August Greetings!

Hello again! We’re glad you are reading our August newsletter, because we have a lot of great news to share! Hopefully you are enjoying the wonderful blessing of air conditioning—it is hard to imagine living without it, but most people in the world do! If you have air conditioning, then whisper a prayer of thanksgiving right now, because you are truly blessed! Then grab a cold drink, sit back, and read on about how God’s people are working hard to build His Kingdom in Myanmar.

Baby Cherry Khongsai Says, “Mingalaba!”

Miss Cherry Nem Nei Them said “Mingalaba!” to the world on July 28th, 2010 at 6:43 am, Yangon time. She weighed in at 7lbs. 14oz., and was 20” long. She is very healthy, and baby and mother are both doing well.

Kikim began feeling pains at 7:00 am on July 27th. They waited until midnight to go to the hospital. Kikim was admitted, and then around 1:00 am she went into active labor. A doctor’s assistant came around 2:00 in the morning, checked on her for about ten minutes, and then left. Kikim’s physician arrived at 5:30 am, and informed them that the baby would have to be delivered by cesarean section. They took Kikim to the operating room at 6:15 am, and the baby was delivered safely at 6:43 am.

Kikim & Cherry stayed in the hospital for five days. Baby Cherry was kept under the blue photo light for 24 hours to reduce the neo-natal jaundice.

They are all now home, and everyone is feeling well. Solomon is enjoying being a big brother, and we know that he will take good care of his little sister.

Thanks to all of you for your prayers and financial support, which allowed Kikim to deliver her baby in a “rich person’s” hospital in Yangon. What a difference from when Solomon was born! If you have heard the story surrounding Solomon’s birth, and what Kikim and Palal went through to have him, then you know what we are talking about.

Many thanks also go out to those of you who sent cards and notes of congratulation and encouragement to Kikim and Palal. Also, thanks to West Side Christian Church members who donated funds to purchase baby items through the “Christmas in July” program.

We can’t wait to introduce Cherry Nem Nei Them to all of you in person sometime in the future!
And Now, A Word
From Our Sponsors

A friend of ours, Joanna Jones, who heads up Asian Children’s Mission, included some testimonials from people who sponsor children at their Hope Orphanage in Myanmar. We thought that was a great idea, so we asked some of our sponsors to do the same. Here is what they had to say:

Sheila Mauer : Mr. Thang Thong & Family

It had been on my heart for quite some time to support a monthly mission. There were several different missions I had been thinking and praying about, one of which was Myanmar Hope.

My decision to support a family through Myanmar Hope came down to my desire to support an individual or family in great need of basic necessities that we take for granted each day.

I know there are many other missions and organizations that also need support for poverty-stricken individuals or families, but of all the options before me, I feel Myanmar Hope is the mission God wants me to support.

I love “my family”. I thank God for the example and blessing they are to their friends, neighbors, and especially me, despite their extreme hardships…it puts the things I complain about into perspective when I read how they struggle to survive day-to-day.

Sheila Maurer, Jeffersonville, Indiana

Dirk and Sarah Homeier : Multiple Families

It was soon after this realization of just exactly how God has allowed us to be His hands and feet that my husband and I decided to sit down and determine very specifically how we believed God wanted us to reach out to help others in our missions. It was only natural that we use our personal and financial gifts to extend our passion of helping children. We also agreed that we must be able to see very specifically that Jesus was being taught, lived out, and implemented into the lives of those we helped. Myanmar became our new passion!

We couldn’t wait to sponsor families in Myanmar whose huts were overflowing with children in need! After becoming close to Palal and Kikim, it is easy to see and even feel the passion they have to get the news of Jesus to as many people as they can in Myanmar. Their sacrifices have and will continue to be a shining light to the oppressed people there. Without Jesus there is no hope. Their efforts, with our help, not only help one child, they change generations to come. They create a new way of life: a life of hope, passion, and purpose.

Sponsoring a child in Myanmar is one more way to allow Jesus to use us to transform a child’s life. And that is one less child that is homeless, malnourished, helpless, and hopeless.

