

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

## **Summer 2017**

## **Greetings**

Happy summer to you! The weather is absolutely beautiful now where we live in the Pacific northwest. I hope it's great where you are. After a long wet winter and spring of record-breaking rains, it is so good to see the sunshine!

Speaking of spring, it was also incredibly busy. The whole Khongsai family was here from Myanmar visiting many friends and supporting churches in seven different states in two months. In addition, we celebrated ten years of ministry at our anniversary dinner in Springfield.

Thanks to over four hundred and fifty of our closest friends and partners, the ministry celebration dinner was a tremendous success! And because of that success, Palal and Kikim are now even busier than ever back in Myanmar. Read on to find out more...

## Tenth Anniversary Ministry Celebration Dinner

What an incredible evening! There are really no words to describe such a fantastic event, but we will try.

Planning for the event began months ago. MaryAnn Cherry put in countless hours making phone calls, scheduling appointments, and coordinating volunteers. As the time grew closer, more volunteers



Setting up for the dinner at Crowne Plaza

came alongside to help. Finally the week of the event came, and many people worked long hours to make it all happen.

Many thanks go out to the volunteers who helped make the evening such a great success. Anne Tetzlaff coordinated the distribution of tickets. Caren Hughs, with the help of others, recruited table sponsors to cover the cost of the event. Laura Crater arranged the evening's program. Missy Farley and Susan Cormeny were responsible for the table decorations, which turned out beautifully. Several friends helped check in the guests and direct them to their tables. Billie Jarvis-Freeman did an excellent job as our MC. Troy Freeman created a live painting during the event, which was auctioned off at the end of the evening. Kevin Hughs, one of our board members, did a great job as auctioneer.

The venue was beautifully arranged and the staff of the Crowne Plaza did a wonderful job of making sure every need was taken care of.

But thanks go out most of all to the over four-hundred and fifty people who came out to show their love and support to the Khongsai family and Myanmar Hope Christian Mission!

After a delicious meal served by the Crowne Plaza staff, the program began with a professional video, created by Gabe Rutledge, highlighting the work of MyHope. It featured several people who have traveled with us to Myanmar to see and experience the work firsthand.

Next up was a testimony by Miss Haley Atwater, a young lady who took part in the special Move4Myanmar/Kid2Kid (M4M/K2K) program last fall. M4M was originally the brain child of Cynthia Ward to encourage kids and adults to do things that they enjoy doing to help raise funds

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for Myanmar Hope Christian Mission.

Last fall Laura Crater put together the K2K program specifically for the students of Springfield Christian School (but open to anyone) as a way to raise funds to help cover the transportation costs associated with bringing the Khongsai family to America. Each participant was to choose a movement and then request sponsors to help them raise at least \$100.00 each.

Over one hundred children and teachers participated, and together they raised well over the amount needed to cover all of the transportation costs!

Miss Haley Atwater chose bike riding as her favorite movement, and she blew past the one hundred dollar mark. She raised over one thousand dollars! Because of her extraordinary efforts, she was asked to give a short testimony at the dinner about why she participated and what she accomplished. After her talk she was honored as Billie prayed a prayer of blessing over her and presented her with a traditional Kuki blanket from Palal and Kikim.

Next was a special presentation to honor and thank Dr. Rob Burris DDS for the countless hours he has spent doing probono dental work on Palal, Kikim, Solomon, and Cherry.



Dr Rob Burris with Cherry and Solomon

Dr. Rob has been exceedingly generous with his time and skill during the past ten years. The value of the free dental work he has done for the Khongsai family amounts to many thousands of dollars. Dr. Rob is a very generous and missions-minded person, and we are all so thankful for him and his wonderful staff. Rob, too, was honored as Palal prayed over him and presented him with a traditional Kuki blanket.

## **Khongsai Family Update**

As most of you know, the whole Khongsai family came to the USA in late February for an extended visit. It was a very busy, fruitful, time for both the family and the ministry of MyHope.

They arrived in Seattle on March first and spent a week with Chuck and Mary Ann Cherry, getting over the jetlag and preparing for two months of virtually non-stop travel and meetings.

