

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

Spring/Summer 2024

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Palal's 2024 Trip Report

"My 57 Days of Mission Journey in the USA"

It was a great privilege for me to visit the United States of America. It has been seven years from our last visit in 2017. It was good to reconnect with many friends and supporting churches. I am so thankful for meeting with many more new friends and churches on my trip this time. God has richly blessed my trip in many ways. I would like to share some of my experiences from visiting churches, friends, and families in 57 days. I hope you will enjoy reading my trip report.



Kevin, Caren, and Noah Hughs with Palal

Before sharing my trip, first, I would like to share my deepest thanks to Chuck and MaryAnn Cherry, who are tirelessly working for MyHope and making the arrangements for my visit this time.

Second, I am very thankful to Kevin, Caren and Noah Hughs for opening their home for me during my stay in Springfield, IL. Caren made many contacts for my presentation to individuals, small groups, families, and churches in the Midwest. They also made some plans for meals with many friends. Noah Hughs helped Solomon and me to get around in the town.



Chuck and MaryAnn Cherry with Palal

Third, I feel I am in a great debt to many friends who provided for my meals. I believe I have been in all the good restaurants in Springfield! We had supper with many families: Kevin and Caren, Luke and Laura Crater, Phil and Saira Silas, the Mayfields, etc. Thank you all of you for your love, and all the food you provided for me.

The Journey Begins

I left Yangon on February 21st, 2024 and arrived at Spanaway on February 22nd. I stayed with Chuck and MaryAnn for seven days. Chuck, MaryAnn and I traveled to Tennessee on February 28th. We stayed with Tim and Mary Fern Philippe in Johnson City for three days.

Johnson City, Tennessee

Mary Fern, who is one of our board members, drove Chuck and I to the Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park Area and the Watauga Fort reconstruction. I learned about the interesting historical background of this area during the American Revolutionary War. On our way home, we drove by the Milligan

University campus and Immanuel School of Religion campus.

Johnson University

From Johnson City, we headed to Johnson University in Knoxville, Tennessee, where Solomon was attending his freshman year. On March 2nd, Chuck, MaryAnn, Solomon, and I had supper with Philip and Nancy Eubanks at their house on the Johnson University campus. Philip's father was a past president of Johnson University, and was the second-longest serving college president in American history! He and Phillip were and are instrumental in making sure that Johnson University remains on a very solid financial foundation for many years to come.

Philip made arrangements with Professor Kenny Woodhull for me to speak in his class. I give my thanks to Philip, and I am so thankful to Professor Kenny Woodhull for allowing me to speak to his ***Intercultural Communication*** class.

I spoke on the challenges of poverty, political unrest, conflict, and the dominance of religion in Myanmar. I also spoke on ministry strategies to address these problems through education, leadership development, hunger relief, etc.



Speaking at Johnson University

I also shared with them how God is directing us to do His mission and His intervention with His miracles in the mission field during this time of hunger relief. They all loved hearing our testimonies and about the work we do in Myanmar.

Woodlawn Christian Church

On Sunday, March 3rd, we attended Woodlawn Christian Church's worship service. Woodlawn chose Myanmar Hope for their GlobalFest offering in 2023. They donated the funds for nine church rebuilding projects. With those funds we completed seven churches in 2023; one church, Homalin Christian Church, is still under construction. At the last one, Bokkan Christian Church, we are still waiting for the local political situation to calm down enough to begin the construction.

During the two worship services we had a conversation on stage in the style of an interview. I can say that Woodlawn is so generous in giving to this mission. This church loves praying for and supporting many ministries, both locally and beyond the United States. It was a great blessing to be able to share with them the work of Myanmar Hope Christian Mission.



Speaking at Woodlawn Christian Church

Bethel Myanmar Christian Church

On Sunday evening, March 3rd, Solomon and I had the opportunity to spend time with Pastor Mung, his family, and his congregation.

Pastor Mung invited me to preach at their worship service. They hold worship services in the evening each Sunday. Solomon usually attends their worship service, as they use the Burmese language in their church. He also sometimes plays the guitar during their singing service.

Flying to Illinois

On Saturday, March 7th, Don Schwanke flew his private plane to Knoxville and picked up Solomon and myself. Then we flew to Springfield, Illinois. We are so thankful to Don for spending his valuable time resources to fly us from Tennessee to Illinois. What a great blessing!

