



# Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.

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

December 2017

## Merry Christmas!

Hopefully this edition of our newsletter finds you healthy, happy, and blessed in the Lord.

This will be a shorter version than usual, four pages instead of eight. We just want to send out a year-end update to say “Thank you!” to all of our friends, and to let you know what has been happening over the past few months since our last newsletter.

## New Pathway Home

Everyone is so excited about our New Pathway Home! This is the first home of its kind in northwest Myanmar, and all eyes are on how this new ministry has been established and is operating.

The pastors and elders decided who would be the first residents of the home. They conferred together and chose the six elderly widows who were the most needy from all of their villages.

The six women all come from different villages, some several hundred miles apart. But we love how God works things out. You might find the following story as amazing as we do.

The first three widows to arrive at the new home are from villages fairly close to Tamu. The next two arrived from more remote villages, just as the building was being finished.

The sixth widow, Vei Ja Lhing, is from Joljam Village in the remote area north of Homalin, several hundred miles away

from Tamu. The trip from Joljam Village to Tamu takes a minimum of two days, sometimes three, depending on conditions. Part of the trip is by truck, part by bus, and part by river taxi.

There is no way she could have travelled this dangerous journey alone, but since the area pastors and elders needed to come to Tamu for the annual business meeting and leadership training, she was well taken care of on the trip.

When she arrived at the New Pathway Home and started getting acquainted with the other residents, she and Nem Ja Hat of Vokso Village quickly realized something incredible: both of them had grown up in the same village, and were childhood friends!

They both married at age sixteen and went away with their husbands to new villages. That was over fifty years ago, and neither had seen or heard from the other since.



Long lost friends reunited after over 50 years

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Imagine their joy at being reunited after more than fifty years! These two Christian women had been living in remote villages hundreds of miles apart, and neither one ever imagined they would see each other again.

From the many women who could have been chosen to live at the New Pathway Home, God arranged for these two to meet once again and spend their remaining years in comfort, peace, and security. God is so good!

Palal arranged for two of his former Sunday school students, who are now a doctor and a nurse, to provide medical care for our residents. They came the first time and gave the women a medical check-up. Several of them have high blood pressure, but other than that they seem healthy.

All of the residents told Palal that this was the first time in their lives they had ever had a medical checkup by a doctor.

They are now settled in, and though they each have their own rooms, they don't like to sleep alone. So they have taken to sleeping together in the main living area, which is more natural to them and to their cultural background. However, this means that we also have room for more widows, so we will probably be bringing

more elderly women to the New Pathway Home in 2018.

We are so thankful to Christian Horizons (formerly Christian Homes) for funding the construction of the building and for providing monthly support for the first year.



As I said, many people are watching this new ministry closely. Several area pastors came to Palal at the dedication ceremony and told him, "Palal, you have opened our eyes to a great need."

Even the Buddhists who came to the dedication ceremony were greatly impressed. We expect that other organizations will begin to follow suit, and there may well be more elderly homes springing up in northwest Myanmar in the years to come. Praise God!

We ask that you pray for this new ministry, and especially for our widows and their caretakers. The names of our residents are:

- Vei Ja Lhing from Joljam Village
- Nem Ja Hat from Vokso Village
- Tin Lam from Valpabung Village
- Ot Kho Neng from Hai pijang Village
- Tin Kho Neng from Jangngouphai Village
- Phal Hat from Tingkaya Village



## Year-End Recap

2017 has been another record year for the ministry of Myanmar Hope Christian Mission. Your faithful and generous support for Palal, Kikim, all of our ministers, elders, families, individuals, volunteers, and all of our various projects has been absolutely amazing!

So much has happened in the last ten years that it would take an entire newsletter just to list all of the many ways you have enabled the Kingdom of God to prosper and grow in Myanmar.

