

Newsletter Fall 2005

Dear Friends,

We are so thankful for all your continued prayers and support of the ministries of FOB. God is working through you to meet the needs of the people of Burma (Myanmar). There are many needs unmet, which we hope you will find the interest to support.

Accomplishments:

- Training Naga Health Workers.** A donor gave \$1,500 to train five Naga women. They come from the far north of Burma. The Nagas are one of the poorest tribes.
- Youth Hostel.** A supporter of FOB gave \$4,300 to build one of the two needed hostels so students can come from villages without high schools to Patheingyi for schooling. The most outstanding student from each of 65 churches will be chosen. FOB has found support for 6 at \$50 per year.
- Outstanding Students from Mission Fields.** This is a parallel program to bringing 35 students from 35 mission fields. Sponsors for all 35 students were supplied by FOB.
- Rocky Thein,** studying at Fuller Theological Seminary, became very ill and required hospitalization. Tansy raised money to help with his expenses and to pay for a place to stay because he could no longer stay with his host family who had a young child. He is now doing well and finishing his thesis and hopes to return to teach at Karen Baptist Theological Seminary in early 2006. He continues to need our financial support because he is paying \$800 a month for an apartment. There will be various graduation needs as well.
- Green Lake Exhibit.** David Horton, Ruth & John Peterson, and Sue Dolbow represented FOB at the Mission Conference in Green Lake, Wisconsin and raised \$350 by selling Burma items. The gift shop at Green Lake has been very generous to FOB.
- Two Hundred Books,** "Where There is No Doctor" were supplied to leaders in Kachin state in northern Burma.
- Container for Karen Baptist Clinic.** A needs assessment for the Karen Baptist Clinic was completed by personnel of Project C.U.R.E. on August 8. A number of churches and individuals have hosted fund raisers and contributed over \$10,000 for the shipping charges of a container of donated medical equipment and supplies valued at over \$400,000. The response to this project has been terrific and now they wait for clearance from government departments for shipment, sometime in 2006. Your participation and prayers for this major project are so appreciated.
- MIT salary support.** Donors have continued to supplement the salaries of Myanmar Institute of Theology professors who work at great sacrifice.
- Orphans.** Recently at Agape Orphanage in Loikaw, the first ever orphan successfully passed her Matriculation test. This is a grueling test that only about 20% of 10th standard students pass. We salute her for her efforts and for the efforts of the staff to prepare her for this test.
- Bookbags for refugee children.** Realizing the importance to children of having what other children have, Tansy and Judy Lundy in Arizona raised money to give 15 children bookbags in Phoenix, Arizona
- Micro Credit Training Program.** FOB helped fund the training of 35 women from across Burma at a training program so they can organize women into cooperative entrepreneur groups and start small businesses. An article in a recent Christian Science Monitor told of the importance of such groups.
- Mosquito Nets.** FOB funded the purchase of another 200 mosquito nets. A recent article said such nets were the most effective way to protect from malaria.
- Waimaw Theological School.** FOB granted \$200 to this new school in the Kachin State to encourage them.
- Myo Mission Project.** \$1,000 was given toward supporting the sixty evangelists among the Myos.
- Two Medical Students.** A donor gave support for two Christian medical students to attend medical college--a rare opportunity for Christians. They keep in touch by writing from time to time.
- Copying Needed Books.** Instead of sending hundreds of books hoping some would be useful, we have switched to making copies in Burma of selected books known to be helpful. The sixteen

schools that received them are KBTS, MICT, Pwo Karen at Ahlone, SSBS, Yangon Home Mission BS, Ko Tha Pyu BS, Pwo Karen at Pathein, Naga BS, Zomi TS, Lisu TS, Chin Christian College, Nyaungleben BS, Lahu BS, and Wai Maw BS.

Clinic Report: by Tansy Kadoe (TansyJKadoe@cox.net) Money was gathered for a tube well so the clinic would have reliable and clean water. There were two fund raisers for the Clinic--selling T shirts and a garage sale. Over \$2,000 was raised. There is an 18 minute video on the clinic available for loan. Contact Tansy.

Orphan Report: by David Horton (dehgvas@cox.net) Over 125 orphans in 5 orphanages in Burma are supported through Friends of Burma. Readers of this newsletter may want to join orphan sponsors with \$144 yearly support. We send out an annual letter in the fall, asking specific donors to send in their annual support (\$144) by the end of the year. Their cooperation eliminates a lot of extra bookkeeping on behalf of Friends of Burma and insures that these small, struggling orphanages have adequate funds to operate. We have one person who supports ten (10) orphans a year. Would you prayerfully consider taking an orphan? Yes, it could be for 10-12 years.

