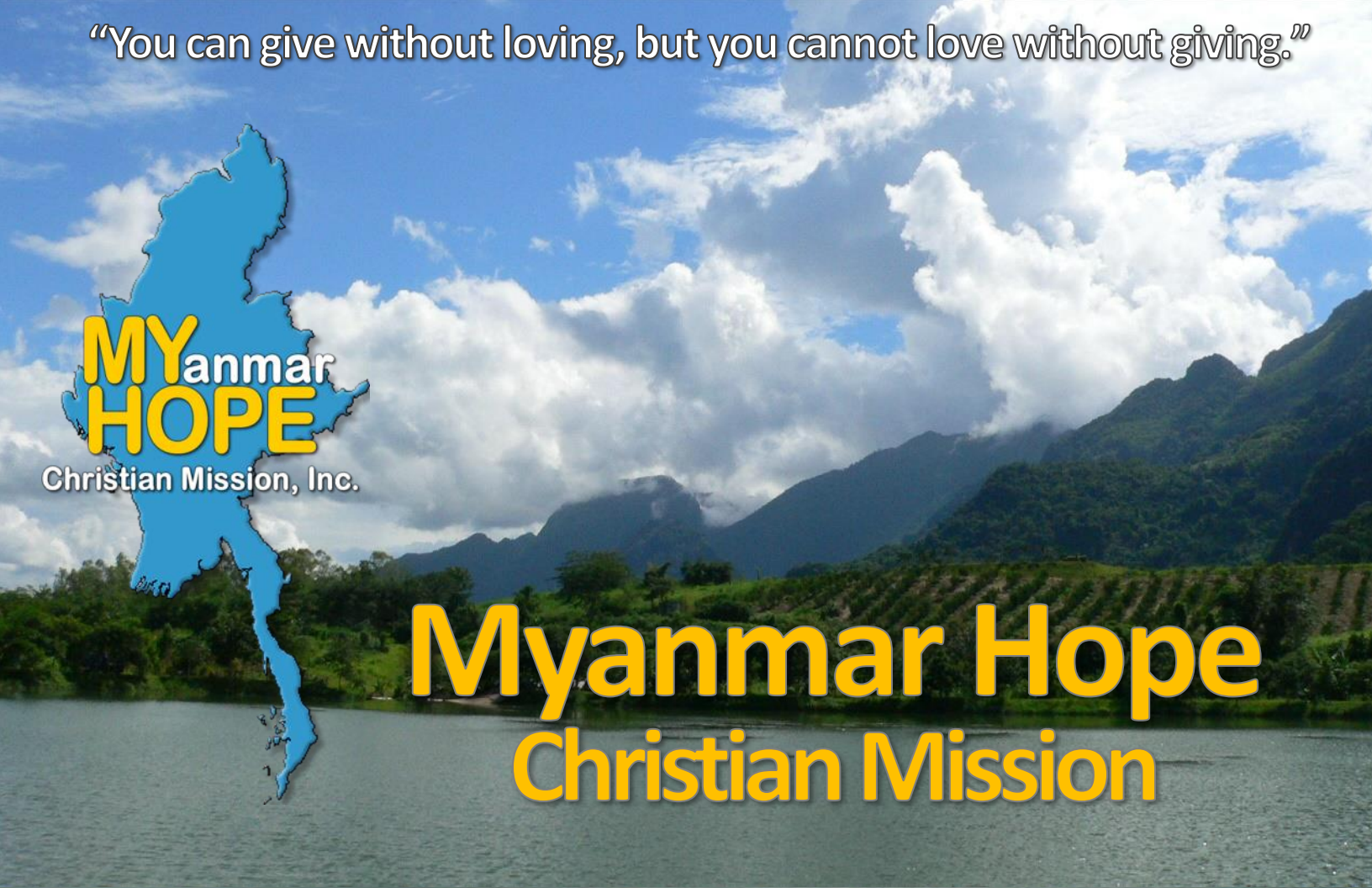

"You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving."
MYanmar HOPE
Christian Mission, Inc.
Myanmar Hope
Christian Mission

Table of Contents

Letter from the President **2**
Facts About Myanmar **5**
Our Story **6**
Our Purpose **8**
Our Work **15**
Education 15
Agricultural Development: East/West Garden 21
New Pathway Home for Widows 23
New Hope Prison Outreach 25
Family/Pastor/Disabled Support Programs 26
Benevolence Projects 28
Clean Water Projects 29
Disaster Relief 30
Church Support 32
Our Future **36**

A Letter from the President



We are so thankful to God and to you all as you join with us in celebrating Myanmar Hope Christian Mission (MyHope). It is a great blessing for us to share how much God has done through MyHope in the lives of many needy ones in Myanmar since 2007. We have a great debt to you all as you come alongside of us in the works of MyHope.

Our participation in MyHope is a great testimony for all of us who have been involved in many ways from both the USA side and the Myanmar side.

We have sacrificed our lives for our people who are living in extreme poverty. We have been oppressed by the military dictatorship because of our beliefs and practices, and we faced discrimination in every aspect of our lives. These things led us into a great distress and we were losing hope for our future. We always felt like the Israelites who were under the bondage of the Egyptians and in the captivity of the Babylonians.

We prayed constantly to God to deliver our people from oppression and fear. We believed God

knew our suffering and that our prayers would eventually be answered according to His way. We waited patiently for His deliverance for many years. Then, at the perfect time, God allowed us to see and to experience His deliverance and wonderful provision for our people.

We wish you could know how very desperately our people needed the prayers and the help you believers in the West have provided and continue to provide. And what a great opportunity for blessing for you, our friends, who are willing to stand with us to help the needy ones!