In an email sent out around Thanksgiving we listed several of the projects that are currently in progress or that have been completed in 2017. We are not boasting when we say that the dedicated partners and friends of Myanmar Hope are the very best! (OK, maybe we are boasting a little, but only for you! There is no way that any of this could ever have been accomplished without YOU, and we never forget that.)

### Here is a more complete listing of projects in 2017, both completed and on-going:

- Field Trip for HBS Students to Tuwana Park
- Khongsai family travel expenses to the USA, while in the USA, and back to Myanmar
- Tenth anniversary ministry dinner in Springfield, Illinois
- New sugar cane mill for East/West Garden
- New building for Valpabung South Christian Church
- New building for Lallim Christian Church
- Seven new houses for the fire victims in Sipeh Village
- Five new wells in Khumnoi village
- New water tank and water pipes for Kanan Village
- New well for Bokkan Christian Church
- New well for Bokkan High School
- New well for Khampat Christian Church
- New Holland tractor for East/West Garden
- New Toyota truck for northwest ministry
- 24 Hour electricity for Hope Preschool
- New House with well at East/West Garden
- New washing machine for Hope Boarding School
- Toyota Prado vehicle repairs
- New electrical meters for Hope Boarding School
- East/West Garden Expansion - more acres added (there are now a total of 18 acres being cultivated, with several acres set aside for homes, outbuildings, wells,

etc.)

- More crops planted at East/West Garden: kidney beans, banana trees, mango trees, lemon trees, mustard leaf, rice
- Harvested enough rice from the farm to provide food for our next convention in 2018 (over six hundred adults and several hundred children)
- More piglets distributed to families as part of the Piglets Project
- Four cows (two pregnant cows, two calves) for the East/West Garden
- Several emergency medical requests
- One hundred-eighty new high quality blankets for the elderly and poor
- New brick fence extension for Hope Boarding School
- Flooring repairs for Hope Boarding School
- Christmas meals for fifty-four villages
- New musical instruments and new television for Hope Boarding School students (given by friends from Korea and the U.S.)
- Three outreach services to two prisons
- Three funeral services for deceased fathers of HBS Students
- Funeral service for Ms Vah Hoi, mother of HBS students, sister of Kikim, and HBS Volunteer for several years
- Funeral service for Ma Mang, our HBS student who fought leukemia for several years

### Ongoing Projects for Monthly Support:

**Hope Boarding School** Student Sponsorships—fifty students, three full-time staff (not including Palal and Kikim), multiple volunteers

**Hope Preschool**—Thirty-six students, one teacher, one assistant teacher, one campus caretaker with family, volunteers

**East/West Garden**—Three families, many volunteers

**New Pathway Home**—Six full-time resident widows, two full-time caretakers

**Pastor Support**—twenty-eight pastors and elders receiving monthly support for family and ministry work

**Family Support**—twenty-two poor families and disabled individuals receiving monthly food, medical care, clothing, and other kinds of support

**Khongsai Family Budget**—includes monthly expenses, medical, travel, etc.

**General Fund**—covers everything else not listed above.\*

\* We try to keep overhead expenses as low as possible (we try for under 5%). This year has required some extra accounting expenses, as well as some new computer hardware. We have no office in the USA, and do not pay salaries or bonuses. Any questions can be directed to MaryAnn Cherry at 217-415-9187.

## 2017 Village Christmas Meals Update

You have made 2017 another record year for Village Christmas Meals! This year, enough love gifts were given in order to provide the meat for fifty-four villages or village churches.

This program was started about ten years ago to help some of our poorest villages to celebrate Christmas. The first year we were able to help ten villages. Since then, each year the number of villages helped has either stayed the same or increased year by year.

We want to shout out a word of thanks to one of our board members, Mr. Kevin Hughs, of Springfield, Illinois, for really pouring his heart into this project, raising funds, and raising awareness. And of course we want to shout a loud THANK YOU to everyone who gave generously to help these villagers celebrate Christmas with several community meals that include beef or pork.

