

# Friends of Burma (FOB) 2005 Annual Report

Dear Friends,

Another year has passed and God has blessed many of our programs and guided us to new programs. At this point FOB has over fifty programs and since many of them are never mentioned in our twice yearly newsletter, we thought we would highlight them in this annual report.

**PERMANENT BUDGETED PROGRAMS:** Ministries in this section are supported by income from the Erville & Genevieve Sowards Fund at Baptist Foundations.

1. **Erville & Genevieve Sowards Memorial Scholarship.** This is FOB's first large program, now in its twentieth year. Scholarships are awarded to students wanting to study for full time Christian service, with priority given to children of Christian workers and then to other needy students. About 650 students receive a scholarship each year. It is administered by the Myanmar Baptist Convention.

2. **Karen Bible School Support.** Each year FOB gives a grant of \$3,000 which is divided among the twelve Karen Bible Schools and Seminaries.

3. **Baptist Bible Schools and Seminaries Support.** Part of FOB permanent grant program is a grant of \$4,000 given to all Baptist Bible schools and seminaries each year.

4. **Martyrs Scholarships.** FOB sponsors the Martyrs Scholarships in memory of the two Kachin young women who lost their lives in the Gideon campaign, the seven Chins in the CCOC campaign and the seven Karens in the A. D. 2000 program.

5. **Friends of Myanmar Governing Board (FOMGB).** FOB provides FOMGB in Burma \$10,000 each year for them to distribute as they see fit.

**LONG TERM PROGRAMS:** Most of these ministries are supported by individuals' donations or undesignated donations.



Digging tube well at KBC Clinic

6. **Christian Workers' Scholarships.** \$150 a year scholarships given by various individuals to students at Shan State Baptist Seminary, Myanmar Institute of Theology, Karen Baptist Theological Seminary, Myanmar Institute of Christian Theology, Ko Tha Pyu Baptist Seminary, Pwo Karen Seminary at Ahlone, U Saw Bu at Yedwinyegan, etc. Most schools divide up these scholarships among several students. For more information please visit [www.friendsofburma.org/testimony.php](http://www.friendsofburma.org/testimony.php)

7. **Karen Baptist Clinic Support.** A very active FOB committee seeks supplies for this clinic and persons to carry them in. Their efforts have led to significant designated giving to this clinic and the Matthew 25 Love Clinic in Pathein. This year saw two large gifts--\$10,000 for transporting a container of medical supplies and \$15,000 for an ultra sound machine. For more information visit [www.friendsofburma.org/kbc.pdf](http://www.friendsofburma.org/kbc.pdf)

8. **Faculty Support.** FOB collects salary support and gives a two month bonus to poorly paid teachers of six Bible Schools and Seminaries. Rapid inflation has caused costs to increase much more than support.

9. **Library Development.** FOB is currently helping four community libraries—The Lay Nyin Thit at Taunggyi, the Dr. Chit Maung Memorial Library at Insein, the Pathein Community Library, and the Library at Loikaw.

10. **Orphan Support.** FOB seeks support for individual orphans at 144 per year at these orphanages: Grace Care, Dee Maw Soe; Kayah Pu at Loikaw; Pu Mooler at Hmawbi; and Kwe Lwe at Myaungmya. These are under the sponsorship of the KBC. Also Agape at Loikaw is under the sponsorship of the Baptist Church at Loikaw.

11. **Sixty Five Village Students Education.** The Pathein Myaungmya Sgaw Karen Baptist Association is taking the most outstanding student from each of sixty five villages and housing them in two hostels in Pathein so they can attend high school. Individual FOB donors support them at \$50 per year.



12. **Entrepreneur Groups Grants.** Naw Paw Gaw of the Karen Women Development Department organizes women into groups which she trains in business and they save money in order to get a loan so they can start their own businesses. The cost is \$300 per group and she has over thirty groups. FOB sponsors many of them. When they repay their loan, the money is then loaned to new groups.



13. **Thirty five Mission Field Students Education.** Individual donors are providing \$50 each support for thirty five high school students from 35 mission fields of the Pathein-Myaungmya Sgaw Karen Baptist Association so they can stay at the hostel in Pathein and get an education.

14. **Naw Paw Wah Doh.** As a young woman she had a profound effect on Neil Sowards, so he has, through FOB, for twenty years, continued to support her various programs. These have included helping the Shwe Gyin Bible School, building a nursery school and enabling her to teach 150 nursery school teachers who have established 53 nursery schools. Usually she receives \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year.

15. **Karen Religious Books.** FOB is financing the copying of religious books by Karens in Karen language and distributing them to twelve Karen seminaries and Bible Schools.

