

# FRIENDS OF BURMA

FOB Fall Newsletter

October 2018

Dear Friends,

A longtime supporter of Friends of Burma and missionary to Burma, Estelle M. Schock, has recently passed away on August 22, 2018 in Gig Harbor, WA at the age of 92.

Estelle, American Baptist Foreign Society (ABFMS) alumna, was born in Shanghai, China in 1925. She grew up in a prominent Chinese Baptist minister's home. She was deeply influenced by her father's work in religious education, preaching, and visiting churches and Christian schools.

In 1955 she and her husband, Harold Schock, sailed for Burma with two small children, Judy and Mark. Besides studying the Burmese language, and raising a growing family, Estelle helped with the weekly craft program at the Christian Center and worked with the women in the Immanuel Baptist Church where Harold became pastor. She was also president of the English congregation of women. She introduced new programs and new ideas such as mother-daughter banquets and potlucks. As a pastor's wife her home was always open to church events such as retreats, training sessions, choir practices and youth parties.



While in Burma, daughter Linda and son Phil were born. In 1960 Harold became pastor of the Judson Chapel at the University of Rangoon to minister to the Christian faculty and the students there. The Schock family moved to a house on the university campus which was often a gathering place for students and faculty. Estelle was active in ministry in Rangoon during all the years they served in Burma.

In 1966 the political climate in Burma changed and ABFMS missionaries could no longer continue to serve there. Estelle and Harold and the children returned to the United States for a year before being reassigned to serve in Hong Kong.

Estelle loved Burma and was grateful for the work of Friends of Burma. The family suggests in lieu of flowers, friends so desiring may make donations to Friends of Burma, 548 Home Ave, Ft. Wayne, IN 46807, or at [www.friendsofburma.org](http://www.friendsofburma.org).

## Eye Glasses and Mosquito Nets Program (Reported by Russ Kadoe)

Distributing eyeglasses and mosquito nets to the poor is one of the missions of FOMGB (Friends of Myanmar Governing Board) for the last 20 years. It is difficult for teachers and students who live in remote rural areas to come to nearby towns to have eye tests and order eyeglasses.

But with the fund and support of FOMGB, Ko Htoo Aung (known locally as the eyeglasses man) went to many Bible schools and performed eye tests, came back to the city and ordered eyeglasses, and then sent them back to them. Every year, about one hundred people from Bible schools received the eyeglasses from FOM eyeglasses program. For the mosquito net program, all ten members of FOMGB take responsibility to distribute the



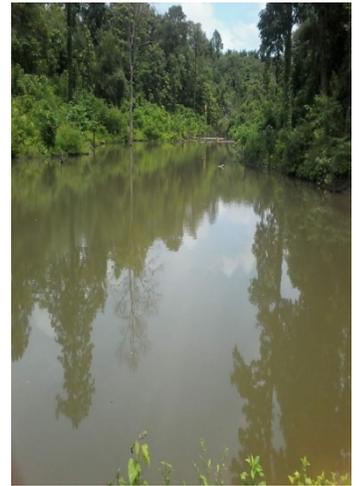
nets. Every year the ten members distributed more than 600 mosquito nets to poor and needy people in different areas in the country who can't afford to buy mosquito net. Thanks to all donors who contribute to this wonderful project.

## **Dam Project (Reported by Saw Taw Lu)**



Every summer the villagers and their animals have to struggle for water in Sin Zwe village. Deforesting is the main reason of water shortage. To alleviate the shortage, FOB sponsored a project to dig tube wells as deep as 400 feet without success. Hope was almost lost until a bulldozer came near by the village for a construction project last summer. It was a rare opportunity to build a dam between two hills for water storage. However, the poor villagers could not afford a high price tag, 90,000 Kyats per hour to rent the bulldozer. FOB again sponsored the water reservoir project to help the villagers.

This summer, the villagers don't have to worry about a water shortage, for their plants and animals, and for themselves. Their dream came true.



