

Newsletter Spring 2005

Dear Friends,

We give thanks to God for the faithful giving, support, and prayers each of you give to the work of FOB. God is working through you to meet the needs of Christians in Burma. Neil spent 3 ½ weeks in January teaching in BARS (Bachelor of Arts in Religious Study) at MIT (Myanmar Institute of Theology) and checking up on programs.

We have tried to find a solar cooker that works. The best we found only reached 170 degrees. So we lined an old satellite dish with foil and it reached 575 degrees in four minutes!!! See picture. So Tha Wah, one of my students of two years ago, is working to develop it. Diana and I just spent 19 days in March in China on a trip sponsored by the WWII Flying Tigers. The trip was a tremendous experience. We were amazed with the tremendous growth we saw everywhere we traveled. Christianity is on the rise there. While in China we were able to buy 100 pitch pipes for use in Burma for \$1.25 each compared with \$5.75 we had been paying here.



The ground breaking ceremony for the Jubilee Annex Building was held on January 20th. Raising money for that building has been hampered by the arrest of many illegal Burmese workers in Japan who normally contribute heavily towards such campaigns. We were heartened to hear that Ko Tha Pyu has received four of the five M-Bags we sent of books. Please pray the fifth one shows up soon.

We had nice thank you letters from the Myanmar Council of Churches and the Myanmar Baptist Convention thanking us for the six historic missionary related books we gave them.

Accomplishments: FOB was asked to help 35 students from 35 mission fields of the Pathein Sgaw Karen Baptist Association. Thank you for helping us to provide \$50 scholarships for each student so they could continue their high school education in Pathein. That money has been raised.

Lwai Moo Paw graduated from Linfield College, Oregon in 2004. She has announced her coming marriage to John Mercer this July. She will be returning from time to time to fulfill her agreement to teach at BARS.

Mosquito Nets: We have received \$700 for another 100 high quality nets that will protect a person for ten years. Word has spread about these nets; and thirty two pastors and evangelists in malaria infested areas have requested nets. We have had another request for 120 from the Pathein Baptist Association. Once those nets, originally seized from Customs have been sold, the price will go from \$7 to \$14.

Clinic Report: by Tansy Kadoe (TansyJKadoe@cox.net). We are currently partnering with Project C.U.R.E (www.projectcure.org) to facilitate the process of shipping a semi-truck sized container filled with donated medical equipment and supplies worth \$400,000. To ensure that we precisely meet the medical needs of the KBC clinic,



representatives of Project C.U.R.E will travel to Burma and conduct an on-site needs assessment at the clinic in May/June. The KBC clinic team in the USA is responsible to raise \$10,000 for the shipping charges. Individuals and churches are being contacted for support of this project. T-shirts, pens, and car stickers with the "We Treat, God Heals" logo are available for sale. We have envelopes that can be distributed at your church for this special offering. Please contact us to help in any way that you can. Let us bring hope and healing to the poorest of the poor together!

Requests: Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT) is building another class room building at a cost of \$270,000. Each faculty member is raising \$200. They are asking each Burmese Church in the U. S. to raise \$200. There are some Burmese here in the United States who could give \$200 as individuals. Memorial rooms will be \$5,000 and equipping a room is \$500. FOB has committed to give \$20,000 to this vital building project.

The Karen Baptist Convention is building much needed staff housing because of the rise in the cost of living in the Rangoon area. They have purchased a reconditioned van to provide transportation for the staff (100) for various functions with churches.

Nyaungleben Bible School at Nyaungleben (the school Diana once said was the poorest school she had ever seen) badly needs a new \$10,000 classroom building. The principal of the school is paid the equivalent of \$4 per month. The students do not get even one egg a month. Recently when the principal's son got sick, all they could do was pray. Please help these worthy people working to bring the Good News of the Kingdom of God. We have just finished helping them build a faculty duplex.



Orphan Report: by David Horton (dehgvas@cox.net). Over one hundred orphans at 5 orphanages are currently being supported by individuals through FOB at \$12 per month (\$144 per year). Many of the orphans are entrusted to the care of these devoted Christians because of financial and medical needs of their parents. Sponsors are reminded once a year (October) for their annual gift. Special events and medical examinations are possible through the generosity of others who see the importance of care beyond food, clothing, shelter and schooling.

Myo Mission Field: We now have enough support for the evangelists and teachers in the Myo mission

field who are paid \$60 per year.

Promotion Report by John & Ruth Peterson (peterson.j.g.@comcast.net). We continue to share informally with friends about ministry needs in Burma. In the fall of 2004 Naw Paw Gaw, Secretary of the Yangon Kayin Baptist Women's Association, wrote asking for assistance to secure five Casio Keyboards to train church musicians. Friends have contributed enough to purchase two of these keyboards @ \$300 each. We hope to secure at least one more key board this year but would be thrilled to discover special donors to help secure all five Casios. Karens do love music and these Casios will greatly assist them.