16. **Copying Desired Religious Resource Books.** For years FOB mailed bags of books to seminaries and Bible schools. Twenty percent were lost in the mails. Many were not useful. Therefore FOB is now spending the same amount of money in copying carefully chosen books for thirteen schools.

17. **Burmese Religious Books.** By grants FOB is paying for the copying of three religious books in Burmese language which are distributed to seminaries and Bible schools each year.



18. **Myo Mission Field.** This is a mission project of the Patheingyi-Myaungmya Karen Baptist Association in the Arakan area with sixty evangelists and teachers. FOB donors support with \$3,600 per year.

19. **Hearing Aids.** FOB donors give grants of \$50 each to ministers to purchase hearing aids.

20. **Eye Glasses.** Some FOB donors give \$10 grants to students and faculty for eye examinations and glasses. Many students can only earn 30 cents per day so glasses are beyond their reach.

21. **Mailings for Burmese Institutions.** A FOB person copies and mails the newsletter for MIT and the Karen Baptist Convention Clinic at least twice a year to keep Americans informed of their ministries. Total cost is \$500 .

22. **Retired Christian Workers Grants.** FOB donors make \$10 grants to Retired Christian Workers which FOMGB administers.

23. **Historic Missionary Books.** Because of the devastation of WWII, few books on the era of western missionaries have survived. We were able to find thirteen different single copies. Ten copies were made of each and distributed to nine libraries. In January 2005 ten copies were made of six different additional books from Diana's library and distributed.

24. **Printing Needed Religious Books.** FOB is helping to print needed religious books at a price most can afford. The money received is recycled to print more books.

25. **Supporting Two Medical Students.** Admittance to medical school is based on test scores. It is very rare for anyone outside of Yangon to score high enough to be admitted. However two students in the west delta did score high enough and a FOB donor is supporting them. The cost is \$300 per student, or \$600 per year.

**SHORT TERM PROGRAMS:** Most of these ministries are supported by undesignated donations and by special appeals.

26. **Building Programs.** FOB currently is helping four building programs: They are: a faculty duplex at Nyaungleben Bible School, Jubilee Building Annex at MIT (Myanmar Institute of Theology), the Kayah Pu orphanage at Loikaw, and the Karen Baptist Convention staff building.

27. **Nyaungleben Bible School.** FOB is helping the Nyaungleben Bible School, one of the poorest schools in Burma, in several ways. This school is in a very sensitive area with internally displaced persons, so their normal base of support is broken. 1. Build faculty housing. 2. By paying for the education of a future faculty member at MIT and 3. a computer.

28. **MIT Library.** This library is computerizing their card catalogue and the work is going slowly because the librarians are supposed to do it in addition to their usual work. FOB made a grant to hire assistants to help them. A previous grant enabled them to process books sent from the U. S. and transforms the upper storeroom into a real library room.

29. **Pitch Pipes.** Neil carried in 144 pitch pipes in January 2005 because the Karens love to sing and want to sing on key.



30. **Teaching in Burma.** FOB members have taught in Burma at BARS, MIT, KBTS and other schools giving their knowledge and using critical thinking methodology. For more information visit <http://www.friendsofburma.org/teaching.php> and [www.friendsofburma.org/two\\_eggs.php](http://www.friendsofburma.org/two_eggs.php).

persons going to Burma to carry them in.

31. **Medical Equipment and Supplies.** The organization known as Project C.U.R.E. makes up kits of donated medical supplies, worth \$2,000 to \$3,000 which they provide for \$150 handling costs. FOB found four

32. **Mission Conference at Green Lake, Wisconsin.** Several FOB volunteers have set up displays representing FOB and sold items to raise money for projects. The goal is to spread the word about FOB but not divert any money that would normally go to BIM's mission program.

33 **Support of Daw Pan Shwe Orphanage, Taunggyi.** One FOB donor specializes in helping this hostel and orphanage with gifts for the children, school fees, operating costs, and a generator.

34. **Mosquito Nets.** FOB has distributed over five hundred effective mosquito nets to pastors and evangelists in malaria areas at a cost of \$7 each. These are the cheapest and most effective protection against malaria.

**ONE TIME PROGRAMS:** These ministries are very short, one time programs supported by undesignated donations or special donations.

35. **KBC Van.** FOB donors helped buy a van for KBC to use to pick up its employees.



36. **Two Youth Hostels in Pathein.** One FOB donor contributed \$8,600 for two hostels.

37. **Music Program.** FOB has aided in the development of a music program at KBTS by the education of Hta Mla Paw in the Philippines and PePeLeh in Singapore, helping to purchase a music library.

38. **Key Board Teaching Program.** FOB donors helped purchase five Casio Keyboards so the Rangoon Karen Women's Developmental Department could teach the playing of them. Thirty five students enrolled in their first class.