God called Noah to save His creatures. God called Joseph to save His people from drought and hunger. God called Moses to deliver His people from the bondage of the Egyptians. Aaron was called to be a priest between God and His people. Nehemiah felt the call from God to rebuild the ruined walls of Jerusalem. We strongly believe that God has called every one of us to be closer to Him and to help His people who are in such great need. Let us always remind ourselves to ask what God wants us to do for others. If you see His will and want to do it, He will surely work with you to accomplish His goal.

This booklet will give you some of the information about our country of Myanmar, our work, and our future goals. You will see how very much God has already done and will be doing in the future.

Thank you for joining us as we partner together in the work of MyHope. I believe this booklet

will be a tool used by God to raise up many more prayer partners and many new friends to become involved in the work.

We look forward with anticipation to see how God will accomplish His plans through MyHope in the coming years, and we hope and pray for your help as well. God bless you all!

Palal



Palal receiving his ordination for ministry by the laying on of hands

[Editor's Note]: He is too humble to point this out, but for the record Dr. Nehkholal Khongsai (Palal for short) has six earned degrees from five different academic institutions:

Bachelor of Theology: Zomi Theological College (Myanmar)
Master of Divinity: Trulock Theological Seminary (India)
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy: Mandalay University (Myanmar)
Master of Arts in Philosophy: Yangon University (Myanmar)
Master of Research in Philosophy: Yangon University (Myanmar)
Doctor of Ministry: Lincoln Christian University (USA)

Facts About Myanmar



- **Location:** In South East Asia, bordered by five countries: Bangladesh, India, China, Laos, and Thailand. The Bay of Bengal is to the west, the Andaman Sea to the south
- **Population:** About fifty-one million (2014 Census)
- **Government:** Military dictatorship until 2010, now a civilian/military parliamentary system
- **Capital City:** Naypyidaw (former capital: Yangon)
- **Largest City:** Yangon, population over five million
- **Area:** 261,228 square miles (about the size of Texas)
- **Religion:** Buddhism 88%; Christianity 8%; Other 4%
- **Ethnicity:** Eight major ethnic groups: Bamar (Burmese), Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan
- **Language**: Over 100 language groups; hundreds of major dialects; Burmese is the national language
- **Average Family Income:** about $100.00 per month in the cities, about $20.00 per month in the rural areas (most live on much less)
- **Urban/Rural:** 85% live in rural areas, the rest in cities
- **Rich/Poor:** Enormous gap between rich and poor; vast majority are poor, millions live in extreme poverty

The Story of MyHope



Palal, Kikim, & Solomon in 2007

The story of Myanmar Hope Christian Mission (MyHope) began years ago when God started working in the hearts of two different couples. Though they lived eight thousand miles apart and did not yet know each other, God knew that they needed to be together. He had a plan.

Palal and Kikim Khongsai lived under an oppressive military dictatorship in the country of Myanmar (formerly Burma). Like Moses of old, Palal saw the way his people were oppressed by extreme poverty, hunger, fear, and the brutal leaders. He and Kikim sacrificed daily as they continually sought ways to help their people. He realized early on that he needed as much education as possible in order to have any influence among the Burmese Buddhist regime, so he and Kikim spent years struggling to survive while doing ministry and obtaining more education.

Palal's distant relative, Dr. T. Lunkim, founder and president of Trulock Theological Seminary in Imphal, India, recognized Palal's potential and his leadership abilities. He decided to try to help Palal get to America to obtain a doctoral degree.

Meanwhile, God had been working on the hearts of Chuck and MaryAnn Cherry. For years they had been interested in missions and in the plight of the persecuted church worldwide. Their hearts were tuned in to what God was doing among the nations, and they sensed that God was calling them to do more. They just were not sure what that might be...

Our Story

In December 2006 Dr. Lunkim was speaking to a large group of believers at the home church of Chuck and MaryAnn. He shared the stories of the miracles that occurred during his recent kidnapping by an Indian militant group and his subsequent sixty-one days of captivity in the mountains. Chuck and MaryAnn were moved to tears by his stories, and afterward they rushed forward to meet this old saint. “What can we do to help you?” they asked. After pausing for just a moment, Dr. Lunkim said, “Please pray for a young man from Yangon, Myanmar. He has a scholarship offer from Cincinnati Christian University, but he cannot find a family there who will sponsor him.”

Without even thinking, Chuck blurted out, “If we can get him the same scholarship offer from Lincoln Christian College, just up the road from here, we will sponsor him!” “Are you sure?” asked Dr. Lunkim with a surprised look. “Are we sure?” Chuck asked MaryAnn as he sheepishly turned toward her. “Of course!” MaryAnn said without hesitation.

And so, after several years of preparation, God finally brought Palal (and later Kikim and Solomon) together with Chuck and MaryAnn. The plan was on track.

Initially, Chuck and MaryAnn thought they were just sponsoring a doctoral student in their home for two years. It was not long, however, before they began pulling out of Palal what life was like for the Christians in Myanmar. His stories pierced their hearts, and they would find themselves in tears thinking about and discussing what more they could do to help their brothers and sisters on the other side of the globe.



Meeting Kikim and Solomon at the airport

After several weeks of discussion, tears, and prayers, it was decided that a new organization was needed. And so Myanmar Hope Christian Mission was born!

The Purpose of MyHope

The purpose of Myanmar Hope Christian Mission is simple. We are committed to bringing the eternal HOPE of Jesus Christ to the people of MYANMAR in a holistic manner by addressing their spiritual, physical, educational, and emotional needs. The following section describes how we are doing that.

