



The five-storied MIT building

Friends of Burma, Inc

548 Home Ave, Fort Wayne, IN 46807

Phone(260)745-3658

Email:neildianasowards@juno.com

Web: friendsofburma.org

Fall 2012 Newsletter

We thank the Lord for his blessings and guidance. He is doing great things in Burma through the dedicated brothers and sisters in Christ. We thank you all for your prayers and financial support that helps meet the needs of fellow Christians in Burma.

Ministry through Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT)

The Fall enrollment at MIT is strong (1,250) and even with retirement and study leaves the faculty is energized with the schedule and classes. Dr. Samuel Ngun Ling, the Principal, indicated that the new five-storied classroom building is finished. Funds are needed to continue construction of a two-storied staff quarters and the construction of the library extension. The staff quarters building will provide room for six staff families. The library needs to be extended as much as possible so that the school can start Ph.D. program in 2014.

Visit the MIT website at www.mittheo.com for more information.

Dr. Chit Maung Library The increased usage of Dr. Chit Maung Library since 1997 shows the importance of this facility to the community. Classes are well attended and reflect the great interest in learning. New books and magazines have been received through a variety of NGO organizations.

Liberal Arts Educational Program at Karen Baptist Theological Seminary

The seminary has added a Liberal Arts program to their curriculum. This change offers a solid and well-rounded education for Karen youth. Courses are offered in (1) Communicative English (2) Computer Science (3) Business Administration (4) Karen Language. Dr. Magnolia is the director of the Liberal Arts Program.

Pwo Karen Seminary Building in Pathein

The time, effort and money spent to construct the Pwo Karen Seminary building in Pathein a couple years ago is producing great fruits for the kingdom of God and the church leaders. Students are currently using this modern facility. Please keep the staff and students in your prayers.

Hpu Saw Bu Bible School student dormitory is under reconstruction

Hpu Saw Bu Bible School is located in Yedwinyegan, Myaungmya, and is under the leadership of Myaungmya Karen Baptist Association. The building was struck by lightning and burned

down last year. The reconstruction project is ongoing and the association is thankful for all the donations received through Friends of Burma.



Male dormitory under construction

Mae La Bible School Reconstruction

Mae La is a Burmese refugee camp in Thailand. Mae La Kawthulei Karen Baptist Bible School in the camp was burned down this summer. The exact cause of the fire was unknown. FOB sent monetary support for Mae La Bible School reconstruction along with other organizations. This Bible school has been a place of training for many ministry leaders. We thank you for choosing to support the ministry. Because of your generous contribution we were able to move forward.



Mae La Bible School on fire(photo from Karen news)



New office construction

Pathein-Myaungmya Karen Baptist Association Office Building Construction Project

The construction project for the Pathein-Myaungmya Karen Baptist Association office building is underway and the general secretary, Erville Porwy, thanks friends from the U.S.A who contributed through FOB. This building will be used for office space as well as other pastoral training and religious activities. Dedication plans for the new office building are for September 2013.

Mrokhams Baptist Churches Association

Mrokhams Baptist Churches Association in the Rakhine state was formed by the mission work of the evangelists from Pathein-Myaungmya Karen Baptist association. The association is an independent organization under the leadership of Myanmar Baptist Convention. Rev. Mg Nge Gyi, one of the Mrokhams pastors, is the Director of Christian Social Service and Development Department. Because of his leadership and godly good example many Mrokhams were led to Christ. Although it is not easy at times to deal with the authority, he is putting God first and trying to spread the Good News to many of his own people.

KBC Hospital

The fantastic ambulance donated in 2011 is being fully utilized for emergencies as well as periodic visits to rural areas to support the medical teams that go out on a regular basis. A KBC hospital staff member thanks God for His blessing of this fantastic vehicle. He said, “As we look back we got so many blessing from God. The hospital has no extra money for renovation but God fulfills all our needs. God is good all the time for us. This year we are busy with so much renovation and construction work. Renovation of the Operation Theater, patient-wards, and extension building for crowded patients. The laundry and patient admission registration have been enlarged. We have a canteen and that is so very helpful for patients and their relatives. We are ready to open Hemo-dialysis Center.. Please remember us in all of your prayer. Thank you all for your love of our hospital's healing ministry. May God Bless you all!”

Health Care Training



Sa Kan Tha Nurse Aid Training Center is promoting the health care service in the rural areas by training individuals who will go back to their villages to help with the basic health care. FOB staff member distributed “Where There Is No Doctor” translated to Burmese to these students. This training has been a useful program for the individuals who participate and the community that they serve.
Graduation ceremony for public health workers

Pago Yoma Project A generous donor supported the Pago Yoma Project which seeks to improve the basic health care in the community and rural areas of 14 distant and difficult-to-reach villages within Paukaung Township. The terrain is difficult and the area is less developed compared to the other parts of the country. We are thankful for the support we receive to be able to help the people in those remote areas.

