

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

Spring 2025

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Earthquake!

In late March 2025, the city of Mandalay and its surrounding regions were shaken by a powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake — an event that has left deep scars on the people and the land alike. The disaster has claimed nearly 5,000 lives (to-date) and injured thousands more. Hundreds are still missing. Entire neighborhoods were reduced to rubble, and vital infrastructure, including hospitals and schools, has been severely damaged or destroyed.

What makes this even more heartbreaking is that many survivors now find themselves without access to essential medical care, as healthcare facilities have collapsed under the weight of the disaster. Amidst the ruins, families are searching for loved ones, and communities are grappling with unimaginable loss. The 72 hour "Golden Window" of opportunity, in which survivors can still be pulled from the rubble alive, came and went a long time ago, and now the stench of death lays heavy over the city.

Local and international aid organizations, mainly from China and India, were on the scene fairly quickly, but they could only do so much. Many other international agencies and countries have pledged aid, including the United States, but many challenges have complicated relief efforts, making it difficult to get aid to areas that are considered "off limits" by the military Junta.

MyHope's Response

The earthquake was felt in Yangon, but thankfully our people were far enough away that we suffered no injuries or damage.

As soon as the shock and scope of the disaster was realized, Palal sprang into action, making plans to visit the affected areas. We requested an emergency Grant from I.D.E.S. to help purchase food and supplies, and some very generous donations came in within the next couple of days.

On March 30th, Palal took two HBS students with him (Mr. Sei Min Thang and Mr. Let Chin Sei), rented a car and driver, and started up to Mandalay through Naypyidaw, the capital. They spent the night in Kyuakse Town, then continued on to Mandalay the next day.

It wasn't an easy trip—Mandalay is 350 miles to the north as the crow flies, but farther by road. And the closer they got to the earthquake zone, the worse the roads and bridges were damaged.







When they finally arrived in Mandalay, they drove around surveying the damage. Most of the stores and markets that had not been destroyed were still closed, so they could not immediately begin purchasing food and supplies. Their first full day was spent at Sagaing Hospital, ministering aid to the many victims laying outside under temporary shelters. They provided monetary aid to over 80 people who had been injured by the falling buildings.



The hospital building had been severely damaged by the earthquake and the aftershocks, and so a temporary hospital had been set up outside.

It should be noted that this is the hottest time of the year, and day-time temperatures can often rise above 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

The next day some stores began to open, and so the team spent quite a bit of time purchasing supplies and then visiting the homes of victims to provide them with the much needed aid.



Many families had been without any food for several days by this point.

More time was spent at the hospital, and the team also tried to get to some of the more outlying areas where no help had yet come.

On April 3rd, Palal's team visited the families of six children who died when their private preschool collapsed. Thirteen people died in total when the school collapsed. He provided aid and comfort to them as best he could.

They also visited fifteen monasteries in the International Buddhist Center in Sagaing.



The people affected by this earthquake and its powerful aftershocks will need help for a long time. Myanmar Hope will continue providing help as long as we have the resources to do so. We are extremely grateful to IDES and to all of you, our generous friends, who trust us with the funds that God has entrusted to you. May God richly bless your generosity.

Palal's Ministry Report for January through March, 2025

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Greetings to you all from Palal Khongsai and all the congregations in Myanmar. May the love and peace of our God the Father, the grace and salvation of our LORD Jesus Christ and the guidance and the fellowship of the





New Kanan Christian Church worshipping God in the forest

Holy Spirit be with you all.

It has been over a year since I returned home from visiting our friends and supporting churches in the United State of America in 2024. God has blessed our ministry richly and He has done many great things, even in the midst of an ongoing civil war. Thank you very much for your prayers, encouragement, and support. We really appreciate your prayers for our ministry.

Physically, we are undergoing many crises; the chaos and war in our country continues unabated. Every day there is news of attacks and killings all across our country. Most of our church congregations have fled from their homes. Many have sought shelter along the India/Myanmar border, and some have fled into in the forests to get away from the fighting.

Please pray for their safety, and for an end to the civil war soon. Please pray for peace, justice, and stability to be established in Myanmar.

Spiritually, we are facing many challenges: our congregations cannot hold worship service in their church buildings, and they cannot meet in groups for regular prayer meetings and church business. However, they are continuing to worship God in the forest where they are hiding from the military attacks. Please pray for them to keep their faith in Christ and not to become overly discouraged.

Hope Boarding School

We have forty-eight students this academic year. We really thank God for His protection from the conscription for our older students and staff at Hope Boarding School.

We are now making some changes for our staff and older students who are above 18 years old, because it is no longer safe for them to stay at HBS this coming academic year of 2025-2026 (which starts in June).

Most of our students finished their exams for this current academic year (2024-2025).

Our two grade twelve students, Mr. Tong Hao Za Len and Miss Lam Nei Hoi will take their high school exams next week, March 17-22, 2025. After that some of our staff and older students are going to return to their villages in order to avoid military conscription in Yangon.

