

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

Fall 2024

Greetings in the Name of the Lord



[The following pages contain Palal and Kikim's ministry update, covering the timeframe of January, 2024, through the beginning of November, 2024.]

Thank you! God is so good and faithful to Myanmar Hope Christian Mission. Praise God for His many wonderful blessings, and thank you, all of you, for your many prayers and your generous love gifts. We could not do this work without your partnership. We hope you enjoy reading this report. You will certainly share in all of the blessings and the rewards that our Lord Jesus will distribute because of this work on that great and glorious day. Hallelujah!

- Palal & Kikim Khongsai
November 11, 2024

Hope Boarding School

Class of 2024-25

Since we started HBS in 2010 we have raised one hundred forty-six (146) students from forty-five villages in northwest Myanmar.

Many of them have now graduated from high school and have gone on to good jobs, locally and in other Asian countries. Now they have jobs and can support their families. Praise God! Thank you to everyone for supporting our students.

In the current academic year 2024-2025, which started in June, we have forty-eight students. There are twenty-eight girls and twenty boys. These were chosen from the poorest of the poor in twenty-six different villages. The elders and pastors in those villages chose the students who were from the poorest families, but who could also handle the rigors of living at Hope Boarding School.

All our current students have done very well in their exams each month. Most of them got the "A" level, which is the highest level for their exam results.

We can say that this current class of students is one of our best yet, and the government teachers tell us that our students are the best. We are very proud of our students!



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This is doubly amazing because these current students were out of school for four(!) years because of the COVID lockdowns and the civil unrest. These students and their families have experienced first-hand what it means to not be able to get an education, and they are very motivated to do their best and get an education while there is an open window for them to do so.

New Well for HBS

Our old well was blocked with mud inside the pipe and did not work anymore. Since there is no city water supply in our area, we needed a new well.

We drilled the new well at the front right outside the girls' dormitory. We began the work on May 6th, 2024, and finished it on May 8th. It was drilled to a depth of 610 feet, and it took us two full days for drilling. This well is now providing water for all of our HBS students, staff, and also Palal's family.

New Toilet and Water Tank for the Girls

We have twenty-eight girl students this year. They had only two bathrooms available to them, and it was becoming a problem for the girls. We added a new toilet for them, between the dorm wall and the fence wall, so now they have three bathrooms in total.

Renovated the Fourth Floor Ceiling

The edge of the roof above the fourth floor was broken in several places, and pigeons came in and laid their eggs on the ceiling tiles. Also, pieces of the ceiling fell apart when we had a strong wind storm. To fix this, we took out the old ceiling, fixed the breaks in the roof edge, and reinstalled new ceiling tiles.

A Temporary Kitchen

The old boys' dormitory was the location of the kitchen for HBS. It was located on the ground floor of the old building. After the old building was demolished, we needed a new place to cook meals for the students and staff.



Constructing a temporary kitchen and dining hall

We constructed an awning at the front side of the girls' dorm building. We used corrugated steel for the roof and left the walls open. We use this for the kitchen and for the dining hall, with the boys and girls taking turns eating.

A Temporary House for the Boys

We have twenty boys at HBS. Before we demolished the old boys' dorm, we leased our neighbor's yard and built a temporary house for our boy students. Our three staff members, Mrs. Lhing Kho Lam, Mr. Khai Kho Sat, and Mr. Mang Kol Thang are cooking for our students. They also live in a room in the boys' dorm.

Mr. Pa Sat is our security guard, and he also does laundry for our boy students.

New Boys' Dormitory

One of our main projects in 2024 is to build the new boys' dormitory. We shared the great need for this project when I visited the USA in the Spring of this year. Thanks to God and His Church, enough funds were raised to start the project.

We began the paper work for the construction permits on April 22nd. Demolition on the old building began on April 24th. We started installing the foundation piling on May 22nd, and finished on June 8th. There are 122 pile points.

We continued digging the earth for the pile caps, for the ground and plinth beams. We started on June 11th and finished all the plinth beams for the building foundation on September 27th.

Finally, we were able to pour the concrete for the ground-floor slab on November 5th. Praise God!

It is our hope to have the first two floors completed and ready to move in some time early in the Spring of 2025.

