

FRIENDS OF BURMA, Incorporated

Serving Ministries and Meeting Needs in Today's Myanmar Since 1985

www.friendsofburma.org

Fall 2014

FRIENDS OF BURMA CONTRIBUTIONS EXCEED \$400,000 ANNUALLY

Founded in 1985 to lend support to struggling ministries in Burma, FOB may stand unique among charities in that less than two per cent of income undergirds administrative expenses. All persons in the U.S are volunteers and only one person is paid \$2,400 annually in Burma. Your gift may be forwarded in total to ministries of your choice.

Contributions support varied ministries ranging from support of needy children in 13 child care centers to many Bible schools and the Myanmar Institute of Theology to aid to the poor and displaced persons to Bible distribution. In this issue of the FOB Newsletter features varied ministries

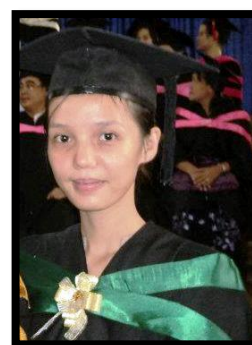
NURSING STUDENT DECEM HTOO THANKS CONTRIBUTORS



Decem Htoo, successfully completed her first year as a nursing student at Yangon Nursing School. The eldest daughter of five children, her father as a primary school headmaster earns \$120 monthly. Tuition is now \$1500. Board member, Dr. Ardeth Thawngmung, was able to meet her in Burma to deliver \$1100 in aid. Both Decem and Ardeth thank you!

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT NAW RAY MAY DEE THANKS FRIENDS OF BURMA DONORS

Naw Ray May Dee graduating KBTS and teaching Sunday School.



Thanks to a donor and his employer's matching gift Naw Ray May Dee has been graduated from the Karen Baptist Theological Seminary in 2009. She now serves

on the KBTS staff while also pursuing her second graduate program—Master of Science in computer studies at Yangon University.

In addition she plays cello and piano for seminary chapels and participates in church and community activities. Pictured above she is teaching Sunday school. She also volunteers for trips to villages to teach and encourage young people to pursue higher education.

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES FOR KAREN BAPTIST HOSPITAL AT INSEIN, YANGON

When given permission to expand the former clinic to a hospital on seminary hill in Insein, the Karen Baptist Convention moved quickly to develop and staff a three story hospital. Now it is said that every taxi driver in Yangon (Rangoon) knows the hospital location.

To move patients from floor to floor safely the hospital has requested Friends of Burma to support the new elevator addition at a cost of \$42,000. In 2013 the hospital served 45,445 out patients and 3,345 in patients. As of March \$17,000 was still needed but construction is underway. Also the hospital has requested \$50,000 from Friends of Burma to erect the now under construction housing for relatives of clinic patients.



On lower left shows family & staff moving patient upstairs. Often seriously ill and post-operative patients must be moved in the same manner.

Upper right shows the housing for relatives. The new housing is within close walking distance.

Lower right shows elevator shaft construction underway.

The clinic serves persons in need – both Christian and non-Christian.

Friends of Burma also lends support to the Matthew 25 Love Hospital in Patheingyi. Donors may designate the hospital of their choice as well as the project of their choice.



Send tax deductible contributions to Friends of Burma, Inc, 548 Home Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46807

KBCH REPORTS: Ameloblastoma--a 19 hour operation

The patient is Saw Htoo Plaw, A case of Ameloblastoma Jaw from the disease for 20 years ago. The tumour was growing bigger and bigger. But the patient is poor and desperate. But God can do everything which is impossible. The patient came to KBC hospital and through the KBC hospital doctors and professors of dental college, the maxillofacial surgical team of YGH and maxillofacial surgical team of Japan the patient was operated. The operation took 19 hours to complete the operation including bone grafting, steel plating. Now the patient is recover and doing very well.



Patients trust the KBCH doctors who in turn can enlist competent, trusted surgical teams. Saw Htoo Plaw serves as a dramatic example of the KBCH motto:

**We treat,
God Heals**




In 2014 Friends of Burma enabled the micro credit two-day course for eight groups of women as part of an empowering women emphasis.

Rubber Plantation Creates Jobs

A generous donor has worked with others to establish a rubber plantation which in turn employs appreciative workers.



 Try <http://goo.gl/Gp21fD> for Friends of Burma on Facebook

 <http://youtu.be/pD-oSBUtrog>

Russ Kadoe and Team Visit Villages in Bago Yoma

For a video and full transcript by Russ Kadoe of this ministry trip into a difficult to access area see inside blog of the FOB website at <http://blog.friendsofburma.org/> We share below brief edited insights from Russ's report.



Villages mentioned are north of Rangoon (Yangon) in a mountainous area.

Thanks to Friends of Burma contributions, Russ was able to distribute eyeglasses.

One of my friends, Ko Htay Aung, is an eye doctor. He helped me out delivering eyeglasses. Some of them were evangelists and most of them were villagers having trouble with eye sight. Even some of the people did not know what the eyeglasses were. Villagers from far and near came over to get the eyeglasses and some came down from very far walking through three mountains. When they put on the eyeglasses, they could see better and so they were happy. We had a hard time testing eyes because most of the villagers could not read the words.

One typical problem among others in Sin Swe Village is access to sufficient good water.

We have been solving these problems with the donations from the organizations and help from the volunteers. Water is scarce during the summer. Villagers could not pump up enough water from the aquifers or from the well. There are four major wells and everybody has to wait many hours for refilling water for their daily use. Some would think of making a dam or having the tube well. I convinced the villagers to make the tube well since Thra Taw Lu has bought some pipes from the donation of Friends of Burma from Mr. Amanoski.