Spiritual Needs

The country of Myanmar is *about* 88% Buddhist, 8% Christian, and 4% other religions (Animist, Muslim, Hindu, etc.) Obviously a huge need is to preach the Gospel to the unsaved. But who is best equipped to do that in our day? The Gospel was first planted in Myanmar by the famous Baptist missionary, Adoniram Judson (1788-1850), during the early nineteenth century. There have been Christians in Myanmar ever since, but they have been a persecuted and oppressed minority for most of that time.

From the time of Judson until the early 1960s, Western missionaries spent their lives preaching and teaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people groups of Myanmar, with varying levels of success. And while we believe there will always be a place for Western missionaries, we also believe that the Church in Myanmar should now be doing the



The Shwedagon Pagoda is Myanmar's most famous shrine.

bulk of the work of preaching the Gospel to the unreached people in their own country. Who better to reach the unreached than those who already know the target language, culture, and situation?

Therefore MyHope is committed to providing educational resources, Christian teaching materials, native language Bibles, hymnbooks, transportation assistance, financial assistance, and other necessary resources to local Christian leaders to enable them to reach out to their own communities and to help their congregations grow and then send out their own missionaries.

Physical Needs

Prior to the 1960s, Myanmar (formerly Burma) was a very prosperous country and a major exporter of rice, oil and gas, teakwood, precious gems, and other natural resources. It was the richest country in South East Asia, and was considered the "rice basket" of the world.

"Burma was once the richest nation in South East Asia, but military Socialism destroyed the country and turned it into one of the poorest in the world."

In the late 1800s, after three bloody wars, the British claimed the area as a colony and named it "Burma" after the largest and most power ethnic group, the Bamah. After World War II, in 1948, the British gave the Burmese their independence.

Shortly thereafter the national leader and hero, General Aung San, was assassinated. This led to a series of ongoing civil wars between the central government, run by the Burmese, and several of the outlying tribal groups. Some of those civil wars are still going on to this day.

In 1962 a Socialist general by the name of Ne Win took power in a military coup. His program of "Burmese Way to Socialism" combined a Soviet-style nationalization of all private property and private enterprise with iron-fisted central planning. It was a social and economic disaster. The

country quickly descended from one of the richest nations in South East Asia to one of the poorest nations in the world. For nearly fifty years Burma was cut off from the rest of the world, similar to the way North Korea is isolated, and the country descended into economic chaos.

In 1992 General Than Shwe took power and ruled until the election of 2010, when a new civilian government was installed. He was a brutal dictator who ruled with an iron fist, and in 2008 was named the second worst dictator in the entire world.



Through all of these events, the people became poorer and poorer, while the generals and their cronies became wealthier by exploiting and selling off the country's vast natural resources.

When MyHope was founded in 2007, Myanmar was the seventh poorest nation on Earth. At that time even Haiti had a higher GDP than Myanmar.

Myanmar was dead last on the list of countries ranked by quality of health care, and last or nearly last on many other lists related to the physical well being of the citizens—lists like infant mortality rate, access to clean water, death by communicable diseases, hunger, and so on.

Since the civilian democratic government has taken power, some things have improved, but the rate of improvement is dreadfully slow. The people living in the rural areas are just now starting to see some slight improvement in their lives, but the unemployment rate is still very high, jobs are scarce, and the average family income is still too low to adequately raise a family.

Our Purpose

Certain parts of the country and certain tribal groups are much poorer than others. For example, the Chin people living in the hills along the west and northwest border with India are among the poorest in Myanmar. The Kuki-Chin tribe is the most impoverished among the Chin. It is to this group that MyHope's ministry is primarily directed, though we provide help to anyone of any group when we are able and when the need arises (for example, in the case of a natural disaster).

Therefore, MyHope is committed to providing for the physical needs of the poorest of the poor through regular food aid, emergency medical care, clean water projects, housing assistance, employment, disaster relief, and much more.

Emotional Needs

The Kuki people have suffered through years of incredible adversity. Especially during the years of the military regime, discrimination, oppression, and physical persecution were daily realities for the Christians living in the Chin Lands and elsewhere. The central government had decided that Christianity was a "Western Religion" and they were determined to stamp it out. This led to a wave of persecution that included killings, physical beatings, arrests, torture, the mass destruction of churches and other religious buildings, closing of churches and Christian schools, and other atrocities. These things were ongoing in northwest Myanmar as late as 2006.



In addition to the persecution and oppression inflicted by the military government, the people lived a daily reality that included persistent hunger and thirst. They were plagued with sickness and death from easily curable, but nonetheless deadly, diseases like dysentery, malaria,

dengue fever, measles, and polio.

Can you imagine the emotional state of children and adults living under such abject conditions their entire lives, and never having any hope of escape?



Child labor is still very prominent in Myanmar

When children come down to Yangon from northwest Myanmar to live at Hope Boarding School, many of them have suffered much more than any child should ever have to. Some have lost one or both parents or siblings to easily preventable diseases. Some have lived as virtual slaves, working as servants for other families just to have some food to eat or to have money for schooling. Most had never lived without the fear and uncertainty caused by extreme poverty. All of these things combine to put severe emotional distress upon their young hearts and minds.

Therefore, MyHope is committed to providing hope, encouragement, love, and care to our Christian brothers and sisters living in extreme poverty in northwest Myanmar. We will continue to let them know that they are not forgotten, and that God has not put them under a curse.

We will provide them with practical means for escaping extreme poverty through education, employment, and economic development projects. We will continue to provide children with high quality education in the loving, safe, healthy, and nurturing environment of Hope Boarding School in Yangon and Hope Preschool in Tamu (see the next section).

Our Purpose

Educational Needs

The educational situation in Myanmar remains very bleak for the vast majority of the population, but it is especially troubling for children living in the rural areas. Only about 25% of all children in northwest Myanmar ever make it to high school. Most children attend one or two years of public school, then drop out because their families are too poor to pay the necessary fees. These children end up working in the fields, or in the markets, or wherever they can, to help provide food for the family.