## **Library Report (by Tansy Kadoe)**

Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Bible Seminary and College (KKBBS) located in Mae La refugee camp on Thai-Burma border has completed the building of a new library for students and faculty. The seminary was built in 1986 and was rebuilt in 2012 after being destroyed by a fire.

The seminary expanded over the years and the library became too small to accommodate the growing number of students and faculty. With the help of FOB, students and donors, the construction of a new library began in May 11, 2018. Workers, students and volunteers spent countless number of days helping build the library. Finally the construction was the library was completed in July 21, 2018.



## **Summer Camp in a Refugee Camp (by Tansy Kadoe)**



Many Karen churches in the US have been a great resource to support various ministries in Myanmar. Most of these churches were established 10+ years ago by Karen refugees when they first came to the US. As they become better organized, they are looking for ways to bless people back in their home country. One example is a summer youth camp in Htam Hin refugee camp on Thai-Myanmar border sponsored by Arizona Karen Baptist Church. As many of these church members spent years in Htam Hin, they wanted to show their love and support to those who are still there. Attended by 200 participants, the two-week long camp was well received.

## Pyi-Thayawaddy Karen Baptist Bible School (Reported by Ellay Paw)

We would like to thank Friends of Burma for the special donation to our Karen Baptist Bible School. We do appreciate you for your warm kindness and love to us. Your donation is very helpful to our School because our library needs a lot of books, which are difficult to get locally. So, we spent your donation to buy many different kinds of books necessary for our Bible school. Here is a list of books we bought.

| Book                     | Quantity |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Old Testament            | 7        |
| New Testament            | 9        |
| Church History           | 8        |
| Theology                 | 4        |
| Leadership               | 6        |
| Biblical                 | 7        |
| Christian Education      | 5        |
| Mission                  | 2        |
| Religion                 | 1        |
| Other                    | 1        |
| Homiletic                | 1        |
| Bible Dictionary         | 1        |
| Bible Commentary         | 1        |
| New Testament Commentary | 1        |



## A Letter from Ko Tha Byu Theological Seminary

Dr. Neil and Diana Sowards,

This is to let you know that we received your two books of "Where There is No Psychiatrist." We will start using it in the Second Semester and I believe that it will be helpful for our students in their mission fields. We all are doing fine. We have four teaching staff who are studying abroad.

1. Lah Eh Shee - Philippine, Music
2. Cho Thet Aung (M.A) English - Thailand
3. Eh Paw Say - M.Th - Hong Kong;
4. Tser Gay Moo, Th. D - Hong Kong

Plah Soe is doing his D. Min in MIT and he will be graduated in March, 2019. We also have two others who are preparing themselves for Th. D Program. We try to upgrade our seminary. The B.Th and M.Div Programs are accredited by ATESEA (Association for Theological Education South East Asia). We thank you for your love for us. For this year we have 218 students (L.Th - 150; B.Th - 42; M.Div - 26). May God bless you as you continue to serve Him.

In Christ  
Thein Shwe  
Kothabyu Theological Seminary

## Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital (Reported by Lwin Moe)

The Mawlamyine Christian Leprosy Hospital was established in 1890 by the American Baptist Mission, under the leadership of Ms. Susan Haswell to provide holistic care and support for leprosy patients in Mon State. In the years since its founding, the MCLH has successfully provided treatment and rehabilitative services to leprosy patients, not just in Mon State but also throughout the country. Having just started out with one building for in-patient and out-patient treatment, the MCLH is now a 50-bedded hospital, fully equipped with an operation theatre, physiotherapy center and a newly constructed out-patient facility.



MCLH is managed by a local Board of Directors, composed of local church leaders, community elders, and civil society representatives. The staff of the hospital is composed of medical professionals, local residents and family members of former patients, all of whom are passionately dedicated to the mission of the hospital.

The MCLH offers a holistic suite of services to meet the curative and rehabilitative needs of its patients.