During our time in Springfield we stayed at the home of Kevin and Caren Hughs. They made us feel so much at home, and we are so grateful for their hospitality!



Don Schwanke with Palal and Solomon, preparing to fly to Illinois

Bartonville Christian Church

On March 10th, Kevin, Caren, Solomon, and I drove to Bartonville Christian Church. They welcomed us warmly and we really enjoyed their worship service. After praise and worship I shared about some of our projects in detail. They loved hearing about our ministry and they love supporting us.

At the end of my presentation Kevin also shared his experiences from his time in Myanmar, seeing all the works we do while he was visiting us there.

After the church service we had a fellowship lunch at Fairview Farms Restaurant, with over twenty people from the church attending.

Women's Bible Study

On Tuesday, March 12th, Solomon and I attended the Tuesday AM Bible Study group at West Side Christian Church, which Caren Hughs leads. There were a great number of friends at the class. I shared the ministry of Myanmar Hope Christian Mission. This group has been praying for and supporting this ministry for many years, almost since the very beginning.

Christian Church of Witt

On Sunday, March 3rd, Luke Crater took Solomon and I to Witt IL to attend church. Christian Church of Witt has been a faithful supporting church for our ministry since we started Myanmar Hope. I loved seeing their new fellowship hall, and the unity they all displayed in their fellowship. We had a wonderful potluck meal before I spoke. They have always prepared a meal every time we have visited them, and we are very thankful.

They may be small in numbers but they are great at doing missions! After the potluck meal I did a presentation of our ministry update and the ongoing projects. They loved hearing the ministry update, and they are very faithful and so generous in supporting Myanmar Hope Christian Mission.

After my presentation, Luke also shared some of his experiences from when he visited Myanmar, and he gave the explanation on the Hope Boarding School Boys' Dorm rebuilding project.


Speaking at Witt Christian Church in the new Fellowship Hall

West Side Christian Church

West Side Christian Church in Springfield IL is the church I attended when I lived in America from 2007 to 2009. Chuck and MaryAnn were members of West Side Christian Church at that time. I participated in the prayer meeting every Saturday morning, and I always shared the needs of our people in Myanmar and our ministry to the prayer team members. In Myanmar, we have always prayed for WSCC, for its growth spiritually,

physically and in missions.

Eddie Lowen, who was the lead minister when I attended, and who is still the lead minister, brought me on stage and introduced me to the congregation. I had a few minutes to share about our mission and I prayed for West Side Christian Church.

It was a great blessing to stand in front of the congregation and share about the ministry and the great need to rebuild the HBS Boys' dorm.

Lake Side Christian Church

On March 18th our good friend Thad Kaylor took me to Randy Matthews' house, where his small group from Lake Side Christian Church met for Bible study and fellowship. There were about fifteen people in our meeting. I shared about Myanmar Hope and about some of our future projects.



At the Matthews Home

One of the ladies asked me what my current need is. My laptop did not work when I tried to show my presentation. One of them said, "The current need is a new laptop". Mr. Greg Shratton said that he has a new laptop, which he purchased for his company a few years ago. He said he does not use it anymore, and he offered me his laptop if I want to use it. Thad and I went to Greg's house and he gave me his HP laptop. Praise God!

Springfield Christian School

On March 19th I was able to share the work of Myanmar Hope Christian Mission to the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students from Springfield Christian School.



Eddie Lowen and Palal speaking at West Side Christian Church

I asked several questions about the country of Myanmar and about the work of Myanmar Hope.

Mr. Steve Stewart's grandson Cale (Josh and Bethany Spears's son) could answer most of my questions about the country of Myanmar and our ministry works. I really appreciated that, and I believe he learned many stories from his grandfather, Steve, who was the missions chairman at West Side Christian Church for many years, and who visited Myanmar with his daughter, Mary Stewart, several years ago.

WSCC High School Missions

On March 20th I attended the High School Mission worship service. I had about 25 minutes to share about Myanmar Hope Christian Mission and our work in Myanmar. I also showed some pictures and they seemed to love seeing them.



WSCC High School Group

Travelling to Brook, Indiana

On March 23rd, Don Schwanke, his wife Kim, and Don's assistant flew me to the Wetland Airport in Indiana in his private airplane.

