



Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.

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

Fall 2019

Happy Thanksgiving!

Welcome to the Fall 2019 edition of our newsletter. It seems like we were just writing the summer edition, and now all the leaves are dropping, and many parts of the country have already experienced significant snowfall!

As we prepare for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons, we are reminded of how much we have to be thankful for, **and to Whom we are thankful.**

Our Father God, who is rich in mercy and who abounds with lovingkindness toward His children, has blessed us with such incredible blessings!

We hope you enjoy reading about the many great blessings and the wonderful work being done for His Kingdom and His Righteousness. **You are a major part of this work, and it is because you have listened to His voice and responded to His call to remember the poor, the orphans and the widows, and all of the needy people in Myanmar.**

THANK YOU!

East/West Garden

We have been very busy at the East/West Garden farm this summer and fall!

Most of you will remember that last spring, Mrs. Anne Tetzlaff and dōTERRA Healing Hands sponsored MyHope for a \$15,000 matching grant (\$30,000 total) to be used for expanding and improving our farm.



Joe and Anne Tetzlaff, Ean and Sophie

This fall Palal has been hard at work overseeing the clearing of land for the expansion. He hired four large backhoes, a large bulldozer, two water buffalo, and a couple dozen workers to clear about ten acres of woodlands adjacent to the farm.

Many of the students from the new Hope Theological Seminary also came to the farm to work, and they were a great help.

In early October, Palal and Kikim trav-

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eled to Chiang Mai, Thailand, for a three-day agriculture seminar put on by ECHO Asia. There they learned more about coffee farming, sustainable agriculture processes, organic farming, seed banks, and much more. They made many good contacts, including people who are already doing coffee farming and who expressed a willingness to help us get started.

He also made friends with several people from the Asia Rural Institute of Japan. One graduate of the institute that he met in Chiang Mai paid a visit to our farm in early November. He also manages a farm



Palal with the four rented backhoes and drivers to clear the land

project, located in Kalay Township.

Palal asked that he pick up ten acres worth of sunflower seeds, which he brought with him. These will be planted in place of sugar cane this fall. He also brought his portable soil tester, and they tested the ground where the sunflowers will be planted. The PH was 6, which he said was good for the sunflower crop.

On the night of November 1st, another new female calf was born! Now we have nine cows in our little herd.



Another female calf was born

The rice harvest began during the last week of October. Palal hired a couple dozen temporary workers to help bring in the harvest. They were happy to have the work, as unemployment remains high in this region. The harvest is looking very good, and we are so glad to have a new barn in which to store the grain until it can be sold!



Temp workers hired to bring in the rice harvest

Speaking of the barn, the students of Hope Theological Seminary came to the farm earlier in the summer and learned



Putting a concrete floor in the new barn

how to mix, pour, and level concrete from someone experienced in that trade. Together they put a concrete floor in our barn, which will greatly help to keep the crops, seed, and other equipment dry and safe from vermin.



The bulldozer clearing out logs and brush

Palal is also currently evaluating different options for irrigating the farm. It appears at this point that the best option will be to machine dig a deep well, drop in a solar-powered pump, and put up a large water tank. From there we can run water lines out to the areas that need irrigation the most.

Nearly all of this work has been made possible by the grant from dōTERRA Healing Hands and the love gifts from all of you who donated toward the matching grant.

Please check out our public Facebook page (no account needed) to view more pictures and videos from the farm. **THANK YOU!!**

New Pathway Home



After we returned home from our September trip, we were contacted by a friend of MyHope. He and his wife had discussed their support, and they decided to donate \$20,000 toward a second floor at the New Pathway Home for Widows!

Needless to say, we were all blown away by this extremely generous donation. Gifts of this size and scope are very, very rare. The average amount that people donate to MyHope is around \$50.00. These individual donors, many who give on a regular monthly schedule, are truly the solid foundation of our support. We would not be able to continue without you!

However, once in a great while the Lord lays it on someone's heart to give a really large amount at one time. This happened when we were constructing the new building at Hope Boarding School, and it enabled us to finish that project on time.