On March 9th, the Khongsais and MaryAnn Cherry flew to Springfield, Illinois. The Khongsais stayed with Luke, Laura, Jacob, and Adelyn Crater,



Palal preaching at Witt Christian Church

while MaryAnn stayed with Troy, Billie, and Ginnie Freeman. We are so thankful for the Craters and the Freemans who were generous and gracious hosts.

The Springfield visit was a very busy time. On the first Sunday morning, Palal, Kikim, Solomon and Cherry all spoke to two joint Adult Bible Fellowship classes at West Side Christian Church.

On the second Sunday, the Khongsais visited Christian Church of Witt. Palal gave a presentation to the adults while MaryAnn interviewed Solomon and Cherry during the children's Sunday School hour. Palal preached a sermon to the entire congregation during their regular service hour.

The third Sunday in Springfield was spent at Lakeside Christian Church. The family was introduced to the congregation at the beginning of each service. Palal shared a ministry update with adults during the first two service times, and the entire family spoke and sang for the children during the last service hour. After church some of us enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Lola Garrison.

On the final Sunday in Illinois, we attended the Truthseekers ABF at WSCC. This is the adult class the Cherrys and Khongsais were a part of when we lived together in Springfield. Then we attended the fourth hour service time. Although the Cherrys and Khongsais are no longer in Springfield, we love and miss our Westside family, so it was good to be back to worship together.

During the month of March, the Khongsais also visited each one of the Springfield Christian School classrooms. Palal spoke to the entire staff and student body during Wednesday Chapel, and the family sang together to the delight of all. Although Palal has visited SCS in the past, it was fun for the students to have a chance to meet the entire family. It was also a privilege for the Khongsais to meet and thank the teachers and students who have so faithfully prayed for and supported MyHope and Hope Boarding School!

Another important event during the Illinois visit was a meeting with the Board of Directors of Christian Horizons

(formerly known as Christian Homes). Please see the article later in this edition for more details about this exciting and important new partnership.

On Friday, March 31st the Tenth Anniversary Ministry Celebration was held, which is described in detail in the previous section.



Pastor Tom Spoors with the Khongsai Family

From Springfield, the Khongsai family flew out to Baltimore, Maryland for a couple of days to visit with some Myanmar relatives. Then they drove down to Chesapeake, Virginia, to spend time with Tom and Terri Spoors. Tom is on the Board of Directors of MyHope, and he is also the minister of Fairview Church of Christ. On Sunday, April 9, Palal preached the message at Fairview. MyHope has been very blessed by the folks at Fairview, and we are thankful for their great generosity.



Margaret and David Eubanks, Palal, and Phillip

From Virginia the family flew back to the Midwest to spend some time with Tim and Mary Fern Phillippe in St. Charles, Missouri. Then, Mary Fern graciously drove them all down to Johnson University in Knoxville, Tennessee for several busy days of speaking and Volume 11 Issue 2 Page 3

meetings.

Philip and Nancy Eubanks were amazing hosts at Johnson University. They went out of their way to make everyone feel welcome and comfortable, and they arranged for Palal to meet with various missions teams and school faculty. Philip also arranged for Palal to speak to the students in several different classes at Johnson University.

While Palal was busy speaking and teaching at the university, Mary Fern took Kikim and the kids to do some sight-seeing around the area. The Smokey Mountains are very beautiful, and Solomon and Cherry said many times how they enjoyed seeing them.

From Tennessee it was back to the St. Louis area for a few days, and Palal got a chance to meet with friends he had made during his 2014 trip to Israel with folks from Harvester Christian Church.

After their time in Missiouri, Palal and family headed out to Tulsa, Oklahoma to spend time with friends and relatives who have immigrated to America. After that, it was back to the home of Chuck and MaryAnn Cherry for a week of sight-seeing and preparations for the return trip to Yangon.

#### **Back in Yangon**

As soon as they returned to Yangon, Palal and Kikim were extremely busy getting the new HBS students moved in and registered for school, buying new clothes and supplies for them, and much more.

