from Yangon to Mandalay, take a flight from Mandalay to Homalin, then take a boat from Homalin to Htamanti, then an hour by truck.

I have visited this village twice. The first time in 2010 for Christian Leader-



Some of the older boys from HBS helped at the farm during summer break. In this photo are Hao Chung (left), Hao Pu (third from left in back), and Mang Pu (second from right in back). Also here is Ma Mang,s father (center).



plans. They were very faithful in their prayers and in their fellowship. There are five elderly leaders who established the village and founded the church. They told me that they didn't want to die before they could worship in a new church building. They wanted to see the new church building with their own eyes.

On May 1st, we sent three of our best volunteers: Pastor Ngam Hao, Pastor Then Kho Mang, and Mr Lam Za Ngam. They left from Tamu to Jangnoi Village to lead the construction. They organized all the workers and also contacted the carpenters and the brick layers. The construction began on May 3, 2016.

Our volunteers, the elders, and the congregation all contributed their labors in clearing the land, digging the foundation, collecting the stones, loading and unloading the truck, carrying the bricks and water, and other things.

We still need concrete for the floor and walls, and paint. However, as we ran out of funds and our volunteers had already spent so many days there, we decided to hold the dedication service, even though it is not wholly finished yet.

On August 14th, Pastor Ngam Hao of Homalin, Pastor Then Kho Mang of Tamu, Pastor Jam Let of Joljam, Pastor Jang Sei of Shwepyita, and Pastor Sho Kho Sei of Jangnoi led the dedication service.

The congregation was very happy to see the great thing from God with their own eyes. The elderly group was so happy as they also could see the new church building before they die. They are so thankful to everyone who helped them to have a new church building.

You can see the difference between the old church and new church. Your donations have a great impact on the lives of the poor Christians. It is a great encouragement to them for growing in Christ and in faith.

"The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house," says the LORD Almighty. "And in this place I will grant peace," declares the LORD Almighty." Haggai 2:9

On behalf of the Jangnoi Christian



Some of the congregation of Jangnoi Christian Church inside their new building

Church congregation, I would like to say thank you very much for your support for the new church building.

May God richly bless you all.

Palal

### Valpabung South Christian Church

The next church on our list to help is Valpabung South Christian Church, led by Pastor Jam Pao. This congregation is very excited at the possibility of having a new concrete and steel building to replace their old rickety bamboo and wood structure.

In fact, in April they finished laying a good foundation using their own labor and funds which they have been saving up, little by little, for years. They did this in faith, hoping and praying that God will help them to build the entire building.



Palal standing next to the new foundation. (The existing church building is on the left.)

Now they need our help to finish the project. Will you please make a generous donation to help us finish this new building for Valpabung South Christian Church? Thank you!

**Editor's Note:** Thank you for your donations to help our brothers and sis-

ters have solid, safe, and secure buildings in which to worship God. Would you please consider a very generous donation to help us finish Jangnoi Church, and to begin construction on VSCC?

You can give online at our secure site: <https://goo.gl/9dVjbo>

You can also send a check or money order to the address listed on the back page of this newsletter. **Thank you!**

## Pastor Support & Family Support Programs

Every month, your generous donations continue to provide life-changing support for pastors, families, widows, the elderly, and the disabled.



Miss Pha Hat is one of many who are blessed each month with life-saving food, medical care, and other essentials, thanks to your ongoing donations to the Family Support Program.

Eventually we want the church in Myanmar to be able to care for these on their own, using their own resources. This is why MyHope works hard to develop ongoing, sustainable projects like the East/West Garden.

For now, though, the people live in poverty, and they need our help. God has blessed us greatly in the west, and it is our privilege and responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters in need. Thank you so much for being faithful in the ministry of giving!

Especially for the pastors, your gifts enable them not only to feed their families, but to have time to do the work of ministry, to study the Scriptures, and to strengthen their congregations. Without your help they would be working six days a week just to put food on the table, and would have no time for ministry. Your gifts are really strengthening



Faithful pastors and elders in northwest Myanmar

the Body of Christ.

