



Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.

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

Fall 2018

Thank You!

This edition of the newsletter will be all about Thanksgiving. We are giving thanks to God for Jesus Christ, the Anchor of our Hope and the Author of our Salvation; for all of you, the partners who make this ministry possible; for the ministry of Myanmar Hope and our many dedicated and faithful leaders and volunteers in Myanmar, America, and elsewhere; for the blessings of freedom and liberty; for the material and physical blessings bestowed on us by our Creator... there are just so many things to be thankful for!

As you read the rest of this newsletter, I pray that you, too, will have a spirit of thanksgiving, and that sometime during this Thanksgiving season you will make time to express your thankfulness in the best and most appropriate manner for you and your family.

Thank You from Chuck

Personally, I am thankful for all of the above!

I could write many paragraphs about the innumerable things I am thankful for, spiritually, physically, emotionally, and materially. But for now I just want to say how thankful I am for three people in particular.

First, I am thankful for Dr. T. Lunkim of Imphal, Manipur, India, for introducing us to Palal (Dr. Nehkholal Khongsai) in De-



ember of 2006. He was the catalyst that started the chain reaction that culminated in Myanmar Hope Christian Mission and where we are today.

Second, I am extremely grateful for the friendship and brotherly love of Palal (and by extension the rest of his family). I can say without a doubt that I would lay down my life for him, and I have no doubt that he would do the same for me. He is the main reason we are able to do the work in Myanmar, and his leadership and dedication to God and to his people is legendary.

Third, and most important to me, I am thankful for my wife, MaryAnn Cherry. In many ways we are very different, but in the most important things we are certainly “of one mind and in one accord.” How many wives would, at the drop of a hat, agree to host a foreign man in their home for a minimum of two years, sight unseen? And yet, that is what she did when she agreed in December 2006 to host Palal. There is no doubt in my mind that the Holy Spirit was prompting her to say “Yes!” but the fact that she heard and obeyed his prompting speaks volumes about her spiritual life and character.

Beyond that, though, she is the glue that holds this ministry together, at least on this side of the ocean. I may have the title of “Director” but she does all of the real work, day in and day out, without complaint, and without any material compensation. There is no way that we could do what we do without her dedication and commitment to Myanmar Hope, to the

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Khongsai family, and to all of the children and families in Northwest Myanmar and beyond. I am truly thankful for her.

Thank you and God bless you,
Chuck Cherry

Thank You from Palal

Dear All Friends,

I would like to say thank you all for your support for Myanmar Hope Christian Mission since 2007. We are very blessed and encouraged by your faithful prayers and generous donations for all the works in Myanmar.



I also would like everyone to know that MyHope begins by PRAYER! I remember the days we prayed with the Prayer Team and Mission Team at West Side Christian Church on every Saturday and met many times in Springfield, IL for meetings.

We are sad that some of those mighty prayer warriors have since gone on to be with Jesus in Heaven. I pray that more people would respond to the call of the Lord to be dedicated for the ministry of Jesus Christ and to the ministry of prayer.

I am so thankful for you all for providing for the financial needs, human resources, and equipment to be used for God's Kingdom service for the Christians in Myanmar.

From your donations we are able to support many poor families, widows, widowers, sick, disabled persons, prisoners and their relatives, students, pastors and elders, and those affected by disasters and medical emergencies. We are helping them from your faithful support!

I would like to request you to continue supporting Myanmar Hope through your prayers and financial love gifts.

Thank you,

Palal (Dr. Nehkholal Khongsai)

Thank you from Kikim

I am so thankful to Chuck and Mary Ann for their dedication and commitment for establishing Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc. MyHope has been helping many disabled persons, many poor families, widows, widowers, and many children who did not have enough food and education.



MyHope is also a great blessing for our family. If MyHope did not exist, we would not be able to help many poor families as we do today!

I am thankful to everyone who has been faithfully supporting the ministry of Myanmar Hope Christian Mission. I would like you to know that we are

praying for you all. We pray that God will bless you more and more as you bless many needy ones in Myanmar.

The Scripture says, "A generous person will be enriched, and the one who gives a drink of water will receive water". Proverbs 11:25 (HCSB)

Thank you,

Kikim Khongsai

Thank You from MaryAnn

As this is the time of year when many people think of all that they have to be thankful for, we decided the theme of this newsletter would be "Thanksgiving." Although I don't usually write articles for the newsletter (my role is editing), I did want to write something for this edition.