Within a week or so of being back, though, Kikim was struck with Dengue Fever and had to be hospitalized for several days. She is slowing recovering, but she is still very tired.

## **Exciting News**

One reason she is still tired, we think, is related to another piece of news that we recently received from Palal: Kikim is expecting another baby! The doctor set the due date in early January of 2018, but that is all we know at this point. Stay tuned for more information!

### **Update from Solomon**

"I had fun coming and visiting. I learned many thing from you and met



Solomon the Sailor Man

people that I have never met before. America is a beautiful place and is very large.

I also went to some of the states. I saw mountains, rivers, lakes, and other places. I visited many churches. I went to Washington D.C., the Smokey Mountains, Johnson University, St. Louis Science Museum and Zoo, the Seattle Space Needle, and Pike Place Market. We waded in the Pacific ocean and sailed on Puget Sound. We visited Wilcox Egg Farm, the Northwest Trek Wildlife Park, and Mt Rainer.

I saw so many things that are not in Myanmar. I had so much fun. I will really miss you guys. Please keep praying for us."

- Solomon



Enjoying the snow on Mt Rainier

### **Update from Cherry**

"Hi, my name is Cherry and I am from Myanmar. Please pray for us and for Hope Boarding School. I loved to see you and your families.

I loved seeing the snow and making a snowman. I loved riding on the boat and going to Mt Rainier."

- Cherry

## **HBS Update**

Two of our 10th grade girls passed their final exam! We are so proud of Lhing Kho Nei of Bokkan Village, and Neng Khan Chin of Valpabung Village.



Lhing Kho Nei



Neng Khan Chin

Only 36% of all students in the whole country who sat for the exam were able to pass. As you know from our previous newsletters, only about 25% of all students even make it all the way to high school. So passing the exam is really a tremendous feat, and especially so for rural children whose mother tongue is not Burmese (the exam is given in Burmese and English). Our students, of course, speak the Kuki-Chin language.

We praise God for these two young

ladies, both of whom have been at HBS since nearly the beginning. Lhing Nei was one of our first students. She arrived in Yangon in March of 2010. Khan Chin came the next year in 2011. We also praise God for their sponsors, who made it possible for them to live at HBS and get an education.

Lhing Nei and Khan Chin want to go home to their villages for awhile to spend time with their family. They are both eligible to attend university, so they might do that next year.

#### **New Students**

By the time you read this, the new school year will have started. The academic year runs from June through March.

This year Hope Boarding School will welcome nine new and forty-one returning students. The new students are:

### 1. Mr. Thang Khan Chin (Chin Pu) Gd. 6

- 2. Mr. Jam Min Len (Min Len) Gd. 6
- 3. Miss Chin Nei Neng (Nei Nu) Gd. 8
- 4. Miss Lam Dei Hoi (Dei Hoi) Gd. 9
- 5. Miss Vah Nei Ting (Ti Ting) Gd. 7
- 6. Miss Lhing Nei Kim (Kim Boi) Gd. 6
- 7. Miss Vah Nei Kim (Rebecca) Gd. 5
- 8. Miss Nem Nei Kim (Nei Kim) Gd. 6
- 9. Mr. Thang Khan Kim (Kim Pi) Gd. 5

Two of these new students (Thang Khan Chin and Thang Khan Kim) need sponsors. Sponsorship is still only \$50 per month. Will you please consider sponsoring a student at HBS? You will be making a difference in their lives, both here on Earth and for eternity!

For more information on sponsorship, please contact us at 217-415-9187 or info@myanmarhope.org.

To see pictures of the new students, go to our public Facebook page at facebook.com/myanmarhope.

## Sustainable Agriculture **Project Update**

We are all very excited about the new additions to the farm that your generous donations have made possible.

First, earlier this year, we were able to purchase a sugarcane press. This is a motorized mill that squeezes all of the

juice out of the cane. The juice can then be sold as is, or boiled down into a very thick syrup. When the syrup hardens, it is cut into squares and sold in the market as candy.