I am very thankful to Don and Kim for their sacrifices to the LORD and their love for serving me in travelling from Knoxville, Tennessee to Springfield IL on March 7th, and from Springfield, Illinois to Wetland IN on March 23rd.

Dr. Chauncey Lattimer Jr. picked me up at the Wetland Airport, and we stopped by Prairie State Christian Service Camp (PSCSC). We spent a few hours at the camp. It brought back memories of when my wife, Kikim, my son Solomon, and I were the camp missionaries in 2008. We really enjoyed the camp, and we were very blessed to be a missionary family at the camp.

First Christian Church

On March 24th I attended worship service at First Christian Church of Brook IN, where Chauncey is the lead minister. Chauncy is also a member of Myanmar Hope's Board of Directors.

Chauncey interviewed me about our ministry and how we operate it during the on-going bad situation.



Don and Kim Schwanke, Dr. Chauncey Lattimer Jr, Don's Assistant, and Palal at the Wetland Airport

After church service we had fellowship with some of the congregation in the fellowship hall, and then we had a Question and Answer time.

Onarga Christian Church

On March 25th I attended a meeting of Elders and Ministers from the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ who have joined together in the mission of the Prairies State Christian Service Camp.

They first held a business meeting at Onarga Christian Church, then after the business meeting they offered me time to share about our ministry.

I shared about the many different works that we do in Myanmar, and I gave them an update on the current situation in the country. Afterward there was time for questions and answers. They said they will be praying for our ministry in the future.

Lake Side Christian Church

Back in Springfield IL, on April 3rd, Kevin and Caren Hughs and I gave an update about Myanmar Hope to Lead Minister Jon Morrissette, the Mission Team members, some of the elders, and some other friends from Lake Side Christian Church.

Mrs. Sunny Boatman, who has visited Myanmar and experienced the Kuki Christian Convention in Tamu, set up the tables with Kuki traditional cloths and displayed many items from Myanmar on the tables. She also printed an information sheet, which gave the congregation some details about our work. We had a great time with all of them.

On April 4th Kevin, Caren and I had a second opportunity to present the work of Myanmar Hope to more of the congregation of Lake Side Christian Church. Lakeside has been supporting MyHope for many years and they continuously pray for and support the work. LSCC is very generous in giving to the needy people in Myanmar!

Tyler and Susan Cormeny Open House

On April 5th Tyler and Susan Cormeny opened their home and hosted an Open House.

I am so thankful to them for their love and generosity, and for organizing this Open House for me in the beautiful barn located on their family's property.

They also had cards printed with Myanmar Hope's logo and a QR barcode for friends who would like to donate funds for Myanmar Hope. There were over fifty people at the Open House.

I felt so blessed to see and visit with many old and new friends. We had such a wonderful gathering and a time of fellowship. I shared an update about our ministry, and also shared about the need to build a new Boys' Dorm as soon as possible.



The Cormeny's Barn

Tyler and Susan provided many different kinds of delicious food for us, and they did many other wonderful things. I can't say thank you enough for their love, prayers, support, and hosting the Open House!

Mason City Christian Church

On April 7th Kevin, Caren, Noah,



Elders and Ministers Meeting at Onarga Christian Church

and I went to Mason City Christian Church in Mason City IL. Lead Minister Dr. Mike Nichols, his Associate Pastor Jordan, and the church's mission team welcomed us warmly.



Off-road fun with friends



Palal and Solomon with the Cormenys

We made the connection with Mason City Christian Church through Adam and Annie Hamerlinck, who visited Myanmar and attended the Kuki Christian Convention in 2020. They love Myanmar Hope, and they introduced us to Mason City Christian Church for a mission partnership. Since then, MCCC has been a very generous and faithful supporter of the work!

MCCC has been supporting our Elephant-foot Yam Cultivation Project since 2021. We helped 44 families in five villages in 2021-2022. Due to the civil war we are not able to continue the agricultural project at this time.

However, they generously allow their donations to be used for hunger relief. With their donations and with other Myanmar Hope funds we have provided over 70,000 meals to refugees from thirty different villages.

After the church service we had lunch, and then I gave a presentation at the worship center. Afterwards there was a time for questions and answers. I had an opportunity to share about our ministry in detail.