- Treatment: in-patient and out-patient services. In 2015, MCLH provided treatment to over 14,000 patients through the out-patient department – for both leprosy and dermatological conditions. The in-patient department admitted over 817 patients.
- Surgery: MCLH offers surgical services for leprosy patients. In 2015, the surgical team operated on 512 patients.
- Physiotherapy and rehabilitation: MCHL offers a wide range of physiotherapy and rehabilitation services, including prosthetics.
- Training and awareness raising: MCLH offers annual nurse aid training, as well as conducting regular outreach activities to surrounding communities.



FOB facilitated the transfer of \$30,000 to the Leprosy Hospital at Moulmein. It came from a man whose father was treated by that hospital years ago.



## Benefit Concert for Flood Affected Communities in Southeastern Burma (by Naw Show Ei Ei Tun)

Several weeks of heavy monsoon rains in lower Myanmar in July and August 2018 had led to floods and landslides across 10 States in Burma (Ayeyawaddy, Magway, Bago, Sagaing regions and, Kachin, Kayah Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states/regions). Three regional affiliated associations of the Karen Baptist Convention were among the hardest hit areas. Namely, Hsaw Hti (ShweGyin-Kyauk Kyi), KlerLweHtoo (Nyaunglebin) and Hpaan-Mawlamyine in Bago Region and Karen State. As of early August, about 73 villages and nearly 9,000 household were affected in 9 townships in those three regions. Loss of stored grain and livestock have led to disruption of the planting season and food security for the next several months. Domestic animals such as cows, pigs and buffalos had to flee to higher ground with no access to sufficient feed and shelters and fell sick. There was an urgent need of emergency supplies such as drinking water, food, basic health care and sanitation packages, temporary shelters for both for human and animals. On 29 August, a spillway of the Swar Chaung Dam broke and resulted in sudden flooding in Yedashe Township, Bago Region. More than 54,000 people from 18 village tracts have been affected and some 16,600 people were evacuated.



In response to several requests for help, a group of us, Rev. Dr. Ler Wah, Rev. Htoo Kapaw, Saw Aung Doo, Boy, Hackett, Saw Kapi and myself, decided to hold a benefit concert to raise funds for the flood affected communities. Several well-known musicians and friends joined hands within a short notice. The August 11 Benefit Concert at the Cushion Hall in the Myanmar Baptist Convention building in Yangon went very well with full capacity. A total of 15,977,600 Kyat (over US\$10,000) were raised, 2/3 of which came from the generous support of friends across Myanmar and Karen churches from the US, Singapore and Australia. Donations were given directly to the Karen Baptist Convention, Taungoo-Thandaung Bwe Moe Bwar Baptist Association, Paku Karen Baptist Association, Hpa-an based Education Gathering Group and flood affected communities in Hsar Township in Bago Region through Klo & Kweh Music Team.



## An opportunity to help and get involved (Reported by Tansy Kadoe)

### Short-Term Mission Trip

A team, including two professional counselors and a teacher, will be spending a week in Mae La Refugee Camp and help teach at the Kawthoolei Karen Bible School and College.

Goals:

The overall goal for this short-term mission trip is simply to love our neighbors as ourselves. We wish to strengthen our relationship with co-workers in Christ by sharing love, encouragement, resources, and support with one another, and with those who have been oppressed and deprived of basic necessities.

Counseling training will be conducted for the final-year theological students and leaders, with these goals in mind:

- § To share some basic information about mental health.
- § To share biblical perspectives on mental illness (depression, anxiety, substance use, trauma).
- § To explore why churches should be concerned about mental health and help those affected by mental illness.
- § To introduce very basic concepts of pastoral counseling and biblical foundation for counseling.
- § To offer a glimpse of using a selected counseling model.
- § To experience and practice counseling.
- § To gain an understanding of the importance of self-care.

Teaching training will also be conducted for the final-year theological students, with these goals in mind:

- § To learn basic information about the nature and needs of children with special needs.
- § To learn basic strategies and tools in supporting students in a classroom environment.
- § To learn ways to support families of children with special needs and to advocate for them.

