

# Newsletter: Friends of Burma

www.friendsofburma.org

Spring, 2014

## Bago Yoma Mission

### Blessings in the Cloudy Days

Back in 2010, the story of paddy crop failure in the central Bago Yoma caused by rampaging rats caught the attention of many Friends of Burma supporters. Locals in the affected area were essentially facing famine. The inhabitants of this backward area are mostly Karen with little or no formal schooling.

journey to provide some relief. The rat infestation slowly subsided after a year or so. And there came a drought in 2012. The lack of rain made the paddy field so hard that it was impossible to till. On top of that, access to drinking water became a serious problem. The plight of the suffering locals continues.

*For ages, human minds look for reasons and rationales to understand why bad things happen. Trying to unlock the mystery of pains and sufferings is futile. However, the best explanation comes from...*

The area has no basic public services; there is no school nor any healthcare facilities. The closest road was a 2-hour journey on foot. Outside help was essential if the villagers were to survive.

Local churches and volunteers rushed to supply some rice but relief effort was hampered by the remoteness of the area. Undaunted volunteers nevertheless set out for the

Sometimes it is so hard to grasp why the poorest of the poor continue to suffer.

For ages, human minds look for reasons and rationale to understand why bad things happen. Trying to unlock the mystery of pains and sufferings is futile. However, the best explanation comes from Jesus who responds "...

*Please turn to page 3.*

## Why I support Friends of Burma

By

Tansy Kadoe

There are many reasons why I support Friends of Burma (FOB). I will mention three reasons here: their solid commitment to ministries in Myanmar, their financial integrity, and their representation of the love and light of Christ.



*Tansy Kadoe and her family*

Friends of Burma's profound commitment to a myriad of ministries in Myanmar is highly remarkable. I have had the privilege to be a part of

*Please turn to page 5...*

*Do you know that* ... Friends of Burma has only one-paid staff in Burma? All the work in US is done by volunteers. The overhead cost is less than 2% of the total income! That makes FOB one of the lowest overhead costs among the non-profit organizations in the US.

## Executive Committee Meeting Held in Phoenix

Once again, Phoenix, Arizona hosted Friends of Burma's annual executive committee (EC) meeting. The perfect weather and the gracious hospitality in valley of the sun rewarded the hard-working EC members mostly fleeing from the snowy Midwest. The meeting was preceded by a social gathering on the Friday evening at the Maung's residence setting the stage for the big work day on Saturday February 22, 2014.

The attendance was down a bit compared to previous years due to various reasons but technology made up the proximity gap. May The delivered a wonderful remote presentation on Orphanage ministry via Skype. This could perhaps be paving the way for future presentations for EC members who could not travel. The EC was blessed to have the newest board member Sayama Sung Cer attending the annual meeting for the first time. Previously, she served on Friends of Myanmar Governing Board before coming to the US. For the third year in a row, Jim Wiegner represented International Missions of American Baptists in the meeting. Jim brought valuable insights and suggestions to the table.

Dave Horton notified EC that he would not be seeking another term to serve. Dave had been

serving on the committee for a number of years in various capacities. His love and passion for Burma and Burmese went beyond the work of Friends of Burma. While his warmth, humor, wisdom, and passion will be dearly missed, it was with a gracious joy that Dave went out with a highest positive note. Thank you, Dave!



*Executive Committee members at the annual meeting*

Lunch was catered by a new Karen restaurant in Phoenix. The EC members enjoyed the delicious noodle dishes, papaya salad, and chicken curry. Thank you very much EC members for attending the annual meeting. See you all next year!

*Please contact Lwin Moe at [lwinmoe@gmail.com](mailto:lwinmoe@gmail.com) to receive a copy of annual meeting minutes.*

## In Their Own Words

Occasionally, we receive wonderful feedback on the various projects that we support. Here are some in their own words so that as a supporter of FOB, you know what a blessing you have been.

### Hearing aid

*"I have served the Lord for 19 years as a pastor in Kan Thon Saint Karen Baptist Church. I got a problem in my ears 5 years ago. It became worse and it became difficult for me to hear. It was difficult for me to attend the training and*

*communicate with my church members. I prayed for my hearing problems and I am very grateful to receive \$125 through Friends of Burma. God answers my prayers through your support. Thank you and may God bless you."*

Naw Gay Ner Moo

### Mosquito Nets

*"Thank you so much for supporting us for women empowerment activities. Now I am sending you children from Hlaing Thayer and children at their preschool. When we gave them mosquito nets they were so happy because during rainy season there were seriously facing*

*with dengue disease. Most of them are migrant workers family and so poor and they don't have enough mosquito net for their family members. The preschool couldn't provide mosquito net because they also poor and almost voluntary and*



*now they so happy for safer for the children. Thank you FOM. May God bless you."*

Naw Paw Gaw

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## Blessings in the rainy days ...