Dirk and Sarah Homeier, Chatham, Illinois

Dale Miller : Mr. Jang Kho Lam & Family

Sally had been sharing with me about Chuck & MaryAnn opening their home to “Palal from Myanmar”, but I didn’t meet him until he came out to our farm in the Fall of 2007 to watch me harvest our corn. Sally brought him to the field and I’ll never forget watching him walk towards me in the combine, wearing his straw farmer’s hat. I knew from that first encounter that this man was a humble servant of God.

Palal rode several rounds in the combine with me and I believe was in awe as he watched rows and rows of corn being fed quickly and efficiently into the corn head. He told me that when farmers plant corn in Myanmar, “they dig a hole, put a seed in the hole, then go a bit further and dig another hole.” To harvest their crop, they shell it by hand, literally one ear at a time. Palal said, “we do this for our people’s survival; why do you do this?” Talk about feeling humbled ... I definitely was!

Palal’s obvious love and compassion for his people and their plight in Myanmar has impacted me tremendously and has

Family of Mr. Thang Thong

Dale and Palal by the combine
certainly put things in perspective. While I can’t take my John Deere equipment to Myanmar to plant/harvest their crops so the people will have food to eat, it is our honor and privilege to give financially so that some of those needs are met through Myanmar Hope Christian Mission. Palal and his family are very special to us; we pray that God will continue to bless them as they seek to minister to their people in Myanmar.

Dale Miller, Witt, Illinois

Elva Compton: Mr. Pao Kho Hang

Upon first meeting Palal and being with him in Prayer, I was impressed with his love of the Lord and his trust and faith in Him. For a young man to come 8,500 miles from home, leaving a wife and little son behind, touched me deeply. He had already risked his life before government officials to try to help his people, and now he decided to leave home to be a leader and encourage native pastors to share the Good News.

We here at West Side Christian Church began to send money for rice, etc., so the people could have food. When Palal could bring his family here, then how I loved them all three. Many times they walked to my condo from their home.

I chose to help a young man, Pao Kho Hang, disabled from birth. His parents were dead, and he lived with an aunt. He needed food each month. I learned that he had never been to a store to buy clothing, he just begged for clothes from his neighbors. It brought tears to my eyes when I saw the picture of when he was able to go to the store for the first time to pick out some new clothes and other items.

Mrs. Elva Compton, Springfield, Illinois

Troy and Billie Freeman: Pr. Thang Khup & Family

Having met and gotten to know the Khongsai family during their stay in the United States, our family has really seen how much we take for granted with our everyday luxuries and our faith. Our hearts break when we hear about the struggles and oppression these wonderful Christian people go through just to attend a church and share God’s love. Knowing that these pastors could be jailed or killed just for sharing God’s love while we have such freedom in our worship is truly humbling and begs the question, “What can I do to help my brothers and sisters in Christ?”

Myanmar Hope has made it easy to help, and our family has been honored to commit to directly support a Burmese pastor in his ministry. Knowing that this little bit of money (and our prayers as well) go directly to helping give him the materials and protection he needs allows us to, in a small way, help spread God’s word through this nation that truly needs Him.

Troy and Billie Freeman, Springfield, Illinois

What About You?

If reading these testimonials has touched your heart, and you would like to help a poor child, family, or pastor, call or write us today. The needs are great, and the harvest is ripe, but the laborers are few. Your prayerful financial support could literally mean the difference between life and death for the poverty-stricken Christians in Myanmar!

Out Of The Ashes

In April of this year, a devastating wildfire swept through the forests of northwest Myanmar. Forty-one families in the villages where we have churches lost their homes. During the same time period, another family lost their home to fire while they were attending church on a Sunday morning.
We sent out an urgent appeal for donations to help these families rebuild. The village elders estimated that it would cost approximately $1,500.00 per family to replace the lost houses with newer, though somewhat smaller, houses.

International Disaster Emergency Services (IDES) responded with a grant of $25,000 to help the families. Some of the families were able to begin rebuilding right away with help from relatives, friends, and neighbors. There were quite a few, however, that were unable to secure any funds on their own, and these families are being helped with the donation from IDES.