In regards to Myanmar Hope, it is hard to know where to begin in listing all of the things I am thankful for. First of all, I am so thankful that God allowed our paths to cross with Palal and Kikim! The opportunity to have them live with us while they were in the U.S. has brought about a deep and lasting friendship. They are family! When someone lives with you – Palal for three years, Kikim (and Solomon) for the second half of that time – you really get to know them, "warts and all" as the saying goes. That, plus the privilege of visiting them nine times since they moved back to Myanmar, for the duration of one month each visit, I believe I have gotten to know them very well. We have often said, we could not be doing what we're doing with Myanmar Hope if we weren't doing it with Palal and Kikim!

I am so thankful for the many dear friends that God has brought into our lives since the founding of MyHope, both here in the U.S. and on the other side of the world. Our Family has greatly expanded! I am thankful for the many

volunteers that have assisted in the work. I am beyond grateful for the many, many prayers from faithful prayer warriors. I am thankful and amazed to see how God is growing the ministry year-by-year and even month-by-month. But more than anything, I am thankful to see how God provides.

As Secretary/Treasurer of MyHope, I am the one that processes the donations as they are received. I also see and know firsthand the needs on "this side" of the work, usually before anyone else does. God has taught me over and over that He knows and cares, He sees, He hears, He provides, often before we even ask. It has been so humbling to see where the donations come from. Some of the donors are known to us personally, and there is no doubt in my mind that their gifts are a true sacrifice. In the first few years of MyHope, there were many times that I agonized over how the budget would be met. God has been so gracious, proving to me again and again that He does and will provide! I am thankful for his patience.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to each and every one of you, faithful donors and prayer partners! May God bless you.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now." Phil. 1:3-5

MaryAnn Cherry

Thank you from Saira

All I can say is, "Wow!" What an amazing work God has done through MyHope! How could we have ever imagined so many years ago that Chuck and MaryAnn's sponsorship of Palal and Kikim would lead to such an incredible ministry?



I can't help but marvel at all that has been accomplished. Growth of the boarding school, addition of a pre-school, a sugar cane farm that has now expanded, a safe place to give the elderly the care they deserve, leaders of different tribes coming together in unity as the Body of Christ, and now a prison ministry. And that's just the tip the iceberg...

I think it is safe to say that none of this would be possible without the humble obedience of Palal Khongsai and his family. His energy and ambition is impressive—hard to know when he sleeps!

Whenever I see pastors like Palal, I think about what they could be doing. With such intelligence, talent, and initiative, he could be a man of great wealth and high social status. Instead he has chosen to be a humble servant, and his reward is and will be great. God is blessing his ministry abundantly.

Chuck and MaryAnn have worked tirelessly to promote and expand the ministry. Their love for the kids is contagious. Because of their hard work, expenses are almost negligible and we can rest assured that donations go directly where they are needed. What a joy to give to a ministry such as this!

I consider it a privilege to serve on the board for MyHope. The goal has always been to further the Gospel and focus on how we can glorify God by blessing others, and each board member has special gifts to contribute.

I am so thankful for everyone who has served in Myanmar and here at home, and for everyone who has supported the ministry prayerfully and financially. You are making a difference for eternity, and that's what it's all about.

Thank you,

Saira Wahab-Silas (MyHope Board)

Thank You from Mary Fern

I have been thinking about what I find so amazing about how God has made things happen in Myanmar. Especially powerful to me are the ways the Lord has used his timeline. For example, the elephant that was stolen from Bokkan and recovered by Palal's brother, and how that event saved the lives of this same brother when he was delivering supplies to the survivors of Cyclone Nargis, and how this also brought about connections to the Burmese villages there.



About how Palal's dangerous visit to the military leader in the northwest, who was closing our churches and beating up our church elders, resulted in an attack of bees upon this man, and then through a variety of additional circumstances brought about the property we are now using for our farm.

About how Palal's visit to Spring River Christian Village in Joplin, Missouri opened his heart to Prison Ministry and opened Christian Horizons to the idea of building a home for the elderly in Myanmar.

About how Palal's expressed desire to attend the North American Christian Convention (NACC) one Sunday morning when my husband, Tim and I were visiting a Sunday school class connected us to this wonderful ministry.

About how a picture of a Myanmar minister and his family living in poverty touched my heart, and how we were later blessed to sponsor those children at Hope Boarding School and see them grow to adulthood.