This allows the farm workers to use all of the available sugar cane, even the stalks that are too small to sell individu-

Thanks to the incredibly generous friends who attended our tenth anniversary dinner, Palal was able to purchase a brand new tractor with implements, and a new/used light truck for use at the farm and at the preschool.

The timing on the tractor purchase was absolutely perfect (in other words, God had a hand in it, of course). The Myanmar Department of Agriculture had been working with the New Holland tractor company to make available brand new tractors at a reduced cost for farmers in rural Myanmar. That's us! The tractors became available in Mandalay just as Palal and family were getting home from their visit in America.

Our friends at the dinner donated \$20,000 for the purchase of a tractor, and \$20,000 for the purchase of a truck. Palal spent a lot of time researching the truck purchase, going to many different dealers. He finally settled on a used Toyota truck from a dealer in Yangon.

The tractor, the truck, and equipment for both came to \$41,006.00, which was \$1,006.00 over our budget. However, the generous friends at our dinner actually gave more than we requested, so there was enough funds to cover the difference!

Here is the cost breakdown:

Light Truck:: 2007 Toyota Townace 1 ton automatic 1.4 liter gas powered engine with 47,000 Kilometers (29,204 miles)

1. Truck	\$14,583.00
2. Fees	\$250.00
3. Roof, Frames and Seats	\$583.00
4. Driver Yangon to Kalay	\$250.00
5. Service (Oil, Tools)	\$41.00

\$15,707.00 **Total** 



Palal learning how to operate the tractor

#### Tractor:: New Holland 45HP 4x4

1. Tractor	\$18,541.00
2. Rotary Tiller	\$2,400.00
3. Six-disc Cultivator	\$1,733.00
4. Front Dozer Blade	\$2,125.00
5. Transportation	\$500.00

#### **Total** \$25,299.00

This new tractor with its implements will allow us to greatly expand our farm, and will allow us to do the work that needs to be done on our own schedule. In the past we had to rent a tractor from the government and pay for an operator and, since there are only a few tractors available, we would have to wait our turn. The government-run farms would always get the first shot at the tractors.

Now we do not have to wait for a tractor to become available, because we have our own! Praise God!

The New Holland tractors are made in India, so parts and accessories will be easy to source. The fact that they do not need to be imported from overseas



New (used) Truck

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helps keep the costs down as well.

We can't wait to put the new tractor and truck to work! Stay tuned to our Facebook page for up-to-date photos and videos of your generous donations at work for the Kingdom of God.

If you would ever like to visit the East/West Garden to see this all for yourself, please let us know! Thank you and God bless you.

## **Church Rebuilding Update**

There has been a lot of activity regarding new church building efforts.

#### **Valpabung South Christian Church**

Valpabung South was the next church on the list to be built from the ground up. When the pastor and congregation heard that they were next on the list to be helped, they wasted no time in getting started. They had been saving for years for a new building, and had enough to put in the foundation. They immediately got to work building the foundation so that they would be ready as soon as the funds came in for their building.

Valpabung South was one of the projects highlighted at the ten year anniversary dinner in March. It was a great pleasure to be able to inform the congregation that enough funds were donated by the generous believers in America so that construction could begin right away. Now the carpenters and members of the congregation are working hard to get the new building up before the monsoons begin in earnest.

Thank you again to all who gave sacrificially to enable this new building project to proceed!



Brick walls going up on Valpabung South

#### **Lallim Christian Church**

Lallim is the next church to be built. We are currently raising funds to make this happen, but we have a special fundraising effort that needs to be highlighted here.

A long-time friend and supporter of MyHope, who wishes to remain anonymous, is getting married in July. He and his fiancé have determined that they do not wish to receive traditional wedding gifts, but instead are asking their friends and relatives to give toward the construction of Lallim Christian Church. Isn't that amazing?



Initial construction of Lallim Church

If you want to show your support for such a generous and missions-minded couple, you can also give them a wedding gift by donating toward Lallim in their honor, or by "purchasing" construction items from our store: https://www.myhopestore.com.

It costs about \$15,000.00 to construct a new church building from the ground up, so a lot of help is needed.