When one of the directors of the children’s ministry at West Side Christian Church of Springfield, Illinois, heard about the family that lost their home to fire while attending church, they decided to take the family on as their summer missions project. The children brought their offerings each week, with a goal of raising $1,500.00. They exceeded their goal! They plan to give the extra funds to the family to help them purchase household items to replace those that were lost in the fire.

Thank you, West Side Kids! If you want to see a video of the rebuilding process, and the West Side Kids in action, go to our facebook page at: http://www.facebook.com/MyanmarHope.

Hope School Update

The school is getting good reports from the locals. According to Palal, “the local leaders have visited our school many times, and they always remark that Hope Boarding School is one of best schools in our town. They see the way we care for the children and work for them. Even the teachers from the school are amazed at the way we provide for our students.”

We still have many needs to meet at the school. The building needs to be painted, inside and out, and the ground around the school needs to be raised and leveled.

Right now, when it rains (and it rains a lot) the area around the building resembles a flood plain more than a school yard. We also need to build a concrete wall around the property for the safety and security of the students and staff. If you can help with any of these items, please let us know.

Semi-Annual Report

On the following page is a facsimile of the semi-annual report that we presented to our Board of Directors in July for the period January 1st through June 30th, 2010.

31% of our donations went toward our Family and Pastor Support programs and 56% went toward special projects (mostly Hope Boarding School and disaster relief). The next two largest amounts in the budget were telecommunications (3%) and travel (4%). These were higher due to the purchase of a cell phone for Palal to use in Myanmar ($1,200.00!) and for part of the cost of tickets and lodging to Yangon for Palal, Kikim, and Solomon. Together these items make up 94% of the budget. The remaining line items are for administrative expenses (publishing, office supplies, etc.)

Thank you for your donations! We strive to be careful with the funds that you so graciously donate, and we are humbled and very thankful for the trust you place in us to be wise stewards. We pray that God will continue to raise up more people like yourselves who are generous and willing to help care for the poor in Myanmar and to help spread the Gospel among the Burmese Buddhists.

God bless you!
Semi-Annual Report  
January 1st to June 30th 2010

Income
- Balance Forward\(^2\) 44,150.59
- Donations Income 40,948.12
Total Income $85,098.71

Expenses
- Fundraising 1,585.05
- Publishing 732.31
- Insurance, Licenses, Postage 542.33
- Currency Exchange, Bank Fees, Processing Fees 384.34
- Professional Fees (Accounting, Legal) 475.00
- Repairs and Maintenance 88.88
- Supplies – Office, Computer, Other 742.27
- Telecommunications\(^2\) 2,557.33
- Travel – Airfare, Lodging, Misc.\(^3\) 3,221.87
- Pastor Support Program 13,636.11
- Family Support Program 9,940.00
- Special Projects\(^6\) 42,820.00
Total Expenses $76,725.49

Cash On Hand
- Checking Account 2,163.22
- Bokkan Clinic Fund 6,210.00
Total Cash on Hand, 6/30/2010 $8,373.22

\(^1\) includes Hope School Fund, Bokkan Clinic Fund, checking/savings accounts.
\(^2\) includes $1200.00 for purchase of cell phone for ministry work in Myanmar.
\(^3\) Airfare and lodging for Pakai, Kkum, and Solomon’s travel back to Myanmar.
\(^4\) Special projects include Hope Boarding School: purchase of land, renovation of building, purchase of supplies, etc.; also funds for rebuilding the houses destroyed by forest fires.

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

Myanmar Hope Christian Mission is a federally recognized, not-for-profit corporation organized under the laws of the state of Illinois. All donations made to this organization are 100% tax deductible according to IRS Code 501(c)(3). Myanmar Hope Christian Mission is licensed under the U.S. Dept. of Treasury, Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) to perform humanitarian work in the country of Myanmar under the Burma Sanctions Regulation. Federal Tax ID: 26-6532444 • OFAC Number: BU-1879
Myanmar Hope Christian Mission, Inc.
624 Garvey Lane
Chatham, Illinois 62629
217-415-9187

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

www.myanmarhope.org  |  info@myanmarhope.org  |  facebook.com/myanmarhope

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