As you all know by now, many of these villages are too poor to collect the funds to purchase a pig or cow for their feast. Some families in the larger villages are too poor to contribute to the purchase of the meat, and in the past they would stay home in shame. But because of your help, by providing the meat for the feast, all families can come and share without hesitation in the joy of Christmas. Many of these churches invite their Buddhist neighbors to take part in the feast, also, and by doing so expose them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Some have asked us about the number of villages being helped. We have shared in the past that Palal helps oversee nineteen village churches throughout the northwest. But these are churches that are part of the Kuki Christian Church, which is affiliated with the Restoration Movement churches in America

and the One Church movement in north-eastern India, also called the Kuki Christian Church.

But there are thousands of other poor villages in northwest Myanmar, and we help whoever we can, regardless of denominational affiliation. It is safe to say that there will probably never be a shortage of poor villages in Myanmar, at least until the Lord returns.

Thank you all, again, for your generous love gifts! The people are so thankful and so amazed that you remember them in this way. God bless you.

[Please watch for pictures from the villages on our Facebook page.]

## A New Prison Ministry

While Palal was in the northwest overseeing the construction of the New Pathway Home in Tamu, he drove past the large prison that is on the road between Kalay and Tamu, as he has done hundreds of times in the past. This time, however, he felt the overwhelming sense that he needed to do something for the prisoners and their families.

The Mawlaikalay prison houses 2,400 inmates, about 400 of which are from Christian families. Two of our HBS students' fathers are in this prison.

The prison is situated in a remote location far from town. This makes visiting the prison very difficult, as there is no place to stay overnight, no restau-

rants, and the buses from the northwest area only pass by there once a day. Many of the prisoners are from villages located at quite a distance from the prison, making it almost impossible for their families to visit them.

Palal felt such compassion for the prisoners and their families that he organized the transportation for a one-day visit for many families from the Tamu area. While there he discussed with the prison officials the possibility of coming back and preaching a Christmas message to the inmates. They gave him permission, and he went back with several family members, elders, and pastors and preached to over 200 inmates.

The inmates are very hungry for the Word of God, and begged Palal to send Bibles and other resources. Some of them had formed their own Christian Church inside the prison, but they have no one to teach them or preach to them.

All this time the Holy Spirit was prompting Palal that he needed to do something to help these men and their families. The verse from Matthew 25:36 kept coming to his mind: "I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."

After Palal returned to Yangon, he was invited to join a group of ministers who were visiting another large prison



Palal with families and ministers in front of the house we hope to purchase for the new prison ministry.

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- Amy Carmichael



# MyHope Newsletter

December 2017

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Stamp  
Here

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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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on the outskirts of the city. He preached to them a Christmas message of hope.

It was through these experiences and more that Palal was convinced that we need to begin a prison ministry for the Mawlaikalay prison.

Near to the prison is the house of a Christian man who is well known to us, as he has worked with us for many years. He put his house and land up for sale earlier this year and then moved to Kalay.

When Palal spoke to him about his vision for prison ministry, the man was

very happy to rent to us while we raise the funds to purchase the land.

This property will be used as a guest house for families visiting the prison. It will give them a safe place to eat and sleep while waiting for the next bus to come by. It will be staffed by a Christian minister and family, who will also go into the prison to preach and teach.

The price of the land and house is \$20,000. We have already received part of that, thanks to a generous donation from West Side Christian Church in Springfield, Illinois. Please pray for us

and please consider helping us with the rest of the amount needed to get this ministry off the ground in a good way.

Thank you, and Merry Christmas!

### Last Minute Donations

There is still time to make a donation before the end of the year! **Any donations postmarked before midnight on December 31st can be claimed on your tax return for 2017.** Make your checks out to Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, and send them to:

**Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.**  
1104 206th St E, Spanaway, WA 98387

You can also give online at:  
<https://goo.gl/9dVjbo>. Thank you!

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