39. **Training Five Naga Village Health Workers.** A FOB donor made it possible for the KBC Clinic to train five Naga young women in a six month course in village health work at a cost of \$1,500. For more information visit [www.friendsofburma.org/Naga\\_trainees.pdf](http://www.friendsofburma.org/Naga_trainees.pdf).

40. **Computers.** From time to time FOB makes grants to organizations for computers. Recent grants have given computers to Shan State Seminary at Taunggyi, Mon Bible School, Yangon Karen Women's Development Association, etc. There have been times FOB has given computers to students studying in the Philippines, Hong Kong or the U. S. This aids in their thesis preparation.

41. **Rev. M. Zau Yaw Memorial.** Two members of FOB pledged \$5,000 as a memorial to M. Zau Yaw who was of the greatest help to Neil and Diana Sowards in the early days of FOB. It was used for a youth center. Without this great man, there would have been no FOB.

42. **Matthew 25 Love Clinic.** A FOB donor contributed to the building of a new building and another to equipment and supplies.

43. **Emergency Support.** Sometimes a Burmese student here has unexpected medical bills, expenses, or expected support does not come through. FOB has collected funds to help them.

44. **"Where There Is No Doctor".** FOB donated the cost of 200 copies of this book for distribution to those in position to need and use it. The cost was \$2 each.

45. **Hmawbi Bible School.** A FOB donor has helped this new Bible school which takes students with less education who feel called by God to serve and trains them.

46. **Helper of High School Students.** A FOB donor helps a man help students pass the 10<sup>th</sup> standard by bringing them to Rangoon and tutoring them.

47. **Myanmar Baptist Convention.** From time to time FOB donors help various departments of MBC with special programs.

48. **Myanmar Bible Society.** From time to time FOB donors have helped with donations to MBS for translating and Bible distribution.

**EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS:** These ministries are supported by interest from endowment or undesignated donations.

49. **Wind Mill.** FOB granted \$200 to build a sail wind mill developed by Eddie Loo to pump water near Yangon so Christians may see it and build one like it. It will irrigate about 1 ½ acres.



50. **Better Stoves.** FOB is financing the demonstrating of clay GS stoves and the making of the necessary tin molds at a cost of \$5.50 each. The G S Stove saves 60% of the wood in normal cooking. It has been demonstrated many places.

51. **Solar Cooker.** FOB is financing the experimentation seeking an effective solar cooker. We have tried to find a solar cooker that works. We had the YMCA come out and demonstrate a solar cooker box made of wood and tin with a reflecting lid. It only reached 170 degrees.

We then tried making one of cardboard with a much larger reflecting surface but it did not work. The cardboard was too flexible and did not focus well.

We then had a man make out of bamboo a satellite shaped dish which we lined with foil but it was so uneven it did not focus the sun light.



So we bought an old satellite dish and lined it with foil and it reached 575 degrees in four minutes!!! The stick in the center, that had the thermometer tied to it, started smoking and charring. We quickly moved it out of the sun since the thermometer only went to 600 degrees and we did not want to burn it up.

Tha Wah, one of my students of two years ago, worked with me to develop it. It needs more development to see if it can be made smaller. Or the satellite dish can be used to mold a dish out of cheap materials that is equally effective.



52. **Training program for Naga health workers.** FOB sponsored the training of five Naga health workers from the far north of Burma including paying their way and the cost of instruction.

#### **OTHER RELATED PROGRAMS.**

53. **Burma Fellowship Tours.** FOB has sponsored Christian Fellowship Tours to Burma. Participants meet Christians, see their programs and the sights of Burma. Some of our most dedicated supporters have come from going on these tours. FOB makes no profit from the tour. Please visit [www.friendsofburma.org/testimony\\_ruth.php](http://www.friendsofburma.org/testimony_ruth.php) to read