Of the select few who are able to attend high school, only about 25% to 30% of them are able to graduate. Without a graduation certificate, it is impossible to attend university, and nearly impossible to get a decent job of any kind.



Children often lack proper supplies and basic necessities

Young people are forced to travel to other countries such as Singapore, China, Thailand, Malaysia, or Indonesia to try to find work. Without an education, they are forced to take the lowest unskilled labor positions, which pay barely enough for them to survive, let alone send home any money for the family.

Even more tragic, the lack of educational opportunities cause many young women to be lured unawares into the international sex trafficking industry. They naively accept promises of good jobs and income, only to be sold into sex slavery. Many of them never return, and those that do are shamed and scarred for life.

Our Purpose

All of these things, and more, lead inexorably to desperation and hopelessness.

Therefore, MyHope is committed to ending the cycle of poverty among the families of northwest Myanmar by providing high quality educational opportunities for as many children as possible through Hope Boarding School in Yangon and Hope Preschool in Tamu.

Our long term goal is to own and operate a private educational campus in northwest Myanmar, where hundreds of children can obtain an excellent K-12 education in a loving, Christian environment. Until that time, we will continue to help as many children as we can, in whatever ways we can, through Hope Boarding School and Hope Preschool.



The children at Hope Boarding School are able to thrive thanks to the generous donations of many loving people

What We Do: The Work of Myanmar Hope

It is impossible to distill into a booklet all of the things that Palal, Kikim, and the staff and volunteers of Myanmar Hope Christian Mission do and have done over the life of this ministry. However we will attempt to condense into a few short sections the major areas of ministry in which MyHope has been involved.

HOPE BOARDING SCHOOL

We believe that without a good education it is nearly impossible for someone to escape the devastating cycle of extreme poverty. Therefore, one of our very first goals was to establish a home in Yangon where children from poor families in the northwest could live and study in a safe, loving, and healthy Christian environment. Thus, Hope Boarding School (HBS) was established in March of 2010.

A ramshackle two-story abandoned building was purchased in a poor section of North Dagon Township, and was renovated to the best of our abilities and available funds.

Twenty-five children were chosen by Palal and Kikim in close collaboration with the pastors, elders, and families from many different villages. They came to the big city of Yangon, barely speaking the national language of Burmese, and suffering from culture shock and homesickness; but they were determined to succeed.



The Original HBS Building

Some of them were not able to make the hard adjustment and had to return home. But most stayed, and many were very successful in their studies, earning top marks and positions in their grades. A few of them have even been able to pass the extremely difficult high school matriculation exams and have gone on to University. Regardless of whether or not they were able to pass the final exams, all of them are miles ahead of their peers back in the villages.

Since that first year, many more children have come to HBS. Now the enrollment is fifty students, and their reputation among the teachers at their government schools is excellent.



The current HBS Campus

In 2012 Palal was elected to the School Board of North Dagon Township (even though he did not run and was not even aware that his name had been put forward). He regularly hears from the public school teachers and staff how highly valued the HBS students are. They are respectful, hard-working, kind, and physically stronger and healthier than most of their peers. All of this speaks very highly of the love and care which they receive from the staff at HBS.

Now Hope Boarding School has two beautiful buildings—a new four story girls dormitory and staff lodging, and the original building has been renovated several times with much-needed improvements—all thanks to the sacrificial donations of many loving believers in America.

Education

But Hope Boarding School is really all about the children! They all have very dramatic stories. Most of them have suffered great emotional pain and loss, and Palal and Kikim have literally saved some of their lives. Back in their home villages they would be working in the fields and forests, and some of them would even be begging for their food. **But because of the love of their American sponsors, who faithfully provide them with food, clothing, tuition fees, medicine, and so much more, these children are thriving.** Those of you who send sponsorship funds each month are literally changing the lives of these children for time and eternity!

HOPE PRESCHOOL

Hope Preschool in Tamu was started in 2010 by the elders and families of Tamu Christian Church with twelve students. The government had just passed a new law that all children entering kindergarten must at least know the Burmese alphabet and numbers. Many families in that area do not even speak Burmese, so this was a great burden for them. The only way for their children to learn would be to attend a private Buddhist preschool. Most of the parents cannot afford this, nor do they want their children learning to practice Buddhism.



The first Hope Preschool class in 2012

A young lady volunteered to teach their children, and the elders made the church building available for them. It quickly became apparent that this was a ministry that MyHope could support. These were children that might someday be able to attend Hope Boarding School in Yangon, and they were meeting in the building constructed with funds donated by friends of MyHope.

Education



Some children from Hope Preschool attending a field trip in 2018

We began seeking out friends in America who could help support this ministry, and by January of the next year a brand new building was constructed to house the preschool. Funds were donated to help pay the teacher and her assistant a monthly salary. A few pieces of playground equipment were constructed to give the children a place to play. Over the next few years a light truck was purchased to help with transportation, and two more women began teaching the children. In 2018 there were thirty-eight children enrolled, and so far 220 children have passed through the classroom of Hope Preschool.

Education remains one of the most effective means for escaping extreme poverty. MyHope is dedicated to doing what we can, with God's help and with the help of our partners, to provide the opportunity for a good education for as many children as possible.

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Dr. Nehkholal Khongsai (Palal) has long had a passion for training leaders for the local church. His six earned degrees, including a Doctor of Ministry (DMin) have prepared him well for this task. His doctoral thesis was "Servant Leadership in the Kuki Christian Church." The term "servant leader" very well describes Palal. He serves the Church in Myanmar in so many ways, and he works hard at developing the character traits of a good servant leader in himself and in those around him.