It also happened at our 10 year anniversary dinner in Springfield, when one family made a large donation toward the East/West Garden.

There have been other large, one-time donations in our history, ranging in size from several hundred dollars to several thousand. These donations always come at just the right time, and are critical for propelling the work of MyHope.

We have been considering adding a second floor to the New Pathway Home ever since it was first constructed using funds donated by Christian Horizons, Inc. We just did not know when we would be able to begin. MyHope operates on a cash basis, and we will not begin a project of that size and scope unless we have at least the majority of



Second floor construction is going on right now at the NPH

the funds needed to complete it. We estimated the cost of a second floor to be between \$20,000 and \$25,000, and we figured a major fundraising campaign would be needed to raise that amount.

Needless to say, a one-time donation of \$20,000, targeted for the second floor, caused us to rejoice in the Lord! Construction is going on even as this is being written, and we hope to dedicate the new floor by the end of December or the first of January.

The purpose of the second floor is to make room for more widows to live at the New Pathway Home. There are many women in need who have asked to live there, but until now there was no more room available. Now, an entirely new floor is opening up which will allow us to provide a safe shelter for these women.

Also, this space can be used for younger widows, some of whom have dependent children. These women and children will not have any problem going up and down the stairs, unlike our elderly widows.

We will need to purchase furniture for the new floor, including beds, desks, mattress sets, and so on. Please consider helping us with this need.

New Sponsors Needed!

The current twelve residents are sponsored by Christian Horizons for at

least the next two years, so now we need people to step forward and help cover the costs of supporting these new widows and their children by sponsoring them for \$50.00 per month.

Why should you sponsor a widow at the New Pathway Home? There are many reasons, not the least of which you will be doing the will of God. He is the *“father of the fatherless and the champion of widows”*. (Ps 68:5) God wants His people to *“defend the rights of the fatherless and plead the cause of the widow”*. (Isa 1:17) And of course, the Apostle James informs us that *“pure and undefiled religion”* is to *“look after orphans and widows in their distress.”* (James 1:27)

The scriptures make it very clear that widows and orphans have a special place in God’s heart, and He wants us to care for their needs.

For less than the price of a daily cup of coffee you can lay up a great treasure

in Heaven (Matt 6:20, 19:21; Mark 10:21; Luke 12:33, 18:12) and help fulfill the words of King Jesus in Matthew 25:40, *“Whatever you did for the least of these, you did it for me.”*

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in sponsoring a widow at the New Pathway Home for \$50.00 per month, please contact us right away. **You can be assured that 100% of your monthly donation will go toward the support of your sponsored widow.**

Mrs Neng Kho Ting

One of the NPH residents, Mrs. Neng Kho Ting, was recently hospitalized because of a lung condition, caused by an earlier case of tuberculosis. She was not well when she arrived last year, but she seemed to quickly recover and was very happy.

When we visited in September, MaryAnn remarked that she did not look well, and sure enough, about two weeks later she had to go into the hospital in Tamu. They gave her an oxygen tank and pain medication, but they could do no more for her.

Palal then took her to the Wesley Clinic in Kalaymyo, about ninety miles to the south, as they have better doctors and more resources. He drove her there in his own vehicle, as there are no ambulances to perform such services.

Unfortunately, the doctors at Wesley Clinic were also not able to do anything



Students from Hope Theological Seminary share in worship and fellowship with the NPH residents



Transporting Ning Kho Ting to Kalaymyo

more for her, and after two weeks we brought her back home.

As of this writing she is alive, though in critical condition. The staff at the NPH are doing what they can to keep her comfortable. She is breathing using the oxygen tank and is taking pain medications.

Please keep Ning Kho Ting, the staff, and the other residents in your prayers.

Thank you and God bless you!

New Hope Prison Outreach

Construction was completed on the New Hope Prison Outreach building in May, and the dedication service was held on June 16th. It was a great day! We are so thankful for this new building, which was provided with funds from West Side Christian Church in



Pastor Sei Lal shares the plan of salvation

Springfield, Illinois. (See last issue for a picture of the new building).