We are so happy for this young couple, and also proud of them (and their parents for raising such wonderful, loving, and missions-minded children.) God bless them!

#### Namihan Christian Church

Namihan is a church that MyHope helped to rebuild several years ago. Since the new building went up, the congregation has grown, and they have undertaken several projects on their own to further improve the property.

Their latest project was to install a new ceiling. The people donated and saved a little at a time for quite a while and finally collected enough. This is a



Namihan Church installing a ceiling

considerable feat for this poor congregation, and we are happy to see them doing things like this on their own!

# Pastor Support & Family Support Programs

We are happy to report that several new pastors and their families have been added to our support program, thanks to your generous gifts!

Pr. Jang Kho Kam, Tongkyaw

Pr. Pa Dou, Vokus

Pr. Lhun Za Ngam, Canaan

Pr. Jil Kho Mang, Khampat

There are still several pastors among our churches in the northwest that need help.

Please pray and consider if you could be a monthly sponsor for a poor pastor and his family. A pastor sponsorship is \$60.00 per month. Thank you and God bless you!



Pastor Jil Kho Mang and family of Khampat

## **Disaster Relief**

In March of this year a fire started in the remote mountain village of Sipeh. It started while most of the adults were out clearing land for their next crop of rice.

The children who are not old enough to work in the fields stay back and prepare dinner for their parents so that it will be ready for them when they arrive home. One of the cooking fires got out of control and, as a result, seven homes were completely burned to the ground.

The villagers are very poor, and they had no resources of their own with which to rebuild. They really needed new homes built before the rainy season started in late May/early June. The people of Sipeh Village contacted Palal and requested his help.



One of the families who lost everything

We sent a request to I.D.E.S. (International Disaster Emergency Services) asking for a grant with which to rebuild some basic homes for the seven families. I.D.E.S. granted our request, and soon the rebuilding started.

The village is so remote and difficult to reach, though, that getting supplies to them was a real challenge. Some of the supplies, such as corrugated steel and nails, had to be left at the bottom of the mountain and carried up by hand by the villagers. Other supplies, such as lumber, were able to be sourced from the surrounding forest. The carpenters cut down trees and sawed the logs into pillars and boards using their chainsaws and other hand tools.

Now the houses are all nearly finished, and the families are so grateful! We are also very thankful for the grant from



Happy family in front of their new house

I.D.E.S., and for the many churches and individuals who make sacrificial donations to I.D.E.S. so that they can respond quickly when disasters strike.

## **New Pathway Home**

MyHope is partnering with Christian Horizons (formerly Christian Homes) on an exciting new project called the New Pathway Home. This project will help elderly men and women who no longer have family members who can adequately care for them.

Christian Horizons is a national leader in senior healthcare and living. They were founded in Lincoln, Illinois in 1962. Inspired by one man's dream of creating a place where his loved ones could age with dignity in a Christian atmosphere, he and men from nearby churches raised funds to purchase property in Lincoln, where they built and opened the first Christian Nursing Home, with 48 beds, in 1965.

## christian horizons

Christian leaders from other areas soon expressed interest in Christian Nursing Homes. This prompted a long period of expansion—adding memory care, short-term rehabilitation, skilled care and hospice care, as well as senior independent and assisted living options in many of our communities.

Today, over fifty years later, they have changed their name to Christian Horizons, and they have become one of the nation's largest, faith-based, not-for-profit senior living providers—with thirteen communities across four states, all deeply committed to the well-being of their residents and their families.

Last September, Tim Phillippe, CEO of Christian Horizons, and his wife Mary Fern, one of our board members, visited northwest Myanmar with Palal and Mary Ann Cherry. While there they witnessed first hand the extreme poverty, the great needs, and many hardships of families with elderly members. Together they discussed the situation and how they might work together to begin helping these families.

When he lived in the USA for three years while studying for his doctorate, Palal spoke at several different Christian Homes campuses. He saw the wonderful ways in which families in America are able to care for their elderly parents and grandparents. This also made him sad because he knew that no such thing existed for his people in northwest Myanmar.