Every day, trucks drive around the city looking for young men and women on the streets. If they are caught, they are conscripted into government military service.

Please continue to pray for our students and staff, that they would be protected from the conscription gangs, for their health and safety, and that they would do very well in their studies.

New Pathway Home

We began the year with seventeen residents, but now we have fifteen residents.

Earlier this year many people in community around the New Pathway Home moved to a village in India,



2024-2025 Hope Boarding School Students



Our widows holding up love gifts received from the community

along with their belongings and food, because there were several serious attacks in Tamu.

Our staff and residents were also very afraid of the attacks. To help allay their fears we sent our residents out to the surrounding villages. During their stay in the villages we continued providing them with food, and we also gave them money for their food and other needs. They all left the New Pathway Home on January 14th, and then all of them but two returned on February 13th, 2025. They were away for thirty days.

They were all reminded again of the many good things about life at the New Pathway Home, and how difficult life for them is in the villages. The New Pathway Home is better for them than the villages. They were reminded how much they are loved, cared for, and provided for at the New Pathway Home.

The people of Tamu really love our widows. Many people, to celebrate their birthdays, will donate money, food, blankets, or other goods to the widows and ask for their blessings. This also reminds the widows how much they are loved.

Thank you for your ongoing support to help us care for these widows, who are the poorest of the poor. A major donor, the company which provided the initial funding for the building, and which continued to provide the bulk of the support for the NPH on a monthly basis, was forced into bankruptcy in 2024. We received the last funds from them in December, 2024.

We praise God that He is continuing to provide enough funds through special donations and the General Fund to provide for the New Pathway Home, but we are praying for more people to donate specifically for this important need. Please pray with us that God will put in on the hearts of His people to provide for our widows and staff. Thank you.

Hope Preschool

We have nineteen students and three staff this 2024-2025 academic year.

We had to close Hope Preschool in Tamu from February 8th to February 17th because of intense fighting around the campus. After things calmed down, we were able to re-open the preschool.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the safety of our children and staff.

Hunger Relief

The congregation of New Kanan Christian Church have had to flee from their village several times to a safer place in the forest.



Food for hunger relief at Wetinpauk

Even though they are in the forest, they put up a temporary church using tarp and wood, and they use it for their place of worship.



Children of Hope Preschool in Tamu



Distributing Flood Relief to villages in central Myanmar

We are so thankful for Mason City Christian Church which donates funds each month specifically for hunger relief! We are able to use those funds to provide food for New Kanan and many other people displaced by the civil war. We also continue to help the new Christians at Wetinpauk, the refugee camp that has now become a village in its own right. Wetinpauk Christian Church, a congregation which is made up primarily of former Buddhists, was started a few years ago by Myanmar Hope. The camp/village is still extremely poor, and we regularly provide them with help as we are able.

Harvest of Talents Grant

We are so thankful to IDES (International Disaster Emergency Services) for continuing to grant Myanmar Hope with HOT (Harvest of Talents) funds for Hope Boarding School.

Our forty-eight students, from twenty-six different villages, several of which are orphans, all come out of situations of extreme poverty. Our staff members, too, come from extreme poverty, and several of them are former HBS students.

Besides providing food for HBS students and staff, we also provide food for our community. Every month, we provide food from HOT for over one-hundred people!

All of our students and staff have hope for their future because of HBS and IDES's Harvest of Talents. We are so grateful! Praise God for IDES.

Please visit the IDES website to see all of the great work that they accomplish for God's Kingdom.

https://ides.org/

Boys' Dormitory Rebuild

We have been praying for many years to rebuild the boys' dorm and finally God answered our prayers. I believed God wanted us to do other projects which were needed before HBS. It was God's timing to rebuild the boy's dormitory in 2024 and 2025.

Now we have finished the fourth floor and have just finished pouring the concrete slab for the 5th floor. Praise God! We still need more funds to finish it, but we trust that our God will provide for all of our needs.

As we survey the damage caused by the March earthquake in Mandalay, we praise and thank God that this kind of earthquake did not happen in Yangon when our old building was still standing. It is without doubt that the old building would have been one of the first to collapse! Praise God that He has spared us from this potentially devastating disaster!



Fresh concrete on the fifth floor

New Pathway Home Renovations

The walls of the bathrooms, which were added after the building had been constructed, were badly cracked because the slab on which they were constructed was not laid correctly. So we have been collecting stones, sand, gravel, and bricks since 2023, and we



Our HBS students are very well fed, thanks to IDES and our generous supporters!

were able to save some funds in 2024 to purchase rebar, cement, and pay the laborers.

Our construction team demolished the old bathrooms on November 21, 2024, but because of the ongoing fighting in the area the workers could not finish it easily.