Palal uses many different methods to help instill leadership principles, such as one-on-one mentoring, small group mentoring, and large group training seminars. And, as other leaders have watched him over the years and seen how he does not use his position of authority as a means for personal gain, but has sacrificed over and over again for them and the people, they have come to respect him and even to emulate his life.

Over the years his long hours and ceaseless efforts are bearing much fruit. Many elders and pastors have broken with the prevailing cultural norms of a top-down, power leadership style and are leading more like Jesus, with genuine compassion for their flocks.

We look forward to many more years of working with Palal to help the local churches grow strong in order that they can spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to the Buddhists and Animists of Northwest Myanmar and beyond.



Christian Leadership Training in Tamu

SCS PARTNERSHIP, #MOVE4MYANMAR, AND #KID2KID



A special partnership exists between Springfield Christian School (SCS) in Springfield, IL and Hope Boarding School (HBS) in Yangon, Myanmar. It began several years ago after Mrs. Laura Crater returned from her first trip to HBS in 2012. She was deeply touched by the lives of the students there, and so she prayerfully approached the administrators of SCS about establishing a prayer partnership between the two schools.

Students at SCS are partnered by grade level and class with students from HBS. Each grade level has an average of five HBS students that they pray for. The students at HBS love praying for their SCS friends as well. Each year every SCS student receives a postcard with the pictures and names of their HBS friends to pray for, and each classroom receives a poster of the same.

Additionally Laura goes into all eighteen SCS classrooms for "Myanmar Moments" where they teach on Myanmar culture, Biblical themes, history and much more. Many special activities have been added through the years as well, like a Culture Day, Sugarcane Acre Walk, live video chats between the schools, and a personal visit from the Khongsai family to each classroom.

SCS students love their HBS friends so much that in 2016 they raised over $15,000 through Kid2Kid - #move4myanmar to buy a refrigerator, a freezer, and more for HBS. The next year they helped raise enough money to build a fourth floor on the girl's dormitory! We are very thankful to Laura and the kids and staff at SCS. We look forward with anticipation to the fruit that this partnership will bear in the future.

EAST/WEST GARDEN

One of our goals from the very beginning has been to build up the Kuki church so that it can stand on its own without help from the West. We have always been concerned about fostering a sense of dependency in the people. We want the Myanmar Christians to be able to help the Myanmar people themselves.



Clearing the land

One way to help the Kuki people attain their independence is agricultural training. The Kabaw Valley is a long, fertile area stretching north and south along the India-Myanmar border. It is in this valley that most of the Myanmar Kuki/ Chin people live and work.

Even though the valley is very fertile, and there are thousands of acres of undeveloped land, the people have not been able to capitalize on this potential. Decades of government mismanagement, persecution, educational discrimination, and many other factors have combined to keep the people in the bondage of extreme poverty.

However, the Kukis are hard working and they have a natural affinity for the land. Palal realized that if he could apply education, science, and God's blessings to the problem, over time he could help lead his people out of poverty. It was from this vision that the East/West Garden was born, and the first ground was broken in March 2015.

Starting with a few acres of sugar cane, planted in accordance with the latest scientific principals, the farm

has expanded year by year. Three families are employed on a year-round basis to tend the farm, and at each planting and harvest dozens of people are hired as temporary workers. The income that these individuals are able to earn is a great blessing for them in an area where the unemployment rate hovers around 75%.

So far the farm has grown to about twenty-two acres. In addition to sugar cane, the farm grows rice and other vegetables. We have also planted two acres of banana, mango, lemon, and yongchak (bean) trees. We have a small herd of cows, a new tractor and custom made trailer, and in 2019 we will be building a barn.

The long term goal for the East/West Garden is to become large enough to be self-supporting, that it will continue to provide jobs for the local people, and the profits from the farm will replace some of the funds that are now being sent by people from the West to take care of widows, orphans, the disabled, and the elderly.



The tractor is a great help in clearing and cultivating

Many more acres of undeveloped land around the farm are available to us. It costs about $1,500 to clear and cultivate one acre of forest and turn it into usable farm land. We pray that God will continue to provide the funds needed to expand this wonderful project that has the potential to help so many people!

NEW PATHWAY HOME FOR WIDOWS



An elderly widow

When Palal was living in the USA while studying for his doctorate, he made several visits to various campuses of Christian Homes, Inc., (now known as Christian Horizons). Christian Horizons is one of the nation's largest, faith-based, not-for-profit senior living providers. During these visits he was amazed at the level of care that we give to senior adults. He had never seen this in his home country, and he never imagined that it existed anywhere. He was reminded again and again of how the elderly lived back in the villages.

In the villages, where everyone lives in poverty, there never seems to be enough food. In these situations, the elderly will go without eating so that the younger members of the family can get the nourishment to go out and work to bring home food. This lack of nutrition quickly leads to them becoming sick, or worse.

Elderly widows, especially, are vulnerable. When young women marry, they usually leave their own villages and go to live with their husband's family in his village. When they become widows, there is no extended family nearby to care for them. If they are young they can sometimes remarry, but that is not always the case. If they are elderly, however, they usually do not live very long.

In 2016, Dr. Timothy Phillippe, the CEO of Christian Homes, and his wife, MaryFern, visited northwest Myanmar with Palal. What they saw in the villages, and especially what they saw regarding the living conditions of the elderly, impacted their lives and touched their hearts. They determined to work with Palal and Myanmar Hope to begin addressing the situation in a wholistic manner. Thus was born the vision for the **New Pathway Home for Widows**.