*Continued from page 1*

*this happens so that the power of God could be seen ..."* when asked by his disciples whether a man was born blind because of his or his parents' sin (John 9:3). The fact that the blind sight was restored – the pain was relieved - brought glory to God.



*The new school at Pago Yoma sponsored by FOB*

Today Jesus is not physically around to relieve pain but he has left his church – you and me - to continue his work. When we hear about pain and suffering, we don't need to understand why but we just need to do our part so that the glory of God could be seen. It is a blessing that God is calling us to be a part of story that glorifies him. Perhaps sometimes we hear such stories too often we become callous or too busy to respond. Nevertheless, we need to be faithful to what we are called to do. Yes, Friends of Burma has continued to support the Bago

Yoma mission in various ways. The reality is that there are many cloudy-day stories like Bago Yoma, and we can't do it alone. So let us come together to be a blessing even in rainy and cloudy days. And thank you to faithful supporters for your commitment.

-Adam Maung

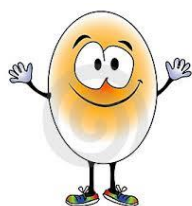
Executive Committee member

## News and Updates

This section provides news and updates on the some of the programs that FOB has been associated with.

- **Dr. Chit Maung Library** has new staff members. Since chief librarian Anna Maung and assistant librarian Noreen Benny immigrated to the US, the library had been looking to fill these positions. The library is pleased to announce Saw Frits Kyaw as director. With mixed emotion, the library accepted the resignation of one of the long-tenured teachers, Daw Tar Say who decided to move on to pursue other endeavors.
- **KBC Hospital** has been raising funds to install an elevator in the new building. The hospital has come a long way from a one-storied clinic to a four-story hospital (see picture on page 5) now needs an elevator which will primarily be used for transporting patients. The estimated total cost is \$50,000 including elevator shaft.
- As part of the **bi-centennial celebration** of Judson's arrival in Burma, American Baptists sponsored a Judson Tour which traveled from Yangon, Mandalay, to Moulmein. The James, Steve and Nancy, whom FOB supported in Thailand, went on the tour with 20 others. The various stops included the site where Adoniram was imprisoned and Ann's grave.

*Please let us know if you want to receive this newsletter electronically ... and be sure to share with your friends.*



## Wish List

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Free medical care to Ywa Ma Church's Charity Healthcare Clinic	... \$	155.00
50 Copies for the book "Where There is No Doctor"	... \$	225.50
Orphan per year	... \$	240.00
Seminary student Scholarship...	\$	300.00
Library upgrades at poor Seminaries	... \$	500.00
Pago Yoma Tube well	... \$	600.00
Train a doctor, Saw Thet Aung, \$1,000 per year for 7 years	... \$	1,000.00
Seed money for a loan fund for graduate entrepreneurs of KBTS		
Liberal Arts graduate	... \$	1,000.00
Hostel at Pathein for mission		
Field training	... \$	20,000.00
KBC hospital elevator for four Story building	... any	
Eye glasses per pair	... \$	17.00

Your support of full amount or any portion would be a blessing. For more giving information, please visit us at [www.friendsofburma.org](http://www.friendsofburma.org). Please write a check (payable to *Friends of Burma*) or use Paypal or Razoo.



FOB is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.

# Why I support ...

*Continued from page 1*

representing FOB in the healing ministry of Karen Baptist Convention Hospital (KBC Hospital) which had a rather humble beginning. KBC Hospital used to operate in what was little more than a shed. Now, it stands tall, offering various medical services at low costs to the people of Myanmar. In 2013, KBC Hospital treated more than 60,000 patients. The generous support from FOB included X-ray machine, power generator, hospital beds, operating room construction, an ambulance, and an elevator, among many items. When I visited Myanmar, I witnessed KBC staff providing medical services to patients from remote areas, children



*KBC Hospital in 1993*

with deformity, orphans, Buddhist monks and nuns, and people from all walks of life. The medical teams also travel to remote parts of the country and treat hundreds of patients. For more than 20 years, Friends of Burma has partnered with KBC Clinic to bring healing and hope to the people in Myanmar with the motto, "We Treat, God Heals."

Friends of Burma is exceptionally conscientious in handling donors' contributions. For every dollar donated, 98 cents goes straight to intended recipients. Executive board members are committed to keeping administrative costs as low as possible. They travel to Phoenix, Arizona, for the annual

meeting on their own expense. Members make generous contributions and give freely of their time and talent.

Our God has called us to love our neighbors and to be the light of this world. I strongly believe that the labor of love put forth by FOB is representative of the love and light of Jesus Christ. Isaiah 58:10 says, "If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday." Myanmar often falls in a dark place, where there are



*KBC Hospital in 2014*

afflictions due to the injustice perpetrated by the authority. I was once in that dark place fumbling and not knowing what to do with my life. During the late 90's when I finished high school, all colleges