



Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.

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

Fall 2017

Greetings

Thank you for reading another issue of our newsletter! We are so thankful to you for your prayers, your financial support, and your encouragement. MyHope is truly a partnership between East and West!

Your generosity is well known to the believers in Myanmar, and though you may never get a chance to meet your Myanmar brothers and sisters in this life, you can be sure that you will meet them in the next life. And your generosity is known to God as well. As it says in the book of Proverbs:

“Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and He will repay him for his deed” (Proverbs 19:17). Praise God!

Khongsai Family Update

Earlier this summer Kikim came down with Dengue Fever and had to be hospital-



Solomon and Cherry on Bible Dress-up Day for their school

ized for a few days. Since then she has been very weak, but we think she is slowly recovering. The baby is OK, as far as we know.

In July, Solomon was chosen to play the lead part of Peter in the school play “Peter Pan.”

On August 26th, Solomon and Cherry dressed up for Bible Character Day at their school. Solomon dressed up like Boaz, and Cherry dressed up like Ruth.

In early September, Palal had a health emergency. He had gone in to see the doctor about persistent muscle aches and pains in his upper shoulders and neck area. The doctor prescribed some medication, and also gave him an injection.

Palal’s face and neck almost immediately started swelling up, like when he took Ibuprofen, to which we found out he is allergic. The medicine that was given to him (not Ibuprofen) must be made of the same or similar substance that Ibuprofen contains, or else it affects Palal in the same way.

He rushed back to the hospital and was given something to counteract the swelling. Now he is OK, but we had quite a scare for a little while.

Palal celebrated his birthday on September 8 with the kids of Hope Boarding School. They all enjoyed eating the birthday cakes!

On a sad note, Palal’s favorite singer, Mr. Don Williams, passed away on his birthday.

When Palal was a young man he walked many miles over hills and through jungles and forests going from village to village to preach the Gospel. Sometimes he had to walk for many hours and even days in

In This issue

- Greetings..... 1
- Khongsai Family Update..... 1
- HBS Update 2
- Sustainable Ag Project..... 3
- Piglet Project Update 3
- Church Rebuilding Update..... 4
- Pastor & Family Support 4
- Disaster Relief Update..... 5
- New Pathway Home..... 5
- Hope Preschool Update..... 6
- Village Christmas Meals 7
- Sending Gifts 7
- Myanmar Trip 2018 7
- How to Contact 8



Palal in the hospital recovering from an allergic reaction.

between villages.

During those long treks he spent a lot of time praying and thinking, and he also listened to his one and only cassette tape over and over again—a tape of Don Williams songs. To this day Palal really loves listening to Don Williams. We thought it

was quite a coincidence that Mr. Williams passed away on Palal's birthday.

HBS Update

Life continues at Hope Boarding School for the fifty students, staff, and volunteers.

There were some cases of Dengue Fever earlier this year, but thankfully all of the students recovered and are doing well.

We are very thankful for the many people who continue to faithfully support their sponsored students each month. Your generous love gifts are providing these children with everything they need to live a healthy life while getting an education that would not be possible for them back in their villages. You really are making a difference in their lives for all time!

The students are well aware of your blessings to them, and they pray for you all and thank God for you each and every day.

New Electrical Panel Installed

Because of the wonderful blessings bestowed on Hope Boarding School over the past year—things like a new washer and dryer, new refrigerator and freezer, etc., our electrical system was not able to keep up with the demand.



New electrical panel

Palal hired a professional electrician to come and inspect the situation, and he recommended that we upgrade the electrical panels that connect our buildings to the city electricity. We were able to do this because of extra funds raised at the Ten Year Anniversary Ministry Dinner back in March.

After the new panels were installed, the electrician recommended that we install a security gate in front of the panel area for safety.

Update on Thang Len Mang

Most of our readers will be very familiar with Thang Len Mang's story, but for those of you who are new readers, here is a little bit of background on his situation.

Thang Len Mang (Ma Mang) was one of our very first students at Hope Boarding School. He came down to Yangon in March of 2010.

In November and December of 2011 he began exhibiting some strange symptoms. He was always very tired and his skin was becoming yellowish in color. In January, after several tests, he was diagnosed with Leukemia.

Myanmar Hope was very young, and we did not have a medical budget. However, we knew that if we sent Ma Mang home to his village he would only live a short time longer. We decided to do whatever we could to try to save his life.

He began taking chemotherapy, and when many of you heard about his situation you gave generously to help pay for his medical bills.