Two baptisms in the Myo field

Library Report by Sue Dolbow (suedolbow@earthlink.net), Show Ei Ei Tun (showeitun@yahoo.com). Lay Nyin Thit Library in Taunggyi has over 1,000 members. They modified old Christmas cards sent from the US and distributed them to the regular visitors. They plan to offer short drawing and ESL training this summer. They are in the process of partnering with Lay Nyin Thit in Loikaw, Kayah State for some activities. One BARS student interned at LNT in Loikaw recently. The librarian has requested a raise to the current monthly operating budget of \$30 as prices increase. LNT, Taunggyi needs two

new bookshelves. The Pathein Library now has 405 members and two librarians.

Support of Daw Pan Shwe Orphanage in Taunggyi: We regret to report Daw Pan Shwe is very ill. She was the orphanage's principal fund raiser. Fortunately Judy Lundy (Manninglundy@msn.com) has stepped in and raised \$2,000 to help this orphanage at this difficult time. Praise the Lord for this new volunteer from Scottsdale, AZ.

Burma Christian Fellowship Tour by Paul Aita (paul.aita@juno.com). A spiritual uplifting 14 day tour of Baptist work in Burma and seeing the sights of that beautiful, exotic land. The cost for 14 days of land travel is \$1,500 plus airfare (about \$1,200). Monday January 9, 2006 to Sunday January 23, 2006. Several of our strongest supporters were called by God while going on a tour. Ask for the itinerary. Tell others about it.



Ministry in the U. S.: While most of our projects are in Burma, FOB also helps the Burmese studying in the U. S. studying at seminaries.

If you would prefer receiving this newsletter in color by e-mail just let us know. It saves us time and money. Send your request to neildianasowards@juno.com.

Lwin Moe, Sweetie (Russ Kadoe), Tar So Gay and the BARS students made an 18 minute CD-Rom or video on Friends of Burma. It is available for \$3 postage and need not be returned.

Opportunities for Helping Needy People in Burma (Myanmar)

Clay stove demonstration

1. **Karen Baptist Convention Clinic.** Need of \$10,000 to ship a container of \$400,000 worth of donated medical supplies to the clinic. Currently they are assessing needs to be sure to send exactly what equipment and supplies are needed.
2. **200 Copies of the book, "Where There is No Doctor" for pastors.** Cost is \$2.20 per book. Requested by Tha Wah for Pathein Myaungmya pastors..
3. **Mosquito nets for evangelists.** High quality mosquito nets are the best protection from malaria. A net is \$7 each and will last ten years and 21 washings. A \$7 donation may save a life for ten years. We have had requests for 152.
4. **Karen Baptist Convention Staff Housing.** The total cost is \$110,000. They have raised \$70,000 and need help with the balance.
5. **Van for Karen Baptist Convention.** They still need \$2,900 to finish paying for their reconditioned van.
6. **Scholarships for Life Committed Christians.** \$150 will give a year's education in a Bible School or Seminary. It takes 3-4 years depending upon school.
7. **Myanmar Institute of Theology.** New classroom building, \$270,000. Memorial rooms are \$5,000. Memorial equipping a room is \$500. They also need thirty beds at \$20 each and 50 chair-desks at \$12.
8. **Christian Resource Books.** Many Christians need religious resource books. We have permission to reprint some excellent books right there in Burma. They need capital to underwrite the printing. The books will be sold and the money recycled to print more books.
9. **Entrepreneur Loans.** After training and saving their match, a group of want-to-be businesspersons are given a loan to develop their business. Their repayment money is then loaned to others. But more seed money is needed as word spreads about the program and more want to participate. Cost is \$300 per project for thirty-six persons.
10. **Eye Glasses.** If you appreciate the clear vision your glasses give you, perhaps you would want to give that blessing to another person for only \$10. Faculty at some of the Bible schools needs them as well as students.
11. **Sponsor an Orphan.** The Pathein Myaungmya Sgaw Karen Baptist Association have started an orphanage, Kwe' Lwe' and needs sponsors for 20 orphans. The cost to support a child is \$144

per year--all this money goes to the orphanage.

12. **Aid a Retired Christian worker.** \$10 goes a long way in Burma. It is more than two months income for many desperate retired pastors and Christian workers. If your retirement is comfortable, perhaps you will like to help a retiree on the other side of the world. It is this project which elicits the most moving thank you letters from recipients.

13. **Hearing aids for Ministers.** Some ministers need hearing aids. The cost in Burma is \$50 for a general amplifying hearing aid.

We have an 18 minute video or CD-Rom on Friends of Burma A \$3 donation for postage appreciated. Need not be returned.

Please make checks payable to **Friends of Burma**, South Wayne Baptist Church, 548 Home Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46807. Phone: (Note change in area code) (260) 745-3658. neildianasowards@juno.com All donations are tax deductible. All work in the U.S. is done by volunteers.