New Pathway Home

When Tim and MaryFern returned to the U.S., they immediately began sharing with the Board of Directors the needs which they experienced in rural northwest Myanmar. As the board members discussed the situation, they quickly came to the conclusion that Christian Horizons could and would help their elderly sisters in Myanmar in a very tangible way.

Christian Horizons thus committed the funds to build a home for widows in Tamu District, a central location where six widows from villages all around could come and live out their lives in comfort, safety, and security. They also committed to providing the monthly funds necessary to operate the home for the first twelve months.



As soon as word got out that the New Pathway Home was under construction, many widows requested to live there, and they began showing up at the property even before the building was finished. In the end, twelve widows moved into building, and more would come if space allowed. Now there are twelve elderly widows and two full-time staff members living in the home. Eventually we would like to add a second floor for younger widows with children.

The women absolutely love living at the New Pathway Home, and they are so thankful for having food everyday and for a safe shelter in which to live! They came to us completely helpless and hopeless, but now they are being comforted in a safe and loving environment where all of their physical and even emotional needs are being cared for. **Please pray for the residents and staff of the New Pathway Home, and please give financially to help with the ongoing monthly needs. Please also pray that we will be able to receive the funds to construct a second floor on the home. Thank you.**

NEW HOPE PRISON OUTREACH

Just off the main north/south road that connects Kalaymyo to Tamu is the infamous Mawlaikalay Prison, which houses over 2,400 inmates, about 400 of whom are Christians. There is no place nearby for families to stay during a visit. It is too far for most to afford the trip, and the bus goes by there only once per day. With no hotel facilities there is no practical way to visit the prison, and thus most prisoners never see their families for years.



A group of families at the prison outreach

Whenever Palal would drive by there on his way to and from Tamu he was reminded of the verse in Hebrews 13 which tells us to remember those in chains. He was also reminded of the 400 Christians imprisoned there for various reasons, some legitimate, some not so. In late 2017, while driving past he was overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit. He pulled over and prayed and wept. He believed the Lord was telling him it was time to start ministering to the prisoners and their families.

Soon after, a piece of property within a mile of the prison became available. Palal knows the owner, who is a Christian. He was willing to sell his property for use as a prison ministry. We obtained the property, identified a godly husband/wife team to lead the outreach, and began right away ministering to the prisoners. As word spread that there was a new guest house available, families began coming to the prison to visit their relatives and staying on the property. In December 2018 we received a generous gift from West Side Christian Church in Springfield, IL to build a new guest house and ministry center on the property. This young ministry has already been a tremendous blessing to the prisoners and to their families!

Thank you to all who have donated toward this wonderful project!

FAMILY AND DISABLED SUPPORT PROGRAM



From the very beginning of Myanmar Hope our goal has been to help the poorest of the poor to escape poverty. We knew that it would be a long-term process, and that educating the children would be one of the most effective means of accomplishing this goal. In the meantime, however, there are thousands of families in northwest Myanmar currently living in abject poverty, most of them struggling from one meal to the next, never sure what the future might bring.



Ms. Pha Hat is a single woman in our Family Support Program. She suffers from the effects of polio.

When someone isn't even sure if they will have food tomorrow, planning for the future is out of the question. Any kind of emergency or natural disaster is enough to throw these families and individuals into a level of desperation that we in the West cannot even comprehend.

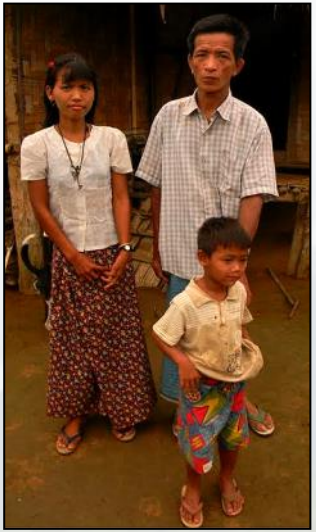
One of our very first projects was the Family Support Program. We asked the local churches to tell us who among their congregations were the very poorest. And though all of the people are poor, even they know who is the poorest. These are the people we set out to help. Most were widows, or single mothers, or people disabled from childhood diseases such as polio. We shared their stories with people like you, people with a desire to help the poor and needy, and especially those within the Household of God. And you responded in a very generous manner! Now we have many families and individuals who have received or continue to receive monthly help—usually in the form of food, but also in the form of medical treatment, clothing, shelter, and more.

PASTOR SUPPORT PROGRAM

Many church leaders in northwest Myanmar live a very difficult life. Not only do they carry the burden of leading their flocks, they also have the challenge of doing so while trying to provide for their own families. The congregations of many of the churches in northwest Myanmar are made up of families living in extreme poverty. They cannot afford the luxury of paying their pastors a salary.

One of our priorities at Myanmar Hope Christian Mission is to build up the local church so that they can stand on their own without need of Western aid. But the pastors and elders are biblically illiterate and have no extra time to study, to prepare sermons, or to visit their members. They do not have access to Christian resources like we have in the West. How will they ever be able to lead their people into spiritual maturity and to expand the Kingdom of God?

One of the ways we can help is to provide the poorest pastors with monthly help, similar to our Family Support Program. Helping their families with food, medical care, and clothing gives them some extra time during the week to actually do the work of ministry. We do not provide for the entirety of their needs, but we are able to give them some much-needed margin in their lives so that they can study, prepare sermons, visit their flocks, and so on.



Pr. Sho Kho Sei of Jangnoi

There are many more pastors that need help. Please pray about partnering with a local pastor to enable him to better minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of northwest Myanmar. **Thank you.**

PIGLETS FOR THE POOR



This is an ongoing project to provide piglets for poor families to raise for food, for income, or both. A family is given a piglet to raise. The family agrees to give back two female piglets from the first litter. Each of those piglets are then given to two more families, and so on. One piglet can be sold for about $40 US, which is a lot of money for a poor family!