The stories of God's hand go on and on. How blessed we are to be a part of this journey. Thank you,

Mary Fern Phillippe (MyHope Board)

East/West Garden

On October 23—25 the rice on the farm was harvested using a harvesting machine which we rented. The machine is like a combine that you see on American farms harvesting corn, beans, or wheat, only much smaller. As the harvester works through the fields, the rice comes out a tube directly into sacks. When the sack is full it has to be taken off and immediately replaced with an empty sack. Several young men are required to haul the sacks of rice from the harvester to a wagon.

Once the rice is harvested, it is spread out on plastic tarps to dry in the sun. In case of rain the rice is covered with more tarps.

Someday we would like to be able to purchase a grain dryer so that we can dry the rice quickly, rain or shine. If we get too much rain during the drying process some of the grains will begin sprouting or rotting, and this will decrease the profit from the rice.

We are so thankful for the bountiful harvest, and for all of the prayers and donations that make our farm possible. Your love gifts have purchased equipment like a tractor and other implements, a generator, a sugar cane press, and so much more. Your love gifts have enabled us to grow and expand the farm



Harvesting rice at the East/West Garden



Harvesting Rice

with cattle, many different kinds of fruit trees, and additional acres. Thank you!

Your love gifts enable us to hire and pay local workers, which helps them to support their own families. Your prayers and gifts allow us to be a great witness to the many farm families and government officials in Northwest Myanmar, both Christian and Buddhist, who visit our farm all the time to see the great works being done there.



The cattle herd at the East/West Garden

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial love gifts for the East/West Garden!

New Pathway Home

Our partner in the New Pathway Home, Christian Horizons, Inc., is again this year focusing on the New Pathway Home as part of their annual #GivingTuesday campaign.

#GivingTuesday is the Tuesday after “Black Friday” and “Cyber Monday,” the days when retailers offer deep discounts and special sales on their merchandise as a way to kick-off the “holiday shopping season.”

A few years back someone decided that it would be nice to dedicate a day to giving to others in contrast to the crass materialism and frantic shopping and

spending right after the Thanksgiving holiday. This day was designated as “Giving Tuesday” and can be found on social media platforms using the #GivingTuesday hashtag.

While Myanmar Hope has never really done any extra fundraising around #GivingTuesday, we are certainly on board with Christian Horizons as they try to raise more support and monthly sponsors for our ladies at the New Pathway Home.

If you get one or more emails or even a direct mail piece from Christian Horizons regarding the New Pathway Home, you can rest assured that we are in full agreement with their plans and will do what we can to also help raise the level of awareness surrounding the ongoing needs of the New Pathway Home.

The twelve residents and three staffers at NPH are all doing very well. Palal recently spent some time there recording the ladies’ stories, better documenting their history, and taking videos of them around the home. Please visit our Facebook page and scroll down through the posts to read the stories and see their beautiful faces.

We are so thankful to Christian Horizons for their generous partnership with MyHope and for their ongoing support of the ladies at the New Pathway Home. It is not an exaggeration to say that they have saved the lives of these women who were living on the very



edge of starvation in extreme poverty. Now the ladies can live out the remainder of their lives in safety, comfort, and peace, and they will never again have to go to bed hungry, worrying about where their next meal will come from.

God bless all of you who have given love gifts for the NPH, and thank you especially for your prayers for the women, the staff, and the ministry.

New Hope Prison Outreach

Pastor Sei Kho Lal is doing a wonderful job as the Prison Outreach leader as he faithfully serves the inmates and their families.

He usually visits the prison three days each week, and meets with two to four inmates at a time.

Five families stayed at the new guest house during the month of October while they were visiting their relatives in prison. We expect this number to rise a lot as word gets out about the guest house.

On October 22nd, Palal brought twenty-two people to the guest house, and then again on November 5th, he brought twenty-three people (men, women, and children) to the guest house to visit their relatives in prison. Some of the families brought their chil-



Residents at the New Pathway Home in Tamu



Families outside the Mawlaik Kalay Prison

dren along so they could visit their fathers in prison.

The inmates were so encouraged by the visit of their families and relatives. One man, who had been in prison for five years, had not seen his children in all that time. When he and his children saw each other, they were overjoyed.

Another young man, who has been in prison for two years, was reported to have died several months ago. His



Pastor Sei Kho Lal updates his records

mother and the rest of the family all mourned greatly for him. Then in early November the mother contacted Pastor Sei Kho Lal and asked him if he could find out any news about how her son had died.

