

FRIENDS OF BURMA

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Gone, but not forgotten!!

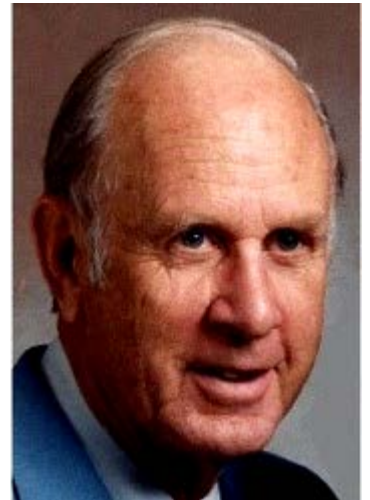
On July 6, 2015, Friends of Burma and the Burmese people lost a great benefactor. The Rev. Llewellyn “Lew” Murdock died in Salem, Oregon. Lew had been a minister of several churches in the state of Washington until he began a twenty year career in the army as a chaplain. In retirement, he and his wife, Dolores, moved to Salem, OR.

In 2004, Lew first made contact with Friends of Burma. He had a very strong desire to help the people of Burma and he had definite ideas of the importance of Bible study, using commentaries, music, and education. Over the years he made possible the printing of hundreds of commentaries, the use of dozens of guitars and keyboards for theological seminaries, the scholarship of dozens of students, both secular, medical, and seminarians.

Hundreds of Burmese reaped the benefits of his interest and love. He especially loved the high school students in Patheingyi. These students are chosen by academic tests to be the one from their village to come to the larger city, Patheingyi, and to get a high school education, with tutoring provided. Lew made it possible for many to come to Patheingyi in this program.

Friends of Burma was very privileged to be able to serve as a conduit for Lew’s informed charity. We have lost a treasure.

Lew is survived by his wife, Dolores, and children, Joan Feriante, Carol Hendrickson, Terry Murdock, and Russ Murdock. The family asked that donations be made in his memory to Friends of Burma, and so, Lew is serving Burma in death as he did in life.



Severe Flooding in Burma



Unusually heavy monsoon rains in Burma over the past two months have caused severe flooding, affecting all but a few regions of the country. Over 100 people have died as a result of the floods, mainly in the Irrawaddy River delta area, and more than 1.6 million people have been adversely affected.

In addition, Cyclone Komen which hit Burma in late July compounded an already severe situation. Farmlands, roads, railway lines, bridges and houses and livestock have all been affected especially in the Chin, Sagaing, Magway and Rakhine States. It is estimated that 1.4 million acres of farmland has been inundated with water and rice crops destroyed. The flood waters have moved south into the southern delta area of the country, causing widespread damage and

evacuations of local populations. Some of the many needs of the people affected are: clean drinking water, food, medical supplies, cooking supplies and proper sanitation.

In addition, Burmese farmers are at a critical phase in the growing calendar where rice must be planted in a short amount of time in order to gain the next harvest. Rice paddy plants are needed by all farmers to begin a new crop and must be purchased. Thousands have been displaced by the floods and have had to seek shelter in schools, churches and monasteries, many having lost everything including their homes. You can help by donating to Friends of Burma, designating funds for Flood Relief.

Flood relief work in delta area

One sister organization of the Karen Baptist Convention, Patheingyi-Myaung Mya Baptist Association, is actively working in emergency flood relief projects in the delta area, Southern Burma. Under the association, there are 70 villages, mostly affected by the flood. So far, 7 relief camps were set up throughout the area under the association, helping villagers fleeing their homes. The association is collaborating with local churches, Karen Baptist Convention and Myanmar Baptist Convention in four different projects, besides sheltering the villagers.

1. Water purification project, to provide pure water for villagers even long after the flood receded.
2. Water storage, to store enough water as they collect purified or rain water.
3. Medical and food supply
4. Building materials

Flood relief work in central Burma

Many villagers fleeing the flood were taking shelter in Thayarwaddy Bible School. Friends of Burma provided rice, water bottles and mosquito nets for the victims. The Bible school was temporarily closed and students from the Bible school were also helping the victims as much as they could. There were about 500 people taking shelter at the Bible school.