When they returned to America after their trip, Tim and Mary Fern shared their experiences with the Christian Horizons Board of Directors. As the conversation continued with Palal, it was decided that he should come to St Louis to present his ideas directly to the board. This meeting took place in early March, after Palal and his family arrived in Springfield, Illinois.

The meeting with the Board of Directors went well, and they agreed to form a partnership with MyHope to fund the building and staffing of our very first home for the elderly in northwest Myanmar!

Palal has been working with the local authorities to get all of the necessary permits in order; now construction has finally begun. The groundbreaking dedication occurred on June 24, 2017.



Pastor Ot Kho Let praying for the new construction

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Pi Nem Za Hat of Voksu

The new home will provide housing and care for six elderly widows and two full-time caregivers. The first residents have already been chosen, and are waiting expectantly for the time when they can move in. The new residents will be:

- 1. Pi Dei Neng of Tamu
- 2. Pi Ngahpi of Tuidimjang
- 3. Pi Lam Kho Tin of Khomunnom
- 4. Pi Nu Vom of Tingkaya
- 5. Pi Tin Kho Hoi of Jangngouphai
- 6. Pi Nem Za Hat of Vokso

The new home will provide food, clothing, shelter, and medical care for the residents. Palal has been in contact with local doctors and nurses who have agreed to help us with any medical problems that might arise.

We are all so excited for this new project to get underway! If this project moves your heart, or if you think that your church, Sunday school class, or small group would like to help support this, please get in contact with us. It will cost about \$1,000.00 per month to care for the residents and maintain the new home. Would you or your group consider sponsoring part of that cost?

Please stay tuned to our public Facebook page for regular updates and photos of the building process over the next few months. Thank you and God bless you!

## **Hope Preschool Update**

There are several exciting updates for Hope Preschool. First, there is a new truck, which we have already discussed in this newsletter. What a wonderful blessing this is!



Everyone is excited about the new truck!



Hope Preschool has electricity!

Next, we were able to install 24 hour electricity! India is providing electricity to Tamu so, thanks to some generous donations, Palal was able to install a light pole, wiring, and meters so that now there is electricity and light for the whole HPS campus.



Hope Preschool 2017 Graduates

Finally, we are proud of the twelve students who successfully completed preschool last year and are now able to attend kindergarten!

Please pray for the students and staff of Hope Preschool. Thank you!

To make an online donation, go to http://myanmarhope.org/donate and click on "Donate Today."



Hope Boarding School, Class of 2017

Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc. 1104 206th St E Spanaway, Washington 98387-1858 217-415-9187

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MYanmar HOPE Christian Mission, Inc.

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## Contacting Those You Sponsor

It is now possible to send cards and letters to your sponsored student, family and pastor!

There are some things to remember, though, when sending things to HBS:

- Do not send anything political or controversial in nature. Mail can be intercepted by the government, and we do not want any undue attention drawn to the ministry.
- 2. Do not send physical or monetary gifts. Cards and letters only, please. Photos of you and your

- family are especially welcome!
- 3. Please print your cards and letters. The students are learning English, but cursive writing might be hard for them to decipher.
- 4. A one ounce letter costs \$1.45 and takes anywhere from six to eight weeks to arrive.

#### The address is:

[Student/Family/Pastor Name] c/o Dr. Neh Kho Lal Hope Boarding School No 175, Aungdipa Street 28th Quarter, North Dagon Yangon, Myanmar

Please support our newsletter sponsors!





## **Current MyHope Needs**

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

Monthly Pastor Sponsors ......\$60.00
HBS Student Sponsors ......\$50.00
Homalin Christian Church .....\$15,000.00
Lalim Christian Church .....\$13,000.00
Agricultural Project (per acre) ...\$1,500.00
Piglets .....\$60.00
Electrical Meters for HBS .....\$300.00
Palal & Kikim's Budget .....\$Any Amount
General Fund Donations ....\$Any Amount

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO GIVE
SACRIFICIALLY TO MYANMAR HOPE EACH
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make this work possible.

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