

Friends of Burma, Inc

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As a recipient of a fine education in the U.S., I especially am interested in the educational opportunities being encouraged by Friends of Burma (FOB). From the very beginning in 1985, FOB has provided scholarships for theological training for students from poor families. In recent years, this has been expanded to support tutoring classes, high school students from the villages, medical and nursing students, and village health workers.

The following is a letter we just received from **Naw Eh Wah Moo**, who recently finished her studies at the Karen Baptist Theological Seminary.

I am very thankful to God indeed for the opportunity to write to you and thank you for the gift which I received from you. When I began the L.Th. Course at KBTS, I had to face with financial problems. Every day, I went to the prayer room of our seminary at noon and prayed to God. I told God that I had no one to support me financially because my home church could not afford to help me and my family members were ministers with little income and farmers working on a small plot of land. I pleaded to God to open up ways which would bring His blessings to me in order to complete L.Th. course. God answered my prayer and provided my need in a wonderful way. When I returned to the seminary to do the second year course, I was told that I would receive sponsorship from Maryland Community Church and I instantly thanked God for His help through the church. I am really very grateful to the pastor and all the church members for fulfilling my financial need in my pursuit of Theological knowledge. Because of your love for the Lord and your service for



Lwin Moe

Him I have been blessed, and it is my prayer that He will continue to bless you and use you more and more for His glory.

Now I have completed my L.Th. Course and I have started to serve in my home church in Kyon Ta Naw, a village in the delta areas of Myanmar. It is a church made up of a small community of believers, and I am helping the children and youth of this church for their spiritual growth. Please continue to pray for me.

As you can see, churches are taking responsibility to support education through Friends of Burma. Friends of Burma has served as an important conduit for educational assistance for the past 28 years. As we celebrate our 28th year anniversary, we would like to quote Ken Stern in his new book, “Charity for All.” He said that the best charities “are built over time and are able to go the distance only with painstaking planning and self-scrutiny.” Friends of Burma is no doubt a time-tested organization, which uses less than 2% of your donation. That 2% or less is used for postage and salary for an agent in Burma to keep accounting and distribute the donations to the various agencies and people.

Such work is possible by volunteers in the US. One of our board members, Dr. Adam C. Maung, has written his account of why he supports Friends of Burma.



Dr. Adam Maung

I started supporting FOB because I was a beneficiary of the blessings that came through FOB and I appreciated the personal relationship with Neil and Diana. Over time, I have witnessed FOB's effective work that has positively impacted many people in Myanmar especially the under-represented group. A nimble organization relative to larger organizations operating in Myanmar, FOB is able to find its niche and operate in the challenging environment. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of FOB, and I encourage anyone to get involved more to continue the great work that has blessed many for so many years. I have been privileged to serve as a moderator of the executive committee board meeting for several years.

Adam's wife, Tansy, and David Horton, one of our board members have been extremely active in raising funds for health care facilities. One donor

sends \$200 a month and this is divided among various health clinics around the country – each clinic receiving money on a rotating schedule.

One of the facilities is **Karen Baptist Convention's Hospital**, which has slowly progressed from a little clinic to a full-fledged hospital with a blessing from Yangon City Committee. They have rendered out-patient services to almost 17,000 ob/gyn patients, which has an enormous effect on surrounding villages with little or no medical care. There is still a need for an elevator for this growing hospital.



Karen Baptist Convention's Hospital



Matthew 25 Love Clinic

Another health care facility, which we have watched grow from its inception is **Matthew 25 Love clinic**. It was established in 1995. When Neil and Diana first visited the clinic, it had no name. Diana said, “Oh, we have a clinic called Matthew 25 clinic in Fort Wayne!” And the staff said, “Oh, we like that.” They named it

and added “Love” to make it their own. Here is an example of the work they are doing, which you are supporting with your donations.

My name is Saw Ko Naing. I live in Ma Gyi Gone village, Sin Gu Gyi village tract, Ngaputaw township, Ayeyawady Region, Myanmar. I am thirty three year old. I have a wife and three children. Our family is very poor. I have no land. I work from hand to mouth to provide my family. I've got stones in my kidney. I have no money to cure this disease. It is my difficult to urinate and some time I cannot urinate. As I cannot endure any more I intend to hang myself and end my life. When my wife sees this she tries to stop me and comfort me. She tells the pastor and the pastor collect some money and send me to Matthew 25, Love hospital at Pathein. There is only water way to travel to Pathein and it takes about seven hours to reach Pathein. The doctors and nurses with love and compassion treat me kindly and operate my disease successfully. Thanks to doctors and staff at Matthew 25, Love hospital and thanks to the staff of Pathein Myaungmya Sgaw Kayin Baptist Association who support me and encourage me.