Many are suffering from water borne diseases and medical supplies are in urgent need. Getting supplies to the flood victims created another challenge as the roads were ruined by the flood. Villagers are trying to rebuild their lives as the water receded. Most flood victims are farmers and they are in need of rice paddy seed to grow rice. Please pray for the villagers and all the flood victims as they rebuild their lives.



FOB has sent \$17,700 for flood relief. Baptist International Ministries has given \$10,000 from Hour of Sharing.

The Story of Naw Paw Wah Doh (By Neil Sowards)

My parents had served as missionaries in Burma for over 30 years but I had never been there. So in 1985 Diana and I decided now was the time to go.

I had gone to seminary with two women from Burma, Eh Wah and Sharo. We had graduated in 1962. We wrote and asked if there was anything they needed. Back came a long list of medicines and supplies they needed for their schools if we could bring them. The letter had a P.S. "We won't be able to pay for any of the above if you bring it". That didn't surprise me as I knew Burma had an annual per capita income of \$180 versus \$11,600 in the U.S. Still, how little \$180 is was to be graphically driven home on our visit.

We flew to Hong Kong with Bill and Marion Hackett. There we bought supplies, particularly the medicines, which were virtually unobtainable in Burma. The pharmacist went down the list. We had pledged \$1500 in our minds. The bill mounted up. He got to Rimactan. "I can get it for you, but it is expensive!" He quoted sixteen hundred Hong Kong Dollars--Two hundred U.S. Dollars--We gulped. The bill was already up to \$1600 and this was not the last item. "What does it do," we asked? "It cures T.B." This is a dreaded lung disease in the orient, but had been practically wiped out in the U.S. My wife and I exchanged glances--finally I said. "If Sharo wants it, she must need it--go ahead."

Loaded with supplies, we flew on to Bangkok and then Rangoon. Burma was a shock. Physically she was at least thirty years behind any nation I've visited. The people were a shock too--in a much different, positive, way. They had so little, yet gave so much.



We met Sharo and she introduced her family and two "aunties" who lived with them. We learned the full story on the need for Rimactan. Naw Paw Wah Doh was a student at the Karen Bible School had been found to have active T.B. The medicine cost 10,000 kyats (2 years pay for a teacher) on the Black market--unavailable in the government stores. Sharo, as head of the school, had to make a decision. She couldn't let the Naw Paw Wah Doh live with other students and risk infecting them. If she sent her home to her village, she would die of T.B. as the medicine would never be available there. So Sharo had taken her into her own home. She was the beautiful, soft spoken "auntie" we had met. And we had debated whether it was worth spending so much on a bottle of medicine! Tears came to my eyes when I thought of what would have happened if we had decided not to spend the money.

When I looked into her eyes, I had a profound experience—I realized my money had saved her life and thereby my life was changed forever. Later we learned the medicine had been effective and the T.B. had been

arrested. Naw Paw Wah Doh completed her studies and stood first in her class.

She went to work in Shwe Gyin and started preschool nurseries and training the staff. Eventually she established 94 schools. The ECCD (Early Childhood Care and Development) Schools have helped hundreds of children get a good start in life. She also supplements teachers' salaries, produces toys and play materials, buys books, etc. She never married or had children of her own, but devoted her career to the betterment of all children in an area that is wracked with family displacement.

She has now reached the mandatory retirement age of 60 but plans to continue working in her chosen field using my yearly donation to her to support underfunded teachers and supply toys, playing materials, books and stories.

God called me to help the people of Burma. Diana and I founded Friends of Burma and we now have over fifty programs in Burma supported by 320 faithful supporters. Friends of Burma has been the focus of my life since Naw Paw Wah Doh. I have visited Burma twenty one times.

How I wish our donors could see the good their money does. I think they will see that in heaven.