Please visit our Facebook page to see photos of the construction progress so far, and to follow the progress as we move toward completion. No facebook account is necessary.

facebook.com/myanmarhope

CCTV Installation at HBS

For our students' safety, we replaced some of our old CCTV cameras and installed some new cameras for our boys' dorm. We installed eight cameras: three cameras at the boys' dorm and five cameras at our girls' dorm. After the boys' dorm was demolished, the cameras were relocated to other positions. After the new building is ready to move in, the cameras will be repositioned again.

Hope Preschool

We currently have twenty students at HPS, eight girls and twelve boys. We had a difficult time deciding whether we should open the school or not, as it is in the middle of the war zone, and not far from the army camp.



Hope Preschool staff and students

We asked the parents before the beginning of the school year in June whether or not we should open the school this year. They all requested that we keep the school open, so we did. God continues to protect our students and staff from any attacks in our community.

Church Building Project

With remaining funds from Woodlawn Christian Church's GlobalFest Funds we continued the construction of the guest house and parsonage at Homalin Church. We performed the dedication service on June 30th, 2024.



The new building at Homalin

Pastor Hawl Ja Pao and his family from Homalin Christian Church live in the new building. Ministers and congregation members from our churches can stay at the new guest house when they come to Homalin for a medical checkup, and the new building is used for minister's meetings and other necessary purposes. This is a great blessing for all of the churches in the Homalin area!



Dedication Service

New Pathway Home

We have sixteen residents and three staff members at our New Pathway Home for Widows. The staff cares for them patiently and helps them with all of their needs.

They all love the New Pathway Home and say it feels like living in their own homes.



The widows giving thanks for gifts received

The local community, both Christians and non-Christians in Tamu, love our residents. People from the community, as part of celebrating their own birthdays, donate funds and food and supplies. These include sweet bread, teas, coffee, and special meals for the residents to enjoy.

It is difficult to care for the residents because of their ages and medical conditions. We cannot take them to a doctor anymore because the doctors have fled the area. The medical clinic is closed most of the time, and it is very dangerous to travel about.

One of our local pastors was able to get some training on how to administer medicines and do basic medical care, and he was able to purchase medicines and supplies to keep at the NPH campus.

We were so blessed that we could purchase the adjacent lot next to the New Pathway Home in April 2024. We will use this land in the future to expand the operations of the New Pathway Home so that we can help even more poor widows.

Please pray for our widows, our staff, and the families living at New Pathway Home. Thank you for your ongoing support of this important ministry.

Hope Theological Seminary

We started Hope Theological Seminary in June of 2019 in order to train young people for leadership in our churches and communities.

At that time we used Namihan Christian Church and land for classrooms, library, and activities.

In 2023 we purchased some land, and then in 2024 an adjacent lot became available, and we were able to purchase that. Now the total area of the seminary land is 14,364 sq ft.

Our next goal is to build the campus for Hope Seminary when the time is right. We do not know yet when that will be, but God knows, and when the time is right He will provide the resources for us.

Pastor and Elder Support

We are providing some financial support for thirty-seven pastors and elders from thirty-five churches.

The local churches are small and cannot pay enough for their pastors to support their families and still be able to do the work of ministry. Because we help them with financial aid, they can better serve the local churches.

The civil war has caused our congregations to be in great fear and many of them left their homes for oth-

er areas. Our pastors and elders go with their congregations in order to stay with them and minister to them.

We have organized our churches in four regional groups: Khampat Township, Tamu Township, Homalin Township, and Jangnoi Tract. Each region has one pastor who serves as an administrator for the region. Currently those are:

- Pr. Hawljapao
- Pr. Seingam
- Pr. Jamlet
- Pr. Lalginhao



Our four regional pastors

Disaster Relief

Typhoon Yagi hit central Myanmar on September 10th, 2024. It caused a lot of flooding across the region, leaving death and destruction in its wake.

Thanks to a grant from I.D.E.S. (International Disaster Emergency Services) we were able to spend six days bringing much-needed relief to some of the hardest hit areas.

Our relief team distributed rice, noodles, cooking oil, and drinking water to 572 families (2,246 individuals) in five villages in Taungoo Township and Tatgone Township.