Stethoscopes for Pago Yoma



Matthew 25 Love Clinic

The Matthew 25 Love Clinic in Pathein has seen increased numbers of patients with recent added space and equipment. Many residents in Pathein as well as rural areas have been blessed by the presence of this health care facility.

Eyeglasses program making a difference The eyeglasses provided for the seminary students and faculties with poor eye sight is of tremendous help to them. The KBTS Vice-principal thanked FOB for the care and concern for their seminary. They hope and pray that God will fulfill our needs and continue to use us more and more as the channel of blessings to many more people.



Karen Baptist Theological Students who receive eye glasses in 2012

Our FOB associate from Burma also reported how these eye glasses have been marvelous blessings for Kyar Inn Seikkyi Village, Karen State, Bible School. He said, "We got 38 eyeglasses for this school through FOB donations. The village was in black area once. (this means fought over by the Karens and the government). There is bad communication due to hard terrain and sometimes flooded area. For eyeglasses they have to go to Mudon, Mawlamyaing. It is 5 hours' drive and they have to pay more than it should be. Sometimes they did not get fit eyeglasses for their eyes. They were very happy because this was the first time for them. We sent an eyeglasses man to the village and tested their eyes. He then came back to Yangon, made the eyeglasses and resented them to the village. The villagers don't know all the donors by name but they thank them very much and are praying for them."

Youth Hostel in Taunggyi

Youth Hostel in Taunggyi was visited by Show Ei Ei Tun, a board member of FOB. She gave amazing reports of what God is doing with young lives in and through this ministry.

School and health care related education scholarships.

We received thank you note from Rev. Martin Nyunt, pastor of the Immanuel Baptist church in Yangon, for the support money sent from FOB donor in order to be used in preparing high school students for their matriculation exam. Only a small percentage of the students passed their exam each year so it is very important for them to have a good preparation. The medical students are also thankful that they will be able to use the money to buy books necessary for their study.

Care and Counseling Department

The Care and Counseling Department director informed us that a large number of students passed their high school matriculation exam in 2011-2012 academic year. This is a great achievement for the students. Other students are also studying very hard. On behalf of Care and Counseling Department she indicated that in 2012 and 2013 they plan to conduct further training for orphanage centers staffs. This was a request from the child care centers during their visit and interviewed them in order to collect staff quality assessment. .



Children from Ywa Dah Eh Child Care Center

Orphan children, Moe Kathy and Aye Mar Nu Aye La, long supported by donors of FOB are also studying in KBTS Liberal Arts Business Administration program. They are third-year students and plan to go back and serve their association when they finish.

Orphanage in Kyaukkyi

Kyaukkyi is a very unsettled area in Burma. It means hundreds and maybe thousands of villagers burned out of their houses and resettled in internal camps, or in the jungle. That is why there are orphans and currently there are 13 orphans at the facility. The name of this care center is Hpu Thu Thu Hpu Shay That. We thank and urge our generous donors to support the children from this facility.

Flooding in Southwestern part of Burma

Gone Min, Ye Dar Gyi, and Kyar Kan villages in Kyaung Gone district, and many villages associated with Pathein-Myaungmya Karen Baptist Association have faced difficulties due to flooding. The paddy fields were under water and many schools have been closed due to very high level of water. With no clean water to drink the villagers in these areas are in need of help.



Thatched huts surrounded by water

Students walking to school across water

Rev. and Mrs. Cung Lian Hup serve a new church in Battle Creek. Rev. Hup taught the New Testament at MIT for over 10 years while Sung served the finances of Friends of Burma efficiently and effectively for 15 years. Rev. Cung Lian Hup and his wife (Sung) moved to Battle Creek, Michigan where he is serving as pastor.

2013 Tour to Burma

The dates for the 2013 tour to Burma, as part of the anniversary celebration of Judson's ministry are February 4-18. While the cost of the tour is \$3,500 the deposit for those intending to go should be in by December 1. Some details about the tour will be provided later.

Ways to help support the ministries of FOB

- (1) Orphan support - \$240/year
- (2) Scholarship for a Bible College, Seminary student - \$200/year
- (3) Medicine for the poor at a small clinic - \$200/year
- (4) Eyeglasses - \$17/pair Hearing aids- \$25/pair
- (5) Jubilee Annex building at MIT – any amount
- (6) Library extension and staff quarter building at MIT – any amount
- (7) Flood victims – any amount
- (8) Office building at Pathein – any amount
- (9) Mae La Bible School music and office equipments- any amount
- (10) Pathein university Christian fellowship women dormitory construction- any amount



This newsletter was compiled by Dave Horton and Naw May Pearl.
Friends of Burma, Inc. Tax ID 20-5572384: 548 Home Ave. Ft. Wayne, IN 46807
Our overhead is less than 1% of donations received.