Orphanage Report

Under the Karen Baptist Convention (KBC), there are 11 orphanages. There are 383 orphans living in the orphanages with 42 workers. Care and Counseling department is overseeing all the orphanages. Friends of Burma is supporting the orphanages through KBC. The shelters are sometimes called orphanages and sometimes called childcare shelters. Some are truly orphans and some are from very poor families unable to care for them. And some are from dysfunctional families. Emotional as well as spiritual and physical care is addressed.

During the month of April, 2015, Care and Counseling department held their second annual fellowship program among the orphanages. It took place at Pu Saw Bu Orphanage, one of the orphanages under KBC, in Myaung Mya. Total 301 children attended the fellowship gathering. The goal of the fellowship, besides praise and worship, is to promote social skills and interpersonal communication skills for the children. The fellowship ended successfully and everyone had a good time.



Director of the department and other staff also visited each orphanage On June 11, 2015, the director and staff members visited new Eden orphanage. A doctor from KBC hospital went along with them and provided medical care for the children living there. The days were filled with praise and worship and taking care of children's health.





Meet Naw Bway Paw

She is from Grace Orphanage and leads a good example for other children. Upon finishing high school with distinctions, she went on to college. She graduated from a college with a degree in Computer Science. She then attended Myanmar Institute of Theology for her graduate study, and graduated with Master of Divinity. She is now serving the Lord at a center for senior citizen declaring the Good News with a Korean mission organization.



Each member of Friends of Myanmar Governing Board received 50 mosquito nets which each distributes. Naw Paw distributed hers as follows: "I send 15 to villages at Hinthada Township, 15 to Hlaing Thaya township (migrant workers areas), 8 to a village at Bago Division and the rest, 12, I give to some ministers who have kids in their families. They all send me pictures but I've sent you some pictures. They all need mosquito nets and very important in this rainy seasons. They all happy and thanks to all kindness donors from FOMGB."

Naw Paw Gaw works with the Karen Women's Development Group and she sets

up microcredit groups of usually twelve women who each develops a business plan to provide income for her family. Projects include sewing, raising chickens or hogs, small retail shop, gardening, buying wholesale and

selling retail, etc. The group works together to help each develop their business. She sadly reported that many children died of dengue fever in the area she works.



Recipient of a hearing aid: Rev. James Kimban -He is a pastor from Paan and he served for 10 years as general secretary Mawlamyine-Paan Association and he is 78 years old and his service is almost 50 years.

MBC women Department

conducts training for leaders from rural areas. This training is held every year and it is very effective for young women leaders. Funds from FOB partially participate in the expenses of training. Harmony Kadoe, daughter of Russ Kadoe, who is our representative in Burma, graduated from Bacone College. She then served as summer intern at Fort Wayne Baptist Church. She has returned to Burma and is helping her father with flood relief.

Wish List

Pathein Myaungmya Flood Relief and Restoration Program (details upon request)..... \$17,000.
 Updated translation of “Where There Is No Dentist” and print 2,000 books.....\$3,000.
 Sponsor an outstanding High School student to Pathein University for one year.....\$500.
 Sponsor an orphan per year.....\$360.
 Give a grant to each of twelve women in a microcredit group (\$30 each).....\$360.
 Sponsor Naw Paw Wah Doh in continuing to establish preschool nursery.....\$300.
 Provide medicine for the poor at Ywama Church Clinic.....\$1,200 year or \$100 per month.
 Good quality hearing aid for Christian worker.....\$50.
 Eye examination and prescription eyeglasses for Bible School students. Each \$17.00.

This newsletter was compiled by Saw Htaw Plaw Htoo, Phil Schock, and Neil Sowards

We would like to thank all our supporters for your generosity and constant prayers. Neil’s books, “Life in Burma, Games Played in Mai La Refugee Camp, and The Last American Baptist Missionaries to Burma 1946-1966 are available on Amazon.com

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Shan State Bible School, Taunggyi has really grown and developed in the thirty years we have helped them.