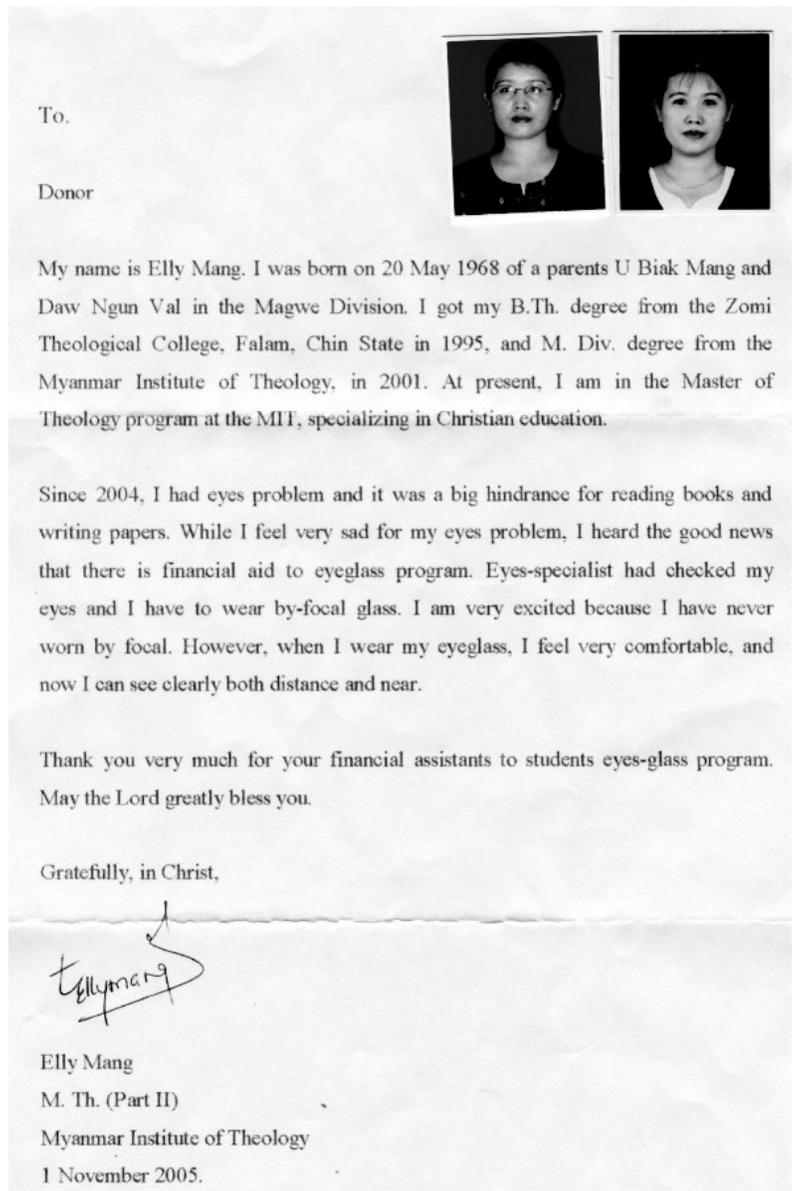
personal testimony.

**54. Money distribution Program.** FOB continues to receive money from various organizations, foundations, and individuals and distributes it as they direct because we have the personnel and skill to do this. It is considered a ministry of FOB.

**55. Fort Wayne Burmese Refugees.** While not an FOB program, a supporter of FOB sponsored the first Burmese refugee to Fort Wayne and her work has resulted in over 2,000 Burmese refugees settling in Fort Wayne. She continues to do social work with them.

**56. Book Bags for Burmese Children.** Two supporters of FOB took it upon themselves to purchase twenty five book bags for Burmese children in the Phoenix area. Having what other children have is very important to new Burmese children. Please visit [www.friendsofburma.org/backPack.pdf](http://www.friendsofburma.org/backPack.pdf) for more information and pictures.

Donations can be made to any of these programs through Friends of Burma. More information is available on our website at: [friendsofburma.org](http://friendsofburma.org) Co Chairpersons are Neil & Diana Sowards, 548 Home Ave, Fort Wayne, IN 46807 (260) 745-3658. E-mail: [neildianasowards@juno.com](mailto:neildianasowards@juno.com) All work in the U.S. is done by volunteers. Friends of Burma is a 501(C) (3) organization under the aegis of South Wayne Baptist Church, an American Baptist Church, so donations are tax deductible.



## FRIENDS OF BURMA

South Wayne Baptist Church  
548 Home Avenue  
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I want to help the Christians of Burma (Myanmar). Enclosed find check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the ministry indicated below. The amount in { } indicates the full sponsorship, but any amount will help and be deeply appreciated.

\_\_\_\_ An Orphan {\$144 per year}

\_\_\_\_ Retired Christian Worker {\$10 each}

\_\_\_\_ Entrepreneur Group {\$300}

\_\_\_\_ Eyeglasses for students {\$10 each}

\_\_\_\_ Seminary Student {\$150 per year}

\_\_\_\_ Hearing Aid of minister {\$50 each}

\_\_\_\_ Evangelist {\$60 per year}

\_\_\_\_ Sponsor a High School Student {\$50 per year}

\_\_\_\_ Christian Clinic {Any amount}

\_\_\_\_ Building Fund {Any amount}

\_\_\_\_ Needed books {Average \$2.50 each}

\_\_\_\_ As Needed {Any amount}