Pastor Sei Lal, who leads our prison outreach, continues to do great work with the Mawlaikalay prisoners and their families. He has been hosting many families who travel to Kalay

visit their relatives in prison. The guest house is such a great blessing for them. Without it they would not have a place to stay overnight, which is necessary as the bus only comes by once per day.

There is a Buddhist monastery next door, but that is only for Buddhist families. What we have found, however, is that even Buddhist families would rather stay overnight at the New Hope Prison Outreach, because it seems much more like home to them. They can relax, cook food, and move about as they choose.

Speaking of the guest house, we are so thankful for the new building! However, there are still many things needed there. Right now it is basically an empty building, so we need furniture and accessories, both for the guests and for Pastor Sei Lal and his family. Everyone currently sleeps on the floor, and there are no tables, chairs, or any real furniture to speak of.

Urgent Needs

Items urgently needed at the guest house include:

- Double Beds (2) @ \$300 ea.
- Single Beds (3) @ \$200 ea.
- Desk (5) @ \$65 ea.
- Furniture Set (1) @ \$450
 - 1 coffee table, 4 single chairs, 1 double chair for main room
- Mattress Sets (5) @ \$300 ea.
 - mattress, sheets, pillows, mosquito nets, etc.

All of the furniture, beds, desks, etc., are made from hardwood and are custom built in Kalaymyo by experienced carpenters. This kind of furniture lasts for many years.

If you can help with any of these items, or any other items not listed here (ask us for more information), please let us know!

Thank you and God bless you!

September Trip Report

Our trip last month was a great success. There were two main purposes for our trip. The first purpose was to conduct discipleship training for church leaders in northwest Myanmar. This has been planned since our previous trip in December 2018.

The second purpose developed over the summer months, after we were contacted by James Kim, the leader of a profound new ministry called "Lost Story."

The purpose of the Lost Story ministry, according to their website at <https://www.loststory.world>, is:

LOST STORY *"...we are convinced that the divine power of Jesus, today and now, is cinematically changing lives, towns, villages and people groups. Our mission is to find these often hidden or lost stories and make them known throughout modern Christianity for the ultimate purpose of deeply inspiring others to live out the great commission."*

James and his wife, Jenny, contacted us after checking out our Facebook page. They wanted more information about MyHope, as James had previously visited Myanmar and had a strong desire to help there.

Over the summer we got to know each other better, and James offered to bring his video team to Myanmar to shoot video in support of our work—especially the coffee project and the widows' home.

Of course, we were very excited about his offer! We had previously sought to have professional quality videos produced for MyHope, but the cost and effort involved was always too high. James, however, offered his team's services to us as a ministry, **free of charge**. Praise God!



Video Team: James Kim, Eli Cho, Mike Choi

We finally met the Lost Story video team of James Kim, Elizabeth Cho, and “Hawaii” Mike Choi in person at the Seoul/Inchon airport. They had flown there from Los Angeles, CA. Actually, Eli flew all the way from her home in Argentina, met the rest of the team in LA, and then flew with them to Seoul/Inchon airport. From there we all traveled together to Yangon, Myanmar. We were joined in Yangon by our friend Kenneth Heng from Singapore, who has been a great help and supporter of our work in the past.

James, Mike, and Eli were so wonderful! We never know how people will react when they visit Myanmar for the first time, but these three were amazing. James had been there before, but this was the first time for Mike and Eli. They all had positive attitudes, they loved the food and the culture, and of course, they fell in love with Palal and Kikim.

We did not have much time in Yangon, but we did spend one day visiting the Shwedagon Pagoda and the Bogyoke Aung San market. Then it was on to northwest Myanmar for a week of hard work!

The amount of effort they invested in shooting and producing the videos was nothing short of amazing. They risked life and limb to travel up to two remote villages in the mountains. The so-called roads up the mountain were mostly just wide muddy paths cut into the hillsides. It was still the monsoon season at that time, and the roads were marked by

knee-deep mud, watery ruts, and treacherous drop-offs. At one point a landslide had taken out much of the “road” and they were forced to navigate around that, being careful not to fall off the ledge into the deep ravine below.