We have many more pastors who need help. Please consider sponsoring a pastor and his family today.



Pastor Jam Kho Let needed Bibles for his youth group. Thankfully, we had some left over from the convention.

## He Raised Me Up

By Dr. Nehkholal (Palal)

*Editors Note: We asked Palal to share a bit of his testimony for this edition of the newsletter. We know there are many of you who have not yet had the privilege of meeting him and Kikim, and there are so many great stories surrounding his life and ministry.*

I would like to share with you how God raise me up and used me as an instrument for His Kingdom.

I grew up in a farming family. We owned a seven acre rice paddy farm in Bokkan. Our farm is about two miles from our village. We lived on our farm in a small hut during the planting season (June-August) and harvesting season (December-February). We lived six months in the village and six months on our farm.

We used two water buffalos for plowing the land. It took us about two months for plowing. Then it took us another month for planting the sprouts of the paddy plants. We needed to wait about five or six months for the crops to ripen.

In December, we harvested the new crops from our land. As we lived in poverty, we didn't have any times for celebration or fun, except the festival of new harvest. We offered some of the new crops to God at the church. It was a time for thanksgiving and for having fun.

My older brother and sister and I usually went to school from our farm every day. To get to school on time we had to walk very fast and sometimes we ran all the way to the school. I didn't know the value of attending school, as I didn't have any vision for my future yet.

During my middle school (5th and 6th grades), my family moved to Tingkaya village, located about fifteen miles south-east of Bokkan. However, I did not move with my family, but stayed at our small house in Bokkan so I could continue going to school.

On the weekends I would walk to be with my family in Tingkaya. I crossed the river and walked through the jungle on the muddy foot path. Sometimes the river was flooded and I could not cross, so I had to return to Bokkan. Sometimes I went to Tingkaya via Kanmaygyi village, but that was a much longer path.

In those days there were many gangs between Bokkan and Tingkaya. One time a business man from Tamu was hanged in the tree there by a gang. Many people were robbed for money, or gold, or anything of value. However, God always protected me from many dangers. Though it was very difficult for me to stay alone and be away from my family, I didn't give up for my education.

When I was in seventh grade my parents arranged for me to live with our neighbor. My family paid them with food for me and for the family. When I returned from visiting my family, I would bring vegetables from our farm.

When I was in eighth grade, my family decided to sell our paddy farm in Tingkaya and move back to Bokkan. I no long-

er needed to walk all the way to Tingkaya to see my family. I had more time to study my lessons and I felt better as my family was back in Bokkan. I passed the ninth grade exam in Bokkan Middle School with a distinction in Mathematics.



Palal (first row, left) in his first year at Zomi College

I went to high school at Tamu High School. Tamu is twenty-four miles from Bokkan, so I stayed in an abandoned house with some of my friends. To pay for our schooling and our food, my friends and I would carry five gallon containers of gasoline across the India-Myanmar border to re-sell for a local businessman. We wrapped the containers with our longyis and slung them across our backs. Then at night we walked over the hills through the jungle so we would not get caught by gangs. By the time we got to our destination our longyis were soaked with gasoline from the leaky containers. We squeezed it out into jars and then sold it. This was our way of making money. We used that money to pay our tuition fees and buy some vegetables for our food. We always smelled like gasoline in school, and other students complained about us. It was very hard, but I didn't give up on my education.

Other students took regular classes from the school and also private tuition classes from the teachers, because they were able to pay the fees. I couldn't take the tuition classes as I didn't have enough money. I felt so sorry.

When my teacher found out that I did not have money for the tuition fee, he felt sympathy on me and told my friends and I to attend his tuition class for free. On the first day of the tuition class, the student in charge of collecting money for the teacher demanded that I pay.



My friend explained to him that I was granted free tuition, but he complained about me and made problems for me, so I did not attend the tuition class. I prayed to God and studied hard for my lessons.

I took Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” as a foundation for my education. I didn’t know how this verse would relate with my study, but I totally believed that God would surely give me wisdom if I feared and trusted Him.