Thus began years of painful medical treatments, time spent in and out of the hospital, and ups and downs in his condition.

After a couple of years the cancer got into his spinal cord, and he would have to go in once a month for a very painful spinal tap.

Throughout all of this, Ma Mang kept a very positive attitude, and he kept up with his studies as much as possible. When his teachers found out about his cancer, they worked with Palal to make sure that Ma Mang could take exams and do school work even while he was not able to attend classes. At one point along the way Ma Mang scored the highest in his whole class!

During the times that he spent in the cancer ward at the hospital, Ma Mang watched as many sick people arrived, surrounded by grieving family members, and then die of their cancer a few weeks or months later. He said he was always afraid that he would be next. But somehow, Ma Mang hung on and outlasted so many of them.

Then, about a year and a half ago, Ma Mang took a turn for the worse. He was again admitted to the hospital, and the doctors said there was nothing more they could do for him. The cancer was finally too much for his frail body.

Everyone at HBS was devastated. We all had so much love and respect for Ma Mang. He was always cheerful, with a smile on his face. Even when he was obviously in pain, if someone spoke to him he would respond with a big smile and gentle words. He never complained.

The other children at HBS were in constant tears as they prayed fervently for Ma Mang. We sent out prayer requests all over the world, and people began praying for him.

Palal notified Ma Mang's family, and his mother and father came down from their village to be with him in the hospital. Palal also began arranging for transportation back to his village for his funeral, because Ma Mang was not expected to last more than a couple of days.

Then one morning, just hours after his mother and father arrived, Ma Mang woke up and said he was hungry. He said he felt much better, and he was even able to sit up and eat on his own! Over the next few days he got stronger



Ma Mang and his father at the airport

and felt even better. Eventually the hospital sent him home, back to Hope Boarding School.

We all rejoiced at his healing! He continued going back to the hospital each month for blood tests and medicine, for the cancer and chemotherapy had really done lasting damage to his body.

A couple of months ago, Palal informed us that Ma Mang was having a lot of difficulty walking. The years of chemo had really weakened his muscle and bone structure, and his hips were especially weak. Palal got him some crutches and that helped a lot.

His eyesight was also affected, and so a doctor prescribed some eye glasses for him. This made him happy because he could see much better.

Last month Palal again informed us that Ma Mang could not even walk with his crutches any more. The doctors said again that there was nothing more they could do for Ma Mang, other than prescribe pain medication to help him to be more comfortable.

Ma Mang's father came back down, and they had some long discussions about what to do. Finally, Ma Mang decided it was time to go back to the village so he could see all of his relatives again. (He had only been back to the northwest one time since he first arrived at HBS in 2010. This was his own choice).

So finally, a couple of weeks ago at the end of August, Ma Mang and his father flew back to the northwest. Palal arranged for transportation from Kalay airport to his village of Bokkan, to Ma Mang's family home. There he is today, living with his grandmother and some other family members. His father and mother work on the farm just outside of Bokkan, so they are close by. All of his relatives have been coming to see him and visit with him, and all of his needs are being taken care of.

We don't know how much longer the Lord will leave Ma Mang on this earth, but we are so thankful to have been able to know him and be a part of his life. We are also eternally grateful to all of you who have given so generously over the years to sponsor him, to help pay for his



Ma Mang at his family home in Bokkan

medical expenses, and to pray for him.

God bless Ma Mang, and God bless all of you. Please continue praying for him. Thank you.

Sustainable Agriculture Project Update

In January, thanks to your generous donations, we were able to extend the farm and plant about two hundred banana trees. These plants took really well in our soil, and have been growing like crazy since then. Now they are taller than our workers!



Cultivating the banana trees

The banana trees take a lot of care, but we hope to have a good harvest of bananas in 2018.

Earlier this year we were again able to extend our land on the west of the farm. We bought one hundred mango tree sprouts and twenty lemon tree



Planting fruit trees

sprouts and planted them on the extended land. We will plant rice in between the rows of trees.

In September we were able to extend even more land because of our new tractor. We are now planting seeds that will be harvested next year.

Thank you everyone for your wonderful support of our farm. This sustainable project is already helping many families, and will help many more in the years to come.

Palal



Extending the farm using the new tractor

Piglets Project

The Piglets Project is still going strong. Another first litter happened in September for a family in Namihan. The piglet given to them is now full grown, and had a healthy litter on September 11th. She had eight piglets—five females and two males.