Coming back down the mountains was just as dangerous, if not more so. Returning from one of the villages, it became pitch dark when they were only about half-way down. There were no street lights or lamps to illuminate the muddy path. So with only the dim headlights on their motorcycles they carefully made their way down.

Unfortunately, the skies then opened up with a drenching downpour that lasted over an hour. This turned the already muddy path into a treacherous river of slimy mud, making an already dangerous ride into a life-threatening journey. One wrong turn of the handlebars and it would have meant careening down the side of the mountain into the deep jungle.

Along the way they also had to deal with broken chains, defective ball bearings, and running out of gas—and many times these happened during heavy downpours.

In spite of all those difficulties and more, James, Eli, and Mike took it all in stride, treating their time and efforts as a great adventure for the Kingdom of God—which it was! And we never once heard a word of complaint out of any of them.



Strolling through the Shwedagon Pagoda complex



Navigating a landslide

The results of their herculean efforts are astounding, exceeding our best and wildest imaginings. It may be that by the time this newsletter is published we will have posted the videos on the Internet. If so, the links to the videos will be on our website, Facebook page, and in the email that accompanies the newsletter.

We are forever grateful to James and his team for their excellent work, but even more for their faithfulness to King Jesus and His people. We loved getting to know them, and we look forward to working with them again sometime in the future.

Discipleship Training

While James and his team were out risking their lives and limbs, MaryAnn and Chuck spent several very enjoyable days teaching various subjects to many different people.

The first couple of days were spent teaching on baptism and the Lord’s Supper to the young people of Hope Theological Seminary. Then on Friday and



Sharing breakfast together

Saturday, over 120 pastors, elders, and women leaders gathered at Namihan Church for a weekend of teaching on discipleship and church leadership.

The teaching was well received, and the women especially appreciated the break-out teaching session by MaryAnn held at the Hope Preschool building.

On Sunday afternoon, MaryAnn and Chuck had the honor and privilege of baptizing seven young people in a nearby stream, in the presence of many witnesses—including several children from a nearby farm who gathered to watch this strange ceremony.

After James and his team left for home, Chuck and MaryAnn stayed for several more days.

Hope Boarding School

Back in Yangon we were able to spend some quality time with the Hope Boarding School students, getting reacquainted with the older students and meeting the new students for the first time.

MaryAnn, especially, spent time playing with the children, which they love more than anything. They don't get a lot of time to play during the school year,



Baptizing young believers in a nearby stream

so this playing is very precious to them.

We loved our time in Myanmar, and of course we thought the time was much too short. However, we are already in the planning stages for the next trip, in March of 2020., which we share about in the next section.

March 2020 Trip

Our next trip is going to be great!

The highlight of the visit will be our bi-annual Kuki Christian Conference, held on the grounds of Namihan Christian Church in Tamu, Sagaing, Myanmar.

The conference is a time for Christians from all denominations to come together for worship, fellowship, preaching, and teaching. There will be lots of special music by individuals, groups, and our own choir.

A highlight of the next convention will be the attendance of our Hope Boarding School students! This will be the first time our current students will be able to attend the convention. They will perform several musical numbers for the attendees, including cultural dances.

The conference will last from Friday evening, March 6th through Sunday evening, March 8th. Food will be provided to all who attend.

This conference, which will be the eighth Kuki Christian Conference, is an important time for the Christians in northwest Myanmar. In past years we have seen strong denominational barriers

broken down, friendships renewed, enemies reconciled, and even new churches formed, all as a result of the Holy Spirit working through these meetings.

At our previous conference in 2018, Palal requested that "20 people come from America" and "2,000 Christians come from Myanmar" so that we will match the number of the year, 2020.

We don't have twenty people lined up to go with us quite yet, so if you are interested in this life-changing opportunity, please let us know!

This is not an easy trip, and it won't be like going on a vacation! The travel is grueling, the accommodations are not the best, and the food takes some getting used to for most Americans. However, all of these things pale in comparison to the blessings received and the friendships made. If you think you are up to the challenge, then by all means, come with us!