However, we finally finished it in the last week of February 2024. It took us three years of collecting construction materials and saving funds, but now it is finished very well! Now the residents have enough bathrooms.

Rest In Peace

Ms. Chin Kho Nem, one of our NPH residents, went to be with the Lord on March 31st. She first came to the NPH in early 2020. She had heard about the NPH, and so she walked a long way until she found it. When she arrived, we did not have any open space for her.

She said, "Please let me sleep on the ground outside. I do not need very much space. I just need food."



Ms Chin Kho Nem, may she rest in Peace

Of course, we made space for her inside, and she was very well cared for by our staff and volunteers.

She passed from this life after a sickness, for which she being treated at Tamu Hospital.

East/West Farm Update

We praise God that Pastor Jonah has finally been able to return to the farm in March! For the last several years no work could be done at the farm because of the fighting and because of the opposition groups who had taken up positions in the area.

Pastor Jonah could only go long enough to take care of the cattle, but no planting, cultivation, or harvesting could be done. As of March, he is now able to work the farm again!



Pastor Jonah and Let Kho Lal

Mr. Let Tin Pao, our former HBS student, who graduated earlier this year, is now helping us on the farm.

Medical Update on Esther

Miss Esther Tin Ngai is an eight-year old girl who has had a bodily defect which made it very difficult to pass food waste from her body through the normal way. She had surgery in Mandalay Hospital last year, and they made a way for her to pass her stool through a hole in her belly.

Life has been very difficult for her and her family, especially for trying to attend school.

She desperately needs a second surgery, but her family has exhausted



Esther has a hole in her abdomen

all of their funds. We posted a request for help on Facebook, and praise God, someone stepped forward right away with a pledge to cover her medical costs!

Palal arranged transportation for her and her mother to travel to Mandalay for the surgery. First they had to travel by motorbike from Bangala village to Htamanti village. Then they needed to travel by motorboat from Htamanti to Homalin. From Homalin they could take a flight to Mandalay.



Esther and her mother arrived in Mandalay

They arrived in Mandalay on April 7th, but the hospital where Esther was schedule to have surgery is closed be-

cause of the earthquake. Palal met them in Mandalay, as he is there already doing earthquake relief. He provided funds for them for their housing in Mandalay, and also arranged for her to be treated at another hospital.

We will post an update on Facebook later next week, after her surgery. Please keep her and the doctors in your prayers during this very difficult time.

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

– Proverbs 19:17

Pastor Support Program

Our pastors in Homalin and Layshi Township held a Bible Training Seminary at Joljam Christian Church from April 1st through April 5th, 2025.

Pr. Hawljapao, Pr. Tongkhojang, and Pr. Jamlet led the fellowship and Bible training.



Our churches in Layshi amd Homalin were very blessed and very thankful that they were able to hold this meeting.



Thank you for your continued support for our Pastors Support Program! With your prayers and financial support, our pastors and elders can continue to serve their congregations well.

God bless everyone!

Family Support Program

Many widows, widowers, disabled persons, sick, elderly, poor families and individuals continue to receive funds for their living from our Family Support Program.

Most of the people who are regularly supported each month depend on the Family Support Program and they rely on this to keep them alive.



Ms Pahat is one of many disabled persons who receive monthly help for their living.

Thank you so much for those of you who have been so faithful with your regular monthly donations to this vital and ongoing work.

Update from Solomon

Mingalabar. Greetings to everyone.

It has been one year and two months since I arrived in the States, and one year and one month at Johnson University in Knoxville, Tennessee.

I am blessed and grateful to be here.



Myanmar Hope is the only help for the disabled children in these villages.

When I first arrived, I felt like I was dreaming since it was my first time being abroad without my family.

Even until now I still feel like I am dreaming because everyday God is gracious, merciful and amazing, and I have the opportunity to be here studying to achieve my vocation!

I love this environment and the Christian community I am living around as they help me to grow spiritually and physically.

The rolling hills around the campus reminds me of the hills in northwest Myanmar. The weather is lovely in Spring and all the way until Fall; the Winter is very cold for me.

This is now my third semester at JU. I am studying Business Administration and Management, along with Bible and Theology. I enjoy my classes, my professors, the staff, and my colleagues. They are kind and caring.

I was able to join the Johnson's Mens' Soccer team as a walk-on. I enjoy the training, the games, and the time with my coaches and teammates.



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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I am also thankful that I was able to take part in JU's "Houseless Ministry" where we make sandwiches and provide them to the homeless people around us.

I am very thankful to you all for your prayers, letters, and love packages which I had received. God is great, and I pray that He would bless each and every one of you as you all have been so supportive for me and my family!

Please keep praying for the situation in Myanmar and for our mission.



Solomon spent Christmas with Luke and Laura Crater's family in Springfield, Illinois

Blessings to all,

Solomon Khongsai

Most Pressing Needs:

Disaster Relief.....Any Amount
Boys' Dorm Rebuilding .....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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