Here is another one:

My name is Naw Yin Lay. I am forty one year old. I have a husband and we already have three children. We live in Ma Duak Gone village, Pathein township Ayeyawaddy Region. Life is hard for our family because we are very poor. I am pregnant again and my womb is becoming larger than it used to be. Our village is beside the car road and it takes only forty minutes to go to Pathein for delivering. As due date is near we go to Pathein to deliver at Matthew 25, Love hospital. The doctors who diagnose me tell me I'll deliver twin babies. But when I am delivering it is triplet and all are boys. It is the first triplet for Matthew 25 love hospital.

Our family worry about feeding the triplet. But thank to Matthew 25, Love hospital not only operate me free of charge, but supply me with sufficient milk powder.

As we mentioned above, our support of various educational projects has expanded over the years. One of the most promising projects has been the one started by Pathein Myaung Mya Sgaw Karen Baptist Association, bringing to Pathein, promising students from small villages which have no secondary education. One of the hostels in which these students live was built by members of the Gillen family. Genevieve Gillen is the daughter of Rev. Erville and Genevieve Sowards. There are 35 students in mission fields who were supported by FOB in 2012-2013 academic year. Thank you so much for your financial support for the students. Their parents are very grateful to you for your kindness to their children. This support is very crucial for these students.

One of the former students, **Saw Nelson**, graduated from a seminary in 2013. He is now serving as a pastor at Wabogone Karen Baptist Church in a village affected by Nargis. Saw Nelson had to drop out of school at 8th grade because of financial difficulties. His father is a day laborer. He has 5 brothers and 5 sisters. FOB supported him in 2005 to continue his education. He graduated from high school in 2007 and from Kothabyu Theological Seminary in 2013 with a B.Th. Degree. He is now serving as a pastor at Wabogone Karen Baptist Church in Laputta township, where the storm Nargis affected a few years ago.



Saw Nelson

We always tell you in each newsletter stories about orphanages. **Naw Aye Aye Chit** tells us this story from **Kwe Lwe** orphanage, which has now been renamed **Paradise**.

My name is Naw Aye Aye Chit. My father is Saw Moody and my mother is Naw Paw Kee Lah. I have three other sisters and I am the youngest. We are Christians. I live in Kwa Kwa Lay village, Lwat Sa Village tract, Labuta Township in the delta area, Ayarwaddy Division. Our family is a happy family. We live in harmony love, unity and respect each others.

But May 2, 2008 was the day that crushed our happy family because of the Nargis Cyclone that entered and destroyed our place. We've heard a cyclone warning from the radio but we did not take heed because it never occurred in our life time. We have family worship at 3 pm and after that there was a dark cloud, fierce strong wind, heavy rain, lightnings and the water coming up quickly. A very very big wave coming up and destroys everything including our family.

My parents and all my sisters were swept away by that big wave. I, too swept away to a nearby forest and by the grace of God I can grab hold of one tree. The tide submerged me occasionally and I prayed that I surrender my life to him and let God do what it was good to him.

Because of the Nargis Cyclone both of my parents and my two sister lost their lives and only my sister and I are alive. As I became an orphan, having nothing, no place to live and nowhere to go. But God never abandon me. He sent me to Patheingyi Myaungmya Sgaw Kayin Baptist Association Orphanage which was located at Kwe Lwe village, Myaungmya Township. I was well taken care of, well nurtured and can pursue education. I have attended grade nine to grade eleven living at Kwe Lwe Orphanage. As I have decided to be useful and beneficial to others and serve the Lord I attended the Bible School at Myanmar Institute of Christian Theology at Insein. I am now attending the second year course I intend to go back to Kwe Lwe Orphanage after completed my study and serve the children at Kwe Lwe Orphanage.

In the past we have let you know of some of the most pressing needs. Reading the above, we hope you will pray for and support some of these needs. We'll list some for you to think about.

- Support for Naw Aye Aye Chit's second year at Myanmar Institute of Christian Theology \$300.00
- Hearing aids \$125 for Christian workers
- Orphan support \$240/year (see above Naw Aye Aye Chit)
- Nyaungleben Bible School is building a kitchen for the school. Approximately \$8,000 is needed to finish. The principal Ka Paw Moo is being ordained Oct 13, 2013.

Please remember Friends of Burma in your Will if you are so disposed. Our contact is: Friends of Burma, Inc, 548 Home Ave. Fort Wayne, IN 46807 Tel. 260-745-3658

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Friends of Burma Fall Newsletter 2013. Compiled by Lwin Moe, Diana Sowards and Adam C. Maung.

God Bless you for your continued care and concern for the very deserving people of Burma and please be remembering Neil and Diana as they travel for the Bicentenary of the arrival of the Judsons.

They hope to travel, if allowed, to Chin state for the first time.

Sincerely,

Lwin Moe, Diana Sowards and Adam Maung