After our presentation, Dr. Mike, Pr. Jordan, Kevin, Caren, Noah, and I had a meeting at the minister's office.

We were so encouraged by our meeting with Dr. Mike and Pastor Jordan. They shared with us that they will continue praying for and supporting Myanmar Hope in the future.



Palal with Pastor Mike Nichols of Mason City Christian Church

Best of the Northwest Spring Art Show

Back in Washington state, Chuck, MaryAnn and I went to the 35th Annual Best of the Northwest Spring Art Show, organized by the Northwest Art Alliance, from April 12th to April 14th.

Chuck, Myanmar Hope's Director, has God-given artistic talents. He is very talented in watercolor painting.

We had two days for the art show, and I had a chance to see many artistic works from many different people. This is my first time attending the Art Show. I learned that they all have different talents: painting, wood carving, weaving fabric, photography, jewelry making, glass work, etc.

Conclusion

I included some pictures with this report. I wish I could show all of the pictures with all of the wonderful people I met and interacted with during my time in America.

I would like to request you all to join us in prayer, and let the Holy Spirit lead us in peace.

I can surely say that we had a very great and successful trip. We received enough donations to start the boys' dormitory rebuilding project. We will be posting updates on this project. We are continuing to pray that all of the

construction costs will be covered.

Thank you and God bless you all,

Dr. Nehkholal (Palal) Khongsai

HBS Boys' Dorm Construction Update

A lot has happened since Palal made it home safely in mid-April! We will try to update you with the progress, including some photos, but if you want to stay up-to-date on a regular basis we encourage you to follow our Facebook page. The FB page gets the highest amount of traffic (views and interactions) of any of our social media outlets, including our own website. Therefore, since we have a limited amount of time to keep things updated, we focus on the FB page as much as possible.



Palal and Kikim Khongsai

Ok, there is one thing we need to share about the construction project that happened the Monday morning before Palal left Washington state.

Palal's visit in Washington, Tennessee, Illinois, and Indiana was very fruitful. By Sunday evening we determined that we had enough available funds to at least get the old building demolished and removed, and to put in a basic foundation, prior to the start of the rainy season in late May, early June. It was critical that we get at least that much started on time, and this was the main reason that Palal needed to get home early. It takes time to arrange all of the required permits, obtain all the necessary signatures, vet the construction companies, sign contracts, and so on. All of that had to happen before even removing the first bricks from the old building.

On Monday morning we received a phone call from one of our long-time friends and ministry partners. After hearing Palal's presentation, and after much prayer, they decided to make a very substantial donation toward the project. We cannot say who, or how much, but it is enough that we can complete the ground floor of the new building, and also upgrade the foundation to a much more robust and long-lasting solution. Praise God!

After a grueling three day trip, Palal made it safely home and got right to work collecting signatures of all of the people on the block. They all had to agree to allow the construction project before anything else could happen. Unfortunately, several of the property owners on the block no longer live in the area. Palal and Kikim had to travel around a bit to get all of the signatures.

He later told me that sometimes it takes several months for people to get everyone to agree and to sign, but the were able to get all of the signatures in one day! Again, praise God!

After the signatures were in hand, they started the HBS students working on the destruction of the old building. He also hired some workers to help, but the majority of the labor was done by our hard-working students! At a certain point, some construction vehicles had to be brought in to remove the larger parts and the debris.

It was quite evident during the demolition why this project was such a priority. The old wooden pillars holding up the walls, the second floor, and the roof, were almost entirely rotted through in many places. It was amazing to us that the building had not already collapsed under the strain, but again, we praise and thank God for His protection and providence.



An example of the rotten structure in the old building.

Next, the old foundation had to be removed using heavy equipment, and by the time that was finished a couple of weeks had already passed. During this time Palal was also diligently traveling around Yangon, scoping out other construction projects that would be similar to the new boys' dorm. He was talking with construction companies, asking many questions, and getting a lot of information about how to proceed. He was also talking to architectural firms during this time, and he finally decided on the best kind of foundation and the construction company to use.



Removing rubble and debris



Removing the old foundation



New School Year Admission Day

Also, after the old foundation was removed, the ground needed to be tested to determine how much of a load it would be able to handle. This process itself took several days. It was determined that the ground would be able to sustain the new building, and that we could using construction piles as part of the foundation.