With funds received from I.D.E.S. and also our local churches, we were able to help many flood victims. All of the affected families were from the Burmese Tribe, and all are Buddhists. These families had never experienced this kind of flooding in their area before and, more tragically, most, if not all, had never heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In every village, before we distributed the food and supplies, we shared with them about the love of God. We also taught them how to say, "HALLELUJAH!"

We shared that these foods came to them because God loves them. For many of them this was the first time they ever heard about the Living God and His love.

The list of Villages and Families:

Tuangoo Township:

- Pya Tuang Village—107 families (430 people)

Tat Gone Township:

- Tayet Oak Village—123 families (487 people)
- Tapye Gone Village—56 families (185 people)
- Gyo Gone Village—55 families (220 people)



Distributing Flood Relief to villages in central Myanmar



Palal discussing relief efforts with a Buddhist monk

- Kan Gyi Village - : 231 families (924 people)

Twenty-nine of these families lost their homes and land; two elderly men died from the flood waters.

New Hope Prison Outreach



Bibles for Prisoners

Recently we received a donation which was designated for the purchase of Bibles. Part of that donation went to Pastor Sei Lal and the New Hope Prison Outreach. NHPO is located less than a mile from the main entrance of the Mawlaikalay Prison, which currently houses about 1,500 prisoners, most of which are serving time for drug-related offenses. About 500 of the prisoners are from a Christian background.

Pastor Sei Lal purchased twenty

Burmese language Bibles, and then approached the local prison officials for permission to distribute them to the prisoners.

The officials told Pastor Sei Lal that they would not allow "even one slip of paper" into the prison. That was very disappointing.

But then the officials went on to say that since they know Pastor Sei Lal so well, and because he has helped them in the past [*see the story in our Winter/Spring 2024 edition*], that they were willing to make an exception for him, and allow him to give the Bibles to the prisoners. Praise God!

Indian Inmates Need Release

There is another problem with Indian prisoners that Pastor Sei Lal could possibly help the prison officials with.

There are several Indian inmates that have already finished their sentences. Some of them finished their sentences one or two years ago! However, they are still in custody because the prison officials cannot escort them back to the border at Tamu/Moreh due to the ongoing civil war.



Pastor Sei Lal at the NHPO campus



Mawlaikalay Prison

The opposition forces control the territory (and the road) between Mawlaikalay and Tamu, and they will shoot to kill any government officials that enter their area of control. This is why they asked Pastor Sei Lal to escort the body of a deceased Indian prisoner last year.

Pastor Sei Lal would like to escort these Indian inmates back to the border so that they can return home. They have already served their sentences, and they deserve the chance to get back to their families, whom they have not seen for years.

It would be very dangerous for Pastor Sei Lal, as some of the opposition forces might see him as cooperating with the government. They usually will kill anyone they believe to be collaborating with their enemy, the Myanmar Government. However, Pastor Sei Lal is willing to take the risk if they will allow him.

Please pray that the officials will allow him to take the prisoners back to the border with India, and pray for all of their safety if they are allowed. Thank you.

Christmas in the Prison

We have one more prayer request for the New Hope Prison Outreach, which is for us to be able to celebrate Christmas in the prison.

The last time we were able to do this was in December of 2019, before the COVID pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, followed by the civil war.

The prisoners have had very little contact with the outside world since then, and Pastor Sei Lal would love to be able to celebrate Christmas with the inmates again.

It is an extreme long-shot that the officials would allow it to happen. We approached them last year at Christmas, but they denied the request. Please pray that they would allow it to happen this year. It would truly be a miracle, but we know that our God is a God who performs miracles! Thank you, and God bless you for praying for and supporting the New Hope Prison Outreach and Pastor Sei Lal and his family.

East West Garden Farm

The fields at the East/West Garden farm have been lying fallow for several years now because of the civil war. The farm is right in the middle of the



war zone in northwest Myanmar, and it is too dangerous for our families to stay at the farm.

Also, there is no fuel for our tractors or for our water pumps, so they have been idle as well.

Pastor Jonah has been going to the farm every day to care for our small herd of cattle (about twenty), but he has to take them into the forest to forage for food.

We think the time is right to sell the cattle, and we will use the proceeds to help fund our Village Christmas Meals this year.

Once the war is over and our farm can become operational once again, we will start building up a new herd of cattle.