When a government primary teacher proves incompetent, a Christian teacher upgrades education.

Parents who previously were discouraged and not involved now support education.

Last year, a lady, called Naw Yo Yo from Tharawady Mission Association, spent a year helping in the education, healthcare, and church activities. She receives 30,000 kyats. Yes, that is \$30 annually. First, she decided to work only one year but now she decided to work another year there in the love of Christ. She was graduated from Karen Baptist Theological Seminary (K.B.T.S) and got her M.Div. degree. She was a gift from God for helping out the villagers. All the kids in the village cannot read well in the fourth grade. However, because of Naw Yo Yo's effort and energy into these kids, there is a sign of development in the education.

Late Pote Village is located farther away from Sin Zwe Village, but we can see that it is a more developed village than Sin Zwe Village because Naw Ka Lu Paw has been devotedly serving for five years there.

She also comes from the Tharawady Mission Association and was graduated with a B.Th. from K.B.T.S. Even though she wants to continue her M.Div, she stays because of her love to the children and villagers there. She has assisted the villagers in healthcare, finding jobs, standing for the rights of the villagers, and working in the community activities as well as church work. She is a brave one. Whenever the village is being raided by Burmese bandits illicitly taking wood, cutting down trees, killing the forest keepers, and threatening the villagers; she would stand to protect the rights of the village and speak up against them bravely. In the jungle, there is no law and justice. Therefore, the village is in a safe mode because of having a brave person like her lashing out the fire of justice and peace.

Other problems include the loss of land due to illiteracy and no understanding of legal documentation; lack of toilet facilities, medical care, and available medications. In contrast these poor villagers demonstrate an abundance of sincerity, helpfulness, hospitality and generosity.

SPONSOR A NEEDY CHILD IN BURMA

Fall is here! Parents in the U.S. are seeing their children off to school complete with medical exams and school supplies.

Orphan children in Burma have the same needs. Thanks to Friends of Burma, needy children in thirteen orphanages are receiving loving care as well as medical care and school supplies. In addition children experience spiritual care. Each child is required to participate in Bible Study, Christian Education programs, and prayer time. The prayer time helps children cope with their various traumas and learn to know the love of Jesus.



\$240 per year supports a child in one of the 13 child care centers administered by Christians through organizations such as the Karen Baptist Convention. Care is open to children regardless of religious or ethnic background.



EIGHTY PER CENT OF HOSTEL STUDENTS FROM RURAL AREAS ARE PASS 10TH STANDARD EXAMS

Whereas 14 % of students generally pass the Burma 10th standard national matriculation exam on their first try, the Baptist association records are showing an impressive 80% pass rate for the youth chosen from rural and mission areas. This program of the Patheingyi Myaungmya Sgaw Karen Baptist Association

brings the brightest and most motivated students from 65 villages and 35 mission areas to study in Patheingyi. Village primary schools usually only go through the fourth grade. Youth live in hostels. Church families tutor children whose primary education is inadequate. Youth orphaned by Nargis, three from the Kwe Lwe Orphanage and a Myo student are given full scholarships. Families pay \$400 plus six baskets of rice. Some poor families benefit from \$50 grants. FOB readers can assist the association by underwriting these grants.

The Kayin Baptist Church in Taunggyi also has established a boarding school for rural youth and designations may be directed to that program.

All contributions to Friends of Burma, Inc. are tax deductible. Send to Friends of Burma, 548 Home Avenue, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 46807. New donors are especially welcomed.

WISH LIST

Orphan Sponsor \$240 (yr.)

Youth Hostel Subsidy \$50

Eye Glasses \$17

Relative Housing (KBCH) \$500

Inductive Bible Study Training
\$200 (per student)

Tube Well \$600

Where There Is No Doctor 50
copies \$225

Where There is No Dentist 50
copies \$225

Relief for Displaced Persons in
Kachin State any amount

Medical Training Saw Thet
Aung \$1000 per yr.

Bible School Scholarship \$200

Any contributed amount is welcome. If you prefer you can utilize Pay Pal or Razoo.

In the U.S. FOB is staffed by volunteers. Including one paid person in Burma overhead is less than 2 per cent of all income.

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News Briefs:

The **Friends of Myanmar Governing Board** met to distribute \$ 5000 of the larger annual FOB grant. The seven Leaders of Christian organizations present distributed funds for mosquito nets, printing of books for the BARS business program, purchase of a laptop for record keeping, and a distribution of *Living Letters*. The latter was made possible by a special gift from a FOB donor.

Dr. Yap, Dean of the School of Church Music at Singapore Bible College **visited Karen Baptist Theological Seminary** for a week of music training. She so valued the experience that she has secured funding from her prayer partners to return to KBTS.

John and Ruth Peterson, editors of this newsletter edition, staffed a FOB display at the recent World Mission Conference celebrating the **200th anniversary of International Ministries** first formed to support Adoniram and Ann Judson in Burma. At the conference in Green Lake, Wisconsin the Petersons met several Burmese Christian leaders many of whom expressed thanks for the continuing support that FOB gives to ministries in Myanmar.

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Please consider Friends of Burma, Inc as you determine your will or estate plan. You may contact President Neil Sowards at neildianasowards@juno.com or include FOB in your planned giving through The American Baptist Foundation at abfadmin@abc-usa.org or visit www.abcofgiving.org