The pile drivers for the foundation are very large and heavy so, once again, our HBS students worked very hard to fill and lay several layers of sandbags across the whole area to give the machines a solid and stable foundation upon which to work.

As of the time of this writing, a portion of the piles have been delivered, the heavy equipment is in place, and the piles are being installed.

The rains have started, but now the majority of the time-sensitive work has been done, and the heavy rains won't negatively affect what has already been accomplished. Praise God!

Also, the HBS students are now ready to start their next school year, and all of them have been successfully registered at the government schools.

We are not publishing the news about the new school year online because it is still too dangerous to do so. There are groups who target families and individuals for doing any kind of business with the current government, and we do not want to put our students and staff in any more danger than they already are.

Remember that the military conscription laws are still in place and are still being enforced. We thank God that none of our students have been picked up for military service, and we pray that God will continue to protect everyone.

Thank you so much for your prayers and love gifts for HBS, and also for all of the other projects that are currently ongoing through MyHope.

Again, to stay up to date on all of these projects, please follow our FB page, and check in regularly for updates. Thank you!



Inspecting the piling work



HBS Students helping to fill and lay sandbags

2023 Financial Report

We have included a picture of our 2023 Financial Report, with actual dollar amounts hidden. We cannot publish dollar amounts for the safety and security of our team inside of Myanmar. Most of our supporting churches have received a version of this report with the amounts not hidden.

If you represent a supporting church and did not receive a copy, or if you have any questions about the report, please contact MaryAnn Cherry at 217-415-9187, or email us at

info@myanmarhope.org.

Thank you again, and may God bless you and keep you!

Chuck and MaryAnn Cherry



Equipment for driving the piles into the ground



Delivering the piles

Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.

CONFIDENTIAL ** Financial Report for 2023 ** CONFIDENTIAL

Income		
Starting Balance		15.4%
Donations Income		84.6%
	Total Income:	**100.0%**

Expenditures		
Special Projects		
Hope Theological Seminary - Land Purchase		3.2%
Agriculture Projects (Coffee & Yams)		1.3%
Church Construction Projects		19.2%
Clean Water Projects		0.4%
Disaster Relief		1.6%
Medical Relief		0.8%
Village Christmas Meals (140 Villages)		7.4%
Civil War / Hunger Relief		14.8%
	Total Special Projects:	**45.5%**
Ongoing Projects		
East/West Garden		0.3%
Family, Widow, and Disabled Support		8.1%
HBS / Student Support		12.8%
Hope Preschool		0.7%
Leadership Training / Education / Books		0.1%
New Hope Prison Ministry		0.4%
New Pathway Home		3.5%
Pastor Support		6.4%
Travel Expenses		1.0%
Yangon HQ Operating Budget		5.6%
	Total Ongoing Projects:	**38.9%**
Administrative		
Accounting and Legal Fees		0.9%
Office Expenses		0.1%
Telecommunications		0.2%
Bank Charges and Wire Fees		0.8%
Hardware, Software, and Online Presence		0.2%
Postage		0.9%
Printing and Publishing		0.4%
Fundraising Expenses		0.4%
Miscellaneous		0.1%
	Total Administrative:	**4.1%**
	Total Expenditures:	**88.5%**

Cash on Hand 12/31/2023		
Checking Account		10.0%
Savings Account		1.5%
	Balance Forward:	**11.5%**
	Total Expenses + Balance Forward:	**100.00%**





HBS Students helping to remove the rubble and debris from the old building



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

Place Stamp Here

Place address label here

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

https://myanmarhope.org | info@myanmarhope.org | facebook.com/myanmarhope

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"Goodbye for now" at SEATAC airport





The pile driver machine had to be delivered at night because it completely blocked the road in front of HBS

Most Pressing Needs:

Boys' Dorm Rebuilding ..... Any amount
Hunger Relief..... Any amount
Monthly Sponsors:
- HBS Students $50
- Widows.....$50
- Individuals/Families/Disabled.....$30
- Pastors/Elders.....$60
- General Fund ..... Any amount
- Solomon's Education ..... Any amount
- Yangon HQ Budget ..... Any amount
- Hope Theo. Seminary ..... Any amount

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

- or donate online -

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