CUSTOM WHEELCHAIRS



There are no wheelchair accessible sidewalks and pathways in rural Myanmar. Normal wheelchairs don't work there. So, we had a local welder design custom, heavy-duty wheelchairs to help the disabled to get around on their own.

BLANKETS FOR THE ELDERLY



It gets very cold at night in the hill country. Bamboo huts do not keep out the cold, and many elderly people suffer greatly from the cold weather. A heavy-duty blanket can mean the difference between shivering all night on a thin bamboo mat and getting a good night's sleep. MyHope has given out hundreds of blankets over the past several years.

CLEAN WATER PROJECTS

Access to clean water is a basic human right, but it is denied to many people in rural Myanmar because of poverty and government inattention. MyHope tries to meet this need whenever we can.

Since our founding, and with the help of churches and organizations such as I.D.E.S., we have built and/or repaired dozens of wells and water systems in poor villages throughout northwest Myanmar. For instance, in the town of Homalin over two hundred families were sharing a dirty waterhole with the local farm animals.



This dirty waterhole served the water needs of about 200 families in Homalin. Now they have a new well.



One of many new wells provided by MyHope

This water served for all of their needs: drinking, cooking, laundry, and bathing.

Needless to say, many people were continually sick from using this dirty water. Thanks to donations from the West, MyHope was able to build a new well to keep the water supply for the families separate from the farm animals.

CYCLONE NARGIS, RAT PLAGUES, FLOODS, AND MORE

In May 2008 the worst natural disaster in recorded Myanmar history, Cyclone Nargis, smashed into the Irrawaddy Delta and Yangon. In about twenty-four hours nearly 130,000 people were killed and millions more were left homeless, destitute, and starving.



Mrs Hau Cing's home was completely destroyed by the cyclone

Kikim, Solomon, and other members of Palal's family lived through that terrifying night. Palal was in America at the time, in the home of Chuck and MaryAnn Cherry. As news of the events came to light, we were all so thankful to learn that everyone at Palal's home in Yangon had survived and that their home was mostly undamaged. Then our volunteer network, barely a year old, sprang into action.

Led by Kikim, and Palal's younger brother Mr. Thang Min Len, hundreds of families were saved from starvation. This was because of generous donations from churches and individuals, and grants from International Disaster Emergency Services (I.D.E.S.) For more details, please see the article "The Story of Myanmar Hope Christian Mission" in the September 2014 issue of Horizons magazine: *https://myanmarhope.org/documents/Horizons_Jul_Sept_2014.pdf*

Since Cyclone Nargis there have been many other natural disasters that MyHope has been able to respond to with lifesaving help. Some, like the **rat plague of 2009**, the **earthquake of 2011**, and the **great flood of 2015**, were regional in scope and affected thousands of families. Others were more localized and affected one or more villages—**forest fires, storms, local floods, and house fires**.

Disaster Relief



The Great Flood of 2015 left millions homeless and destitute

In each case, generous partners responded with emergency funds that helped the people restore their lives.

We pray that we will not have to respond to further disasters, but we know that our world is broken and the chances are high that more disasters will occur. Because of this we are extremely grateful that so many people are generous and willing to help individuals and families that they have never met, and may never meet, in this lifetime.

But God sees the hearts and actions of all people, and we know that He will reward your generosity. When you give to the poor you give to God. **Thank you!**



A volunteer preparing to distribute rice to victims of the devastating rat plague



They lost everything when their home burned

ANNUAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCES

When MyHope organized and held our first conference for the Kuki people in northwest Myanmar, we did so with a great amount of fear and anxiety mixed with a bold faith that God would protect us. At that time Myanmar was still under a Military dictatorship, and the images and experiences of Christian persecution were still vivid in the minds of the people. However, Palal and Kikim's faith was strong, and we knew that God wanted to bring the people together for a time of fellowship, preaching, teaching, and encouragement.

Our first conference was held in the city of Kalaymyo. That was as far as the authorities were willing to allow any foreigners to travel. Palal was given strict orders by the police and immigration service to not allow the foreigners (Chuck and MaryAnn Cherry) to leave the borders of the city. So several hundred Christians from dozens of villages and towns to the north made the long trek down to Kalaymyo. There had never been a Christian gathering of that size that any of them could ever remember. It was a joyous time!

Since then we have held conventions each year. For the first two years we would end the conventions by saying "Next year in Tamu!" Tamu is the city that is most centrally located for most of the Myanmar Kukis. Finally, in 2013, we received permission to hold our convention in the Tamu city hall! Over six



Our first annual conference held at Tahan Seminary in Kalaymyo

hundred adults attended and it was the first time that a gathering of Christians that large had ever happened in Tamu. The real miracle was that we were allowed to gather inside a government building!

The conventions are such a wonderful time of Christian unity and fellowship. People from all denominations come together and, for one weekend at least, they are just Christians—no other labels necessary. Many denominational barriers have been broken down at these gatherings.

People, who for years had gathered in tiny groups and worshipped in fear of persecution, were able to sing and dance as loud and as long as they desired. The joy of the people is so wonderful to behold!