New litter of piglets

The local vet helping us with this project advised them about how to keep the piglets alive and healthy. When the piglets get a little older, two of the females will be given to two other families in order to keep the project going.

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

Church Rebuilding Update

Lallim Christian Church

Construction on the new church building for Lallim Christian Church has gone very well.

This church construction project has been funded by generous donations from Fairview Church of Christ in Chesapeake, Virginia, and wedding gifts from Joseph and Rachel Hughs.

The church building is now nearly completed, and the dedication ceremony was held on September 24th.

There were some delays due to a logging ban put in place to discourage illegal export of lumber. This made it difficult for the carpenters to cut the logs needed to build the windows and doors. But they persevered and eventually got them all finished.



Under construction

Then there were delays caused by a ban on digging rocks and sand from the nearby river. This was needed for the foundation and to make the concrete for the floor. Also, there were many days of heavy rain that prevented the workers from completing the job.

Finally the rains subsided and the digging ban was lifted, and the workers



The nearly-completed Lallim Church

were able to get the needed rocks and sand. With only a little over a week to go before the dedication, the entire congregation turned out to help haul the rocks and sand into the building!

We praise God for his wonderful provision for this new church construction. The entire village is excited about the new building!

Valpabung South Christian Church

Valpabung South Christian Church was featured in our last edition. The church construction was completed in early July, and a wonderful dedication ceremony was held.

Even though the construction was complete, the building was unpainted at the dedication ceremony because there were no more funds available to purchase paint or hire painters.

However, a Christian man from India, who works for the India Department of Forestry, attended the ceremony. He listened carefully as the pastor and elders shared about how the church was able to be constructed because of the love and generosity of the American believers, and about how Christians from East and West are able to partner together to expand the Kingdom of God.

This man then came to the front and shared his amazement with the congregation. He told them that after listening to how God was working, he was moved by the Holy Spirit to also do something. He pledged to pay the entire cost for the new building to be painted inside and out!

The paint was purchased, the painters were hired, and the new building received a fresh coat of paint. The entire cost for this was about \$1,000.00 USD. This is a lot of money in that part of the world!

Praise God for this man's generosity, and praise God for the generosity of the believers in America who gave the funds to complete the construction.

We love how God works among His people to meet the needs. All of us have the opportunity to share in the blessing of giving and receiving. Not only is it a great thing to do, it is so much fun to see how God will use our gifts. Thank you!



Freshly painted Valpabung Christian Church

Pastor Support & Family Support Programs

Our ministers and elders held a prayer and business meeting on September 7th. We also distributed love gifts for the ministers and elders after the meeting.

Myanmar Hope is helping twenty-one Christian churches in Myanmar. Most of the churches are very small in size (between fifty and one-hundred fifty members, including children) and are located in very remote regions. The congregations are only able to give a small amount of financial support to their church leaders.



Some of our pastors and elders at a leaders meeting

Without additional help, the pastors and elders would have to work long hours to provide food and clothing for their families. This would not leave any time during the week for ministering to their flocks, studying the scriptures, or preparing lessons and sermons.

Myanmar Hope is providing financial aid to twenty-six leaders who are ministering to twenty-one Christian Churches.

They always hold a prayer and business meeting in Tamu on the first or second Thursday of each month.

This meeting is great for every one as they can spend time together in prayer

and have good fellowship. They share updates on each of their churches and discuss with each other better ways of ministering to the churches.

We are so thankful to our supporters who are faithfully praying and supporting our ministers and elders. We are always praying for our supporters and all of the volunteers of Myanmar Hope.

God richly bless you as you bless the ministers and elders.

- Palal.

Disaster Relief

Many of you will remember the massive flooding that hit northwest Myanmar two years ago. Millions of people were affected, and thousands of families were left completely homeless and destitute.

Because of your donations, and because of grants from I.D.E.S., Myanmar Hope was able to provide food, clothing, medical care, and housing to hundreds of families and individuals.

One of the villages that was affected by the flooding was Khumnoi Village. In addition to all of the physical destruction, the village water supply was seriously degraded.



New well in Khumnoi Village

In the months since the flooding, the village was rebuilt, and many families from surrounding areas who were left homeless after the flood moved into the village. The result of this was that the village water supply was no longer sufficient for everyone.

Earlier this year the leaders of Khumnoi approached Palal and asked if My-

anmar Hope could help them build some new wells. We in turn asked I.D.E.S. for help, and they generously provided us with a grant to build five new wells in the village.