Schedule:

The team will be engaging with the students and leaders through teaching, activities, and fellowship 6 hours a day from January 7-12, 2019. Sam will go directly to Thailand. Tansy and Da Gay will travel to Myanmar to visit family members and also to connect with partners/programs initiated/conducted by Friends of Burma. They will travel to Thailand from Myanmar on January 6 and return to Myanmar on January 13. The duration of their trip is from December 20 to January 14.

Thanks very much for your consideration. We are asking God for His blessing and guidance, as we make this journey.



Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Bible School and College

## Investing in Future Leaders

We are seeking your support for Nay Tar Mu and Kaw Khu, teachers from Kawthoolei Karen Bible School and College (KKBBSC) in Mae La Refugee Camp, to pursue Doctor of Ministry degree at Central Baptist Theological Seminary. They have been accepted into the DMin program, but we need your help to make it a reality for them to actually come to the US and study. The fact that two KKBBSC teachers/professors from a refugee camp have been accepted into the Doctorate program at Central Seminary is unprecedented. This is an extremely rare opportunity that is presented to those who lives in dire situations usually devoid of opportunities and resources.



Kaw Khu

The need for supporting Nay Tar Mu and Kaw Khu to pursue DMin degree is a direct request from the leadership there. The ministries of Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Bible School and College extends the boundary of the refugee camp. While there are restrictions, people take risks and go in and out of camp all the time. Students from eight other refugee camps and all over the Karen territories come to this school to pursue education. Churches also rely upon the leadership of KKBBSC for direction and purpose. From my experience there, I can say their thirst and hunger for education and knowledge are intensely palpable. Education fuels hope and the desire to understand better the God they worship, who meets their needs, but also permits tragic circumstances in which they find themselves.

Currently, a new Master of Divinity degree, along with a new Master of Religious Education degree, is being developed along the border (DMin program explanation attached). Two Karen teachers/professors with a Doctorate Degree are teaching the courses. There is a shortage of Doctorate trained teachers. If more Karen professors have their Doctorate Degrees, more students can enroll in the master-level programs, and remain near their families and homes. The tuition costs would be much less. It

used to be that graduates from KKBBSB who have pursued a Master of Divinity degree, do so at great risk. Each year, two to three students travel long distances, many times by foot for two weeks, to a far-away location in India (Oriental Theological Seminary) in Nagaland. This was the path that the two teachers treaded to receive their MDiv. They sacrifice being far from family. Their families suffer in the garden and home, without the help of their sons and daughters. Of course, there are many travel and tuition costs that they trust God to provide.

Earning their Doctorates will not only assist them with their current situation of equipping leaders along the border. The refugees and leadership at KKBBSB are working and looking ahead to the day when they can return to Burma and be repatriated as citizens, rebuilding communities in the jungle and countryside of Burma. These communities will need competent, equipped leadership in the schools and churches to help repair that which lost, especially over the last three decades (and seventy years of military brutality against the Karen ethnic group), while living as refugees, displaced with no home.



Nay Tar Mu

### Wish List

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| <b>Sponsor an outstanding student in Pathein (student's family contributes bags of rice.)</b>    | \$300       |
| <b>Travel expenses for Naw Paw Gaw to oversee Self Help groups</b>                               | \$100       |
| <b>Sponsor a Self Help Women's Group. Helps 12 to 16 women to earn money for their families</b>  | \$300       |
| <b>Alternative Christmas Giving. Give \$50 to a poor family in Burma.</b>                        | \$50        |
| <b>Sponsor a teacher, Naw Kalu Paw in Late Pote Village</b>                                      | \$200/year  |
| <b>Sponsor an orphan or needy child</b>  | \$360/year  |
| <b>Expand the operating room at Matthew 25 Love Hospital in Pathein, Burma</b>                   | Any amount  |
| <b>Help the three member mission team going to the border to help develop the schools there.</b> | \$1,500     |
| <b>Sponsor two students to study M-Div in the US</b>   | Any amount  |
| <b>Help build an eight story building for Myanmar Institute of Theology</b>                      | \$1,300,000 |

This newsletter was compiled by Saw Htaw Htoo, Adam Maung and Neil Sowards.

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