The convention at Namihan Church in Tamu, February 2016

These conventions have only been possible because of the generous donations from many individuals and churches. It costs a lot of money to feed hundreds of people three meals a day for several days. It costs a lot of money to hire buses to help bring people from miles away. The people themselves have been too poor to put something like this together on their own. And so, at every convention we hear many, many words of thanks and praise for all the generous believers in the West who love their Myanmar family so much that they are willing to help them in this way. **Thank you!**

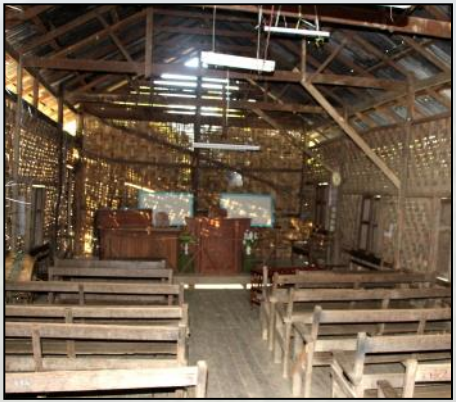
CHURCH REBUILDING & RESTORATION



The original Namihan Christian Church building

During the decades of the 1960s through the early 2000s, the church suffered from the iron-fisted rule of a brutal military dictatorship determined to stamp out Christianity from Myanmar. Churches and Christian schools were damaged, locked and closed, or outright destroyed. Pastors and elders were beaten, imprisoned, tortured, and killed. And during all this time, it was nearly impossible to get permission to repair any buildings that remained.

When MyHope began working in northwest Myanmar, the physical condition of the churches had completely deteriorated. Most of the buildings were (and many still are) made of bamboo, thatch, and hand-worked lumber. Bamboo and thatch do not last, and must be replaced every few years. The churches were old, falling down, had large holes in the floors, ceilings, walls (some didn't even have walls), and worse.



Inside Namihan Christian Church

As the military dictatorship gave way to a civilian government, it became easier to obtain building permits for churches. Unfortunately, the people were still so poor that they could not raise enough funds on their own to begin a proper rebuilding campaign. And so, in 2014 we began the task of raising funds from the West to help the churches rebuild. We began with a list of ten churches most in need of repairs or rebuilding. Nine of them have been completely rebuilt

Church Support



Putting a new roof on Khamphat Christian Church

from the ground up using bricks, lumber, concrete, and steel. Others have been improved.



Transporting bricks for Joljam Christian Church

Our partners provide most of the funds, and the local congregations provide the labor. One congregation, Valpabung South Christian Church, used their own funds raised over a period of years to build a foundation, but they needed help to complete the construction. It was finished in 2018. Other churches have been started and completed since then. There are still churches that need our help.



Inside one of the new churches



Lallim Christian Church Dedication

Please pray for this ongoing project, and please consider sending a gift to help finish the task. Thank you!

Myanmar Hope Christian Mission: Our Future

"The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps." Proverbs 16:9

When MyHope first began we never imagined that God would use this ministry in the way that He has. In the early years we would sometimes become anxious, wondering if enough donations would come in to cover the many commitments we had made to families and individuals.

Without fail God has always been faithful to provide for the needs. We have learned time and again that this is HIS ministry, not ours, and that we do not have to worry or be anxious about the future. God is faithful and we know that He will provide for all of our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

Future Projects

Palal has a file drawer full of requests for help from churches, village leaders, families, and individuals. Many of these requests are outside the scope of our ministry calling, but many of them are very worthy projects.

We are very careful about taking on new commitments. All of our projects are funded on a cash basis. Many require an up-front commitment of funds. However, the only reserve funds on hand are for daily operations. So we must wait on God to provide the necessary funds by speaking to the hearts of His people at the appropriate time.

With all that being said, we are also trying to be careful not to foster a sense of dependency among the poor and needy in northwest Myanmar. That is not healthy for anyone involved.

Our Future

Our ultimate goal as an organization is to work ourselves out of a job. We want the church in Myanmar to be strong enough to stand on its own and to not depend upon the donations from Christians in the West in order to survive. This is a huge goal, and it may take quite some time, but we believe it is achievable.

Until then we will continue to help the widows and orphans, the disabled, poor families, pastors, and their congregations. We will continue to be open to new projects which will help the people learn how to better help themselves. We will continue to focus on education and on economic and social development as parts of the long-term solution to poverty in northwest Myanmar. In short, we will continue to try to meet the immediate physical, spiritual, educational, and emotional needs of as many people as God enables us to.

And this, friend, is why your faithful partnership is so vital. MyHope has always existed as a vessel through which God's blessings can flow from West to East and back again. Without material blessings from people like you, though, the Church in northwest Myanmar would still be waiting for help and struggling to survive. With your help the blessings can continue to flow. And they really do flow in both directions!

When you give sacrificially to help the poor in Myanmar, they are blessed with food, clothing, shelter, medicines, resources, training, education, and so much more. And you receive the blessings that accompany loving and giving to the poor. When you give to the poor it feels good to know that you are helping someone much less fortunate than yourself. That in itself is a wonderful blessing. But there is much more at stake than just our feelings.

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

- Proverbs 19:17

Our Future

Did you know that when you give to the poor, you are extending a loan to God? He most certainly pays back with interest! When you give to the poor, you are laying up treasures in heaven. When you give to the poor, you are certainly pleasing the Lord. See Proverbs 19:17, Matthew 19:21, Matthew 25:34, and many other passages.

Dear friend, as we look to the future, can we count on your partnership? Palal, Kikim, and all of the volunteers in Myanmar can only do what they do with your help. As international non-profits go, Myanmar Hope Christian Mission is small potatoes. **We need you. You are vital to this ministry.** We have no large endowments, no professional fund raising departments, no offices and no paid staff. From a worldly standpoint, we are not much at all.

But what we do have is friends like you! Friends who know the value of giving to the poor. Friends who know that we have been blessed to be a blessing. Friends who know and love God and who love and bless His children—people you will probably never meet in this lifetime, but whom you will certainly meet and fellowship with in the next. **Our last message in this booklet is THANK YOU. Thank you for giving! Thank you for loving! Thank you for your faithful partnership!**





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

- Amy Carmichael, Missionary to India