We will visit Hope Boarding School, the New Hope Prison Outreach, the East/West Garden, the New Pathway Home, and more. You will see and experience the amazing work being done by Palal, Kikim, and all of the staff and volunteers of MyHope. You will meet and fellowship with believers from all over northwest Myanmar. Some of them will travel great distances on dangerous journeys to be there, and it is such a great blessing for them to meet believers from the West who love them enough to travel around the world to visit them.

If you are interested in going, or knowing more, MaryAnn can answer all of your questions. Call her at 217-415-9187, or email her at info@myanmarhope.org and she will get back with you right away.

Even if you can't go, your prayers can, and we really need your prayers during our trips. The enemy does not want



An image from the 2018 Kuki Christian Conference at Namihan Christian Church

Christians to be united. He is a master at dividing the Church, and anytime those divisions are threatened he starts working overtime. So, please, pray for us during the time of our next trip.

If you are really a prayer warrior, start praying now that denominational divisions will continue to fall, spiritual walls will continue to be broken down, hearts will be softened, and Christian leaders and congregations will be protected. Also pray that the government will not interfere with our plans.

Thank you and God bless 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.



Children of Khumnoi enjoying a Christmas meal

There are families living in rural Myanmar who are too poor to afford meat with their meals. These families live on less than a dollar a day, which is barely enough income to provide rice and vege-

tables. Meat is a luxury they simply cannot afford. However, there is one time of year when these families look forward to eating meat: at Christmas.

The church or the village will pool their resources to purchase a pig or a cow, and they will all come together on Christmas Eve for a community meal. They will sing, dance, play games, and listen to preaching all night long. On Christmas Day it will be more of the same. They will eat together until the food runs out. Unfortunately, there are families that are too poor to contribute anything towards the food, and then they feel too ashamed to join in the meal.

We think everyone should be able to partake, regardless of whether they have anything to contribute. That's why we began the "Village Christmas Meals" project to help provide the meat for their meals. That way, everyone can participate without feeling ashamed because of their extreme poverty.

Thanks to you, since 2007 dozens of villages and churches have been provided with meat at Christmastime. Last year your donations helped 77 different villages and/or churches!

This year we hope to provide meat for at least that many, but wouldn't it be wonderful if we could help even more? Would you please help us reach this goal? To provide meat for an entire Village Christmas Meal is only \$250, but anything you can afford is great.

Each year the people who receive this help are so incredibly thankful. They are amazed that people like you know about them and that you love them enough to share your blessings with them. And when we share our blessings with the poor it makes our own Christmas that much better!

Will you please help a poor village or church in rural Myanmar this Christmas? And will you share this request with your friends, relatives, small group members, Sunday School class members, and anyone else you can think of? Please send a check to our address below, or give online at our secure donation page (see link at bottom).

Do you have Questions? Call Kevin Hughs at 217-306-5567 or MaryAnn Cherry at 217-415-9187, or email us at info@myanmarhope.org.

Thank you, and God bless you!

Church Rebuilding

We finally were able to construct a new building for Homalin Christian Church! After many years of patiently waiting their turn, the congregation happily dedicated their new building in September.

The blind widow, Ms. Vei Kho Lhing, donated her property to the church before she died, hoping for a new building. I know that she is rejoicing in Heaven to see that her wish has been fulfilled!



Ms. Vei Kho Lhing

Thank you to everyone who has donated funds to help us build this new church building. It will be well used by all of our congregations in Upper Homalin for regional gatherings.



Palal preaching at the dedication service

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



MyHope Newsletter

Fall 2019

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by addressing their spiritual, physical, emotional and educational needs**

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Draught Relief provided by IDES and You

This summer was a time of severe drought in northwest Myanmar, and many families and even entire villages lost their rice crops. In their hunger and desperation they reached out to us for help, and we in turn reached out to you and to International Disaster Emergency Services.

IDES responded with a grant of \$7,000 and several of you also responded with donations. We are still distributing food,

and the hungry people who are receiving it are extremely thankful.

We will need to help them more, as they do not have any seeds to plant for the next harvest, so these families really are in a desperate situation. Please pray for them, and please help if you can.



Pastor Jang Sei of Shwepyita praises God for food!



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