When Pastor Sei Kho Lal visited the prison and spoke with the officials, he found out the young man was alive. His

mother and family were so happy with this news! They wired some money down to the bank in Kalay for the man, and Pastor Sei was able to take it to him.

All of the people praise God for this wonderful new ministry outreach, and are so thankful for it! This outreach is mainly to help inmates and their families in the Name of Jesus, to fulfill the Scriptures and to glorify our Father in Heaven!

Thank you and God bless all of you who donate to MyHope and the New Hope Prison Outreach!

Baptisms at Khampat Christian Church

Palal was honored to baptize eight young people in the stream next to the Khampat Christian Church. Six of the youths were from Khampat, and two were from Kanan Christian Church.



Palal prepares to baptize a young man

Pastor Support Program

Pastor Lun Kho Thang

In September one of our faithful lead-



Palal stands with the young people from Khampat and Kanan holding their new baptism certificates



Pastor Lun Kho Thang with his wife

ers, Pastor Lun Kho Thang of Valpabung North Christian Church, suffered what appeared to be a stroke.

The doctors in Tamu could not help him, and he needed to get to Yangon as soon as possible in order to get medical treatment. We issued a call for prayer and financial gifts to help, and within just a few minutes several people answered the call to provide funds to cover his expenses!

We are happy to report that Pastor Lun Kho Thang is back at home now, recovering and doing well. Thank you so much to everyone who prayed and gave to save this man's life. He is very instrumental in carrying out the ministry in the northwest, and Palal really depends on him a lot.

Pastor Ngam Kho Lun

Pastor Ngam Kho Lun is the lead pastor at Tingkaya Christian Church, one of the smallest and poorest congregations in the northwest. He was suffering extreme pain in his shoulder from carry-

ing heavy loads of bamboo to earn some income. The doctor at Khampat Clinic gave him an injection of cefran, but then Ngam Kho Lun experienced a severe allergic reaction and fell unconscious, with a high fever and other bad symptoms.

After he awoke from his coma the next day, but the doctors could not do anything else for him. They recommended that he be taken to the hospital at Kalay, but they are too poor to pay for that.



Ngam Kho Lun with his wife and Palal

Then they found out that his wife needed surgery on her left breast. They were in a desperate situation and they asked Palal for help. Fortunately we had some funds left over from the donations that came for Pastor Lun Kho Thang, and it was enough to pay for both of their bills!

Palal visited with them on October 25th and, while he is still very weak, he is doing much better, and she is doing well after her surgery. Thank you again to everyone who gave and prayed!

Disaster Relief

Rice distribution at Tuidap Village

The villagers in Tuidap Village in remote Northwest Myanmar are devoted

Christians. While they were in their planting season, another wave of rats came out of the hills and ate all of their paddy seeds.

Many of you will remember the devastating rat plague that hit India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar in 2008 and 2009. This is the same kind of situation, only it is caused by a different species of bamboo that blooms on a different schedule than the previous one.

The village faced starvation, as their main food source was destroyed by the rats. They prayed for food and they sought help from the local authorities.

For whatever reason, the local government was unable to help them, and they were in a desperate situation.

The villagers reached out to Palal, and he sent the request on to us. We requested disaster relief funds from International Disaster Emergency Services (IDES) and they responded immediately with help.

Our dedicated volunteers risked their lives to bring rice to this very remote village. They had to drive on rain-soaked mountain paths that were knee-deep in mud. They had to ride on cargo river boats which are notorious for capsizing. And then they and the villagers had to haul the rice on their backs up the side of a mountain to get to the village.



Trying to navigate the mountain "roads"



Hauling the rice up to the village from the river

The villagers were overjoyed when they saw the answers to their prayers. This is the first time they have ever received any help from Christians in America. They said their faith in God was increased as He responded to their cries and prayers by sending help from believers in the States. Now the needy villagers have enough food to keep them alive until their next harvest.



Thank you to IDES and to everyone who prays and donates to IDES and MyHope!



Hope Boarding School

Four Students Need Sponsors

We still have four students that need to be sponsored (two girls and two boys) to cover their education and living expenses at Hope Boarding School.

Will you please pray about being a monthly sponsor for one of these children? They come out of extreme poverty and your monthly gifts will literally change their lives both now and forever.

Call MaryAnn at 217-415-9187 or email us at : info@myanmarhope.org.

Thank you!



Village Christmas Meals

As you prepare for the holidays, are you thinking about how you can bless the poor this Christmas?