God really did give me wisdom and understanding for my lessons. My friends who attended both school and tuition classes came to me privately and asked me to teach them some difficult lessons from Mathematics.

I passed my eleventh grade test in 1992 at the “B” level. The students who passed with the “B” level could get government service jobs but they could not attend college. So in 1993 I retook the test and passed with “A” level. This was a great blessing for me and the Lord opened the door for me to continue my education at college.

As my family and I had dedicated my life for the ministry of our Lord, I went to Falam in Chin State to attend Zomi Theological College. I didn’t care whether I had nice clothes, blankets, bag, or anything. I used an empty rice bag for packing my clothes, and I left for Falam. I took classes for 5 years and after facing many difficulties I received a Bachelor of Theology degree.

Because of the grace of God, since then I have been able to earn a total of six degrees from both private and public colleges and universities. In 2007 God opened the door for me to go to America and attend Lincoln Christian University, where I earned a Doctor of Ministry in Christian Leadership.

God raised me up from many difficult situations. I have been serving the Lord as a full-time minister since March of 1998 until today. I praise Him always as He uses me as an instrument for His kingdom. He has called ministry partners in the United States of America to help support us and pray for our ministry.



Palal preparing to graduate from Zomi Theological College wearing the school uniform

God’s love is sufficient for all of us. I really give thanks to our friends in America for helping to raise me up for my education and who continue to support our ministry in Myanmar. May God richly bless you all.

- Palal



Dr. Nehkholal at his DMin Graduation from Lincoln Christian University in 2012

## Meet the Phillippes

*Editor’s Note: Tim and Mary Fern Phillippe will be accompanying MaryAnn Cherry on the next trip to Myanmar in late September. Mary Fern is a board member of Myanmar Hope and is the Lifestyle Development Director for Christian Homes, Inc. Tim Phillippe is the Executive Director of Christian Homes, Inc.*

We met Palal in our Sunday school class at West Side Christian Church in Springfield, Illinois, soon after he arrived in the U.S. During the prayer re-

quest time, Palal asked for prayer for a way to get to the NACC (North American Christian Convention) in July of that year.

Tim and I were going to the NACC so we offered him to ride with us. We had the privilege of spending the whole week together with him.

We were so blessed to grow to know and love Palal, and then later Kikim and Solomon. (And of course the Cherrys.)

It is an honor to support a ministry where you know the funds are transformed into miracles, and that little becomes much through the MyHope ministry.

As we are approaching our retirement years we wanted to see the children and the boarding school, as well as the preschool and farm, all of which we have so emotionally invested in. We also want to see what more we can offer as we will now have more time available.

To be used of the Lord in some small way and to make a difference—what more could you ask for?

We thank the Lord for giving us this wonderful work to be plugged into.

- Tim and Mary Fern Phillippe



Tim and Mary Fern Phillippe

## Save the Date! The Khongsai's Are Coming to America!

We are excited to announce that the entire Khongsai family will be coming to America in 2017! We are in the ear-

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



# MyHope Newsletter

August 2016

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

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ly planning stages of a fundraising dinner to mark the occasion of MyHope's tenth anniversary and the visit of the Khongsai family. The dinner will be March 31st, 2017 at the Crown Plaza in Springfield, IL. Between now and then we will need to raise the funds to purchase their air-line tickets and to pay for their expenses while in the States.

They will spend time in Springfield, IL, as well as several other places in the U.S. We will announce their travel schedule when the time gets a little closer. If you can help with their travel expenses, please let us know via email or give us a call at (217) 415-9187. Thank you!



Palal, Kikim, and Solomon just before he came to America in 2007

## Current MyHope Needs

Here are some of the most pressing needs for Myanmar Hope Christian Mission at this moment.

- Monthly Pastor Sponsors (13)..... \$60.00
- Homalin Christian Church..... \$15,000.00
- Valpabung Christian Church.... \$15,000.00
- Agricultural Project (per acre)... \$1,500.00
- Electrical Meters for HBS.....\$300.00
- Refrigerator for HBS .....\$2,200.00
- Tiling for HBS ..... \$Any Amount
- 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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