The digging began in early May, and was finally completed in late June. The initial plan was to dig five new wells, but one of the wells never produced any water, so it was abandoned.

Now Khumnoi has four new wells, and they are all producing a lot of fresh, clean water for the families in the village.



New well under construction

New Pathway Home

Construction on the New Pathway Home progressed well for about a month as the foundation was dug out (by hand) and the foundation bricks and pillars were laid. The monsoon rains slowed things down, but still progress was being made.

The level of the first floor had to be raised up above street level in order to avoid flooding. The ground on the lot is several feet lower than street level, so the workers built up the foundation using bricks, and started filling it in using large rocks, gravel, and sand from the nearby river.

Things were going well until the local government officials declared a ban on using rocks and sand from the river. (Other construction sites were also digging up and using rocks from the river bed). So now the workers are trying to find some other sources of material to fill in the foundation. They have already put in over twenty-six loads of rock and sand, but quite a bit more is still needed.

Please pray for the ongoing construction efforts, and that they can finish the building soon.



Update: After this article was first written we received word that the foundation was finished, the walls were framed up, and the roof was made ready for concrete. Please go to our public Facebook page (facebook.com/myanmarhope) to see all of the latest photos.



On another note, Christian Horizons, our partner in this new adventure, **will be doing a fundraising push this fall to raise funds for the ongoing support of the new home, the residents, and the staff.** This fundraising campaign will focus on “Giving Tuesday” (www.givingtuesday.org).

“Giving Tuesday” is on November 28th, 2017. It follows “Black Friday” and “Cyber Monday” and is a way for people to give away some money to a good organization after all of the “spend, spend, spend” of “Black Friday” and “Cyber Monday.”

Myanmar Hope has not ever done any fundraising in conjunction with “Giving Tuesday” but this year we are going to partner with Christian Horizons since their efforts are in direct support of our New Pathway Home.

If you are on our email subscription list, you will receive several emails from Christian Horizons asking for your support on Giving Tuesday. This is the only time we have ever shared our subscription list with another organization, and we are only doing it because they are raising funds that will directly support one of our own projects.

When you receive an email from Christian Horizons, you will have the opportunity of “opting out” of further emails if you want to by unsubscribing. But we hope that you will at least consider helping us to raise the ongoing financial support we will need to provide for the care of the elderly residents and staff of the New Pathway Home. Thank you in advance!

Hope Preschool Update

This year, thanks to your generous donations, Hope Preschool has thirty-one students! We recently purchased new uniforms for the children and the staff. The children love wearing their uniforms twice a week, on Mondays and Fridays.

Recently Palal made us aware of a couple of needs of the school. They would like a TV to show videos and movies for the children. They already have a DVD

player, so now they just need a TV.



HPS students and staff

A more important need, however, is a new security fence for the school compound. Many in the area know about the school, and sometimes curious people just come walking onto the campus to look around and ask questions.

Some are curious about more than just the operation of the school, however, and may be scoping out the building and grounds looking for things they might be able to steal and then sell for income. This situation has made the staff and many of the parents very uncomfortable.

The school would like to build a new brick fence with a sliding gate to prevent just anyone from walking onto the property. The gate can be locked at night, and not only will that provide more protection for the caretaker (an older woman who lives there with her daughter and granddaughter) but it will also help to discourage thieves.



HPS new uniforms

The total cost for a new brick fence with a sliding steel gate is \$3,000.00. Will you please consider helping to protect the children, staff, and property of Hope Preschool by sending a generous donation? Thank you!

Village Christmas Meals

It's hard to believe but it's time to start

planning for Village Christmas Meals again.

If you are new to MyHope you might not know about our Village Christmas Meals program, so here is a short description to fill you in:

Back in 2007, when we first started helping our family in Myanmar, Palal made us aware of the situation in many of the poor villages at Christmastime. In those days, the only time of the year when Christians could legally gather in large groups and preach freely without fear of arrest was at Christmas.

Just before Christmas, the men and women of a village would fashion a large temporary shelter from bamboo and thatch, and cover the ground with rice straw. This was to symbolize the humble nature of the place in which the baby Jesus was born.

Then, on Christmas Eve and all throughout the night and all the next day, the Christians in a village would gather in the “barn” for singing, preaching, teaching, prayer, and fellowship.