We have a program called "Village Christmas Meals" that provides a very tangible blessing each year for many people living in extreme poverty.

There are families living in rural villages in Myanmar who are too poor to afford meat with their meals. Most of these families live on less than a dollar a day, which is barely enough income to provide rice and vegetables. Meat is a luxury that they simply cannot afford.

However, there is one time each year when these families look forward to eating meat: Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The entire village will pool their resources to purchase a pig or a cow, and they will all come together on Christmas Eve for a celebration and community meal. They will sing, dance, play games, and listen to preaching all night long. The next day, Christmas Day, will be more of the same.

In between the festivities they will share meals together until the food runs out. Unfortunately, though, there are some families that are too poor to contribute anything at all towards the food, and they feel too ashamed to join in the meal.

However, we think everyone should be able to partake of the Christmas feasting, regardless of whether they have any resources to contribute. So we began a program called "Village Christmas Meals" to help provide these poor villages with the meat for their feast. That way,

everyone in the village could participate, and no one would be left out or feel ashamed because of their extreme poverty.

And, thanks to you, over the past ten years many villages have been provided with meat at Christmastime. **Last year alone your donations helped over fifty-five different villages!**

This year we hope to provide meat to at least fifty villages, but wouldn't it be wonderful if we could help even more? Would you please help us reach this goal?

Each village will get a large pig or a cow, depending on the size of the village. To sponsor an entire Village Christmas Meal is \$250.00.



This makes a great whole-family missions project! It is an excellent way to teach children (and adults) how it really is more blessed to give than to receive. Then, as your family sits down to enjoy their delicious Christmas feast, you all can feel good about helping dozens of poor families to also share in a Christmas feast of their own.

The Village Christmas Meal program is also a good project for a church, a small group, or a Sunday School class. **If you cannot afford to help an entire village, any amount that you give will be joined with the gifts of others, and together we can all make a real difference!**

When we share our blessings with people living in extreme poverty it makes our own Christmas that much better.



Each year we hear from the people in the villages who receive a Christmas cow or pig, and they are so incredibly thankful. They are amazed that believers in the West know about them, think about them, and love them enough to share their material blessings with them.

Will you please help a poor village in rural Myanmar by donating the funds for one Village Christmas Meal? **Or any amount?** And will you share this request with your friends, relatives, small group members, Sunday School class members, and anyone else you can think of?

The funds need to be received by December 10th to get them processed and into the hands of the village elders in time for them to purchase the animals. You can send a check to our address below, or you can give online at our secure donation page.

If you have questions, call Kevin Hughs at 217-306-5567 or MaryAnn Cherry at 217-415-9187, or send us an email at info@myanmarhope.org.

Thank you, and God bless you!

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



MyHope Newsletter

Fall 2018

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

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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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Visiting the Churches at Christmas

This year, for the first time, Chuck and MaryAnn will be visiting some remote Myanmar villages at Christmastime. They have been to Yangon many times for Christmas celebrations at HBS, but this year they have the honor and great privilege of celebrating Christmas with the Christians in Northwest Myanmar.

First, they will celebrate with several villages in the Tamu area. Then they will travel to Homalin to celebrate up there.

This will also mark the first time that anyone from the U.S. has been able to visit the churches in the Homalin area, as it is farther north and much more difficult to reach. Palal informs us that the congregations are very excited since they have never had visitors from the West, and they are looking forward to it.

The love gifts that you send for the Village Christmas Meals will have been delivered by then, and Chuck and MaryAnn will be able to represent you to the churches in person!

Most Pressing Needs:

- Village Christmas Meals \$250
- Monthly Sponsors for HBS \$50
- New Year's Convention \$2,000

Other Needs:

- Fence for Prison Ministry \$1,500
- Monthly Sponsors for Family Support \$30
- Monthly Sponsors for New Pathway \$50
- Monthly Sponsors for Khongsai Family ... any
- Monthly Sponsors for General Fund any
- 100 Plastic Chairs for HBS \$500
- A.C. Units for HBS Worship Area \$600
- Cows for East/West Garden \$500
- HBS Annual Field Trip \$1,000

Please make checks payable to:
Myanmar Hope Christian Mission
1104 206th ST E, Spanaway, WA 98387

Phone: (217) 415-9187
Email: info@myanmarhope.org
FB: <https://facebook.com/myanmarhope>
Web: <https://myanmarhope.org>

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