Promotion Report by Ruth & John Peterson: (Peterson.j.g.@concast.net) Ruth and John are doing interim work at First Baptist Church of Ottawa, Illinois and designating part of their pay to Friends of Burma. Ruth and John raised money for three Casio keyboards. The Women's Development Center at Ahlone offered a course and 30 enrolled. FOB granted 90% of what was needed for two more so all could come.

Library Report: by Sue Dolbow: (suedolbow@earthlink.net) and Show Ei Ei Tun (showeitun@yahoo.com) Sue is planning to go to Burma in January, 2006 and work with the libraries.

Daw Pan Shwe Orphanage: by Judy Lundy (Manninglundy@msn.com) Judy and her friends collected \$350 so that each orphan could have a sack of goodies put together by the Shan State Bible School students. The orphanage also received money for school fees, etc. (Christmas shoeboxes are not practical for Burma so she used this method. She also raised \$1,000 for a generator and fuel so the 130 orphans can study in the evening when the power is off.

Burma Christian Fellowship Tour: Three persons have signed up. Deadline is November 1st. The program is 14 days at \$1,500 plus airfare, Monday January 9, to Sunday January 23, 2006. Contact Neil for itinerary and details.

Matthew 25 Love Clinic at Pathein which FOB helped build. We just received a picture of the finished building.

Fort Wayne Ministries: Diana Sowards helped a Mon young man graduate from high school and then pass the Summer Bridge Program of IPFW. He is now taking 3 college courses. She is tutoring a man for citizenship. Diana took Dr. Win to Chicago to take her third test needed to practice medicine in the U. S.

Are you planning a trip to Burma in 2006? We always have a need for persons to hand carry small items or documents. If you are willing to do this on your next trip, please let us know and we would be so pleased to help you maximize your trip.

The Fort Wayne Newspaper did a nice write up on Neil and Diana Sowards and their ministry with the Burmese in Fort Wayne. You can read it at www.News-Sentinel.com August 29, 2005, page 5A. Our permanent website is www.friendsofburma.org

If you prefer receiving this newsletter in color by e-mail please let us know. It saves us time and money. Send your request to neildianasowards@juno.com

We have an 18 minute CD-Rom or video tape on Friends of Burma available for sale at \$3 postpaid.

From time to time we issue updates to the Friends of Burma Advisory Board. If interested in receiving these one page (usually) letters by e-mail only, contact Neil.

Opportunities for Helping our Fellow Baptists in Burma (Myanmar).

- 1. Karen Baptist Convention Clinic.** Tops on their wish list are: 1. An air sup(sic) for oxygen \$940, 2. Two oxygen cylinders \$100 each, 3. Two nitrous oxide cylinders \$200 each.
- 2. 200 Copies of the book, "Where There is No Doctor"** for pastors. Cost is \$2.20 per book. Requested by Tha Wah for Pathein Myaungmya pastors.

3. Mosquito nets for evangelists. High quality mosquito nets are the best protection from malaria. Each net is \$7 and it will last ten years and 21 washings. A \$7 donation may save a life for ten years. We have had many requests. Naw Esther Moo, Evangelist, with her mosquito net.

4. Karen Baptist Convention Staff Housing. The total cost is \$110,000. They have raised \$70,000 and need help with the balance.

5. Scholarships for Life Committed Christians. \$150 will give a year's education in a Bible School or Seminary. It takes 3-4 years depending upon school.

6. Two Hostels for high school students at Pathein. \$4,300. each. One has been given. To house one outstanding student from each of 65 villages. Without high schools students can not get a high school education.

7. Myanmar Institute of Theology. New class room building, \$270,000. Memorial rooms are \$5,000. Memorial equipping a room is \$500. They also need twenty beds at \$20 each and 50 chair-desks at \$12.

8. Christian Resource Books. Many Christians need religious resource books. We have permission to reprint some excellent books right there in Burma. They need capital to underwrite the printing. The books will be sold and the money recycled to print more books.

9. Entrepreneur Loans. After training and saving their match, a group of want-to-be businesspersons are given a loan to develop their business. Their repayment money is then loaned to others. But more seed money is needed as word spreads about the program and more want to participate. Cost is \$300 per project. Usually about thirty-six persons benefit in the first round.

10. Other worthy programs: Eye Glasses \$10.00, Aid a Retired Christian worker \$10.00, Hearing aids for Ministers. \$50.

11. Sponsor an Orphan. The Pathein Myaungmya Sgaw Karen Baptist Association have started an orphanage, Kwe Lwe and need sponsors for 15 orphans. The cost to support a child is \$144 per year--all this money goes to the orphanage. Typical is Naw Noble Paw, born Nov 9th, 1994 a female Karen.

Please make checks payable to Friends of Burma, South Wayne Baptist Church, 548 Home Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46807. Phone: (260) 745-3658. neildianasowards@juno.com All donations are tax deductible. All work in the U.S. is done by volunteers. Our website is: www.friendsofburma.org