As part of the festivities, the church members would pool their funds, which they had been saving all year for this event, and purchase a pig or small cow. They would butcher the animal and then everyone would feast on the meat at several meals, along with rice and vegetables that each family had contributed.

Unfortunately, there were many families that were so extremely poor that they had nothing at all to contribute. This made them feel very ashamed, and sadly they stayed home during the meals.

For most of the families in these villages, the one time of year they were able to eat beef or pork was at Christmas, and some of the poorer families were not even able to do that. And there were many years that the villagers were unable to pool together enough money to purchase an animal, so those times no one got the chance to eat meat.

When we heard about this, we were cut to the quick, as they say, knowing how extravagantly we celebrated the Christmas holiday with tables overflowing with food, even to excess. And not only food, but presents and gifts costing

hundreds of dollars, most of which none of us even needed.

We decided to send some money to one of the poorer villages to purchase a pig or cow for them—then everyone could come and eat without shame, and they could use whatever money they had saved for purchasing extra rice and vegetables.

We decided on an amount of \$250.00, which was enough to purchase a large hog, or half a cow. Then we told some friends about it, and they, too, wanted to help. We don't remember for sure, but we think we were able to help about ten different villages that year.

The next year, as Christmas was coming around, everyone wanted to help again, and even more people—families, individuals, and small groups—wanted to get in on the blessings. And each year after that, on up to last Christmas when we were able to send funds for **forty-four Village Christmas Meals!**

And so here we are, ten years later, and another Christmas is on the horizon. We would love to be able to send Village Christmas Meal funds to even more villages this year. Will you help?



Sharing a Village Christmas Meal at Balbil Village

We have kept the amount at \$250.00 because that is still enough to provide for a large hog or half a cow, and it's a good round number. Some larger villages need more, some smaller villages need less, but Palal, the pastors, and the village leaders know where the greatest needs are and they know how to distribute the funds in the best possible way.

If you, your family, small group, Sunday school or church has given one or more Village Christmas Meals in the



An elder at Valpabung South Christian Church receiving Village Christmas Meal funds

past, THANK YOU! The pastors, elders, and villagers also thank you. Every year they tell us over and over how thankful they are for these wonderful gifts! You cannot imagine the joy they feel knowing that their brothers and sisters in Christ want to share their blessings with them.

If you have never given toward one of the Village Christmas Meals, will you please consider it this year? If you cannot afford to give \$250.00, any amount you give will be joined with the gifts of others to come up to the full amount. Also, this makes a great holiday giving project for small groups, Sunday School classes, home school groups, and so on. We hope that you will share this information with your families, friends, and even co-workers.

Please contact us right away at info@myanmarhope.org, or call us at 217-415-9187, and let us know of your interest. All funds need to be received by December 10th in order to get to the villages in time for Christmas. Thank you again from the depths



Children listening carefully for game instructions at the convention in 2016

of our hearts.

Sending Gifts to your Sponsored Student, Family, or Pastor

MyHope is in the process of planning our next trip to Myanmar, which will happen next February/March. We will be taking items with us for VBS and other projects to be accomplished while we are there. If you would like to send a present along with us, we would be happy to carry it with us in our bags.

If you are unsure of what to send, please contact MaryAnn Cherry at 217-415-9187, or email us at info@myanmarhope.org, and we can help you.

Myanmar Trip 2018

In late February of next year a short-term mission team will be traveling to Yangon and northwest Myanmar. A group of us will be making the trip, and we are all eagerly making plans, getting vaccinations, and so on.

More details about the nature of the trip will follow in the next newsletter, but for sure there will be a VBS for the children at and around Hope Boarding School, as well as activities for the hundreds of children who accompany their parents to the convention in northwest Myanmar. Donations are needed to help cover the costs of these, as well as for the convention, field trips for HBS, and so on.

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



MyHope Newsletter

Fall 2017

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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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Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc. is a federally recognized, not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the State of Illinois. All donations made to this organization are 100% tax deductible according to the IRS Code, Section 501(c)(3). Federal Tax Identification: 26-0324244. NGO License Number: BU-1679.

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 unnecessary attention drawn to the ministry could cause problems
- Do not send physical or monetary gifts. Cards and letters only, please. Photos of you and your family are

especially welcome!

- Please print your cards and letters. The students are learning English, but cursive writing might be hard for them to decipher.
- 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

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
- Agricultural Project (per acre) ...\$1,500.00
- Piglets\$60.00
- Fence for Preschool\$3000.00
- 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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