Please pray for Pastor Jonah's safety as he cares for the herd, and pray that we will get a good price for our cattle. Thank you.

Baptisms at Moldumphai Christian Church



Baptized into Christ!

Seven people in Moldumphai Village were baptized into Christ on November 6th, 2024. Praise God!

Village Christmas Meals

Each year at Christmas time the Christians in Myanmar come together in their villages for a time of celebration, singing, preaching, and sharing meals together. For some of the poorest congregations, this is the one time of year that the people get a chance to eat meat!



New believers at Moldumphai Christian Church

For several months leading up to Christmas, the Christians donate small amounts of rice, or money, into a common fund. Then, just before Christmas, the elders use the money to purchase a pig or a cow. Everyone pitches in with rice and vegetables, and the churches host a feast.

The people usually begin their festivities on Christmas Eve with a celebratory meal and service, then spend all night singing Christmas songs, and dancing their tribal cultural dances.

On Christmas Day they gather again for a day of celebration, singing, dancing, playing games, and preaching Gospel messages, and, of course, sharing communal meals. Christmas is the one time of year that Christians can reach out and evangelize their Buddhist neighbors without fear of reprisals or persecution by inviting them to share in their feast.

There are many people who are too poor to contribute to the communal fund, and they feel ashamed to join in the meals. However, we have always believed that Christmas is a time for EVERYONE to share in the blessings of Christ, so ever since 2007 we have tried to help as many poor villages as possible by providing the meat for their meals.

There are so many villages and churches that need our help, especially now because of the past four years of



Villagers enjoying a Christmas Meal thanks to MyHope Donors

lockdowns and civil war. The people were poor before. Now there is such widespread poverty and hunger that more villages than ever are requesting our help.

Last year, thanks to your generous donations, we distributed VCM funds to one-hundred fifty seven churches and villages. This, in spite of the fact that many of these villages were in active war zones!



Christmas in the Village

This year we believe that it is even more dangerous, and getting funds to many of these areas is extremely difficult, if not impossible. Because of this, and because of our major rebuilding project going on, we have scaled back our goal for the number of villages we hope to reach. This Christmas we believe that if we are able to reach at least fifty villages with funds for Christmas, our year will be a success.

Because of skyrocketing inflation in Myanmar* (much higher than in the USA) we need to increase the amount we are budgeting for each village or group. Since 2007 we have kept the cost for an entire VCM at $250, even as inflation has eaten away at the value of the

* According to statista.com, inflation soared from 3.64% in 2021 to 27.1% in 2023. However, these numbers do not really reflect what we hear from the people, so the reported numbers are probably lower than they actually are.



Myanmar kyat. This year, though, we need to increase the amount of funds that each village will receive. For that reason, this year each VCM will be valued at $300 instead of $250 as it has been since 2007. The average size of the groups receiving funds for VCMs is about 175 people. Each VCM provides the meat for up to four meals. So one VCM donation of $300 will provide the meat for up to **700 meals**!

By helping the poor Christians in this way they are able to invite their non-Christian neighbors to join them, and thus to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ and His Advent.

Will you help the poor in Myanmar to enjoy meat with their Christmas meals this year? A single cow now costs well over $500, and a pig can cost up to $300. However, because the groups are different sizes, we set the donation amount for a single village for VCMs at $300 (but you can give any amount).

Do you have Questions? Call our VCM project coordinator, **Mr. Kevin Hughs** at (217) 306-5567, or Mrs. MaryAnn Cherry at (217) 415-9187. Also, you can send an email to **info@myanmarhope.org**.

Read more about Village Christmas Meals at our website:

MyanmarHope.org/village-christmas-meals



Donations for VCMs need to be received as soon as possible, and ideally before December 10th in order to be distributed to the villages on time. The villagers need time to find and purchase the livestock, which can be difficult.

Thank you, God bless you, and Merry Christmas!

- Kevin Hughs, Palal & Kikim, and all of the Myanmar Hope Board

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."

– Proverbs 19:17



You can help these needy villagers celebrate Christmas with joy!



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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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The construction of our new Boys' Dormitory building is going well.
Visit our Facebook page to see more pictures and to follow our progress!

Most Pressing Needs:

Boys' Dorm Rebuilding	Any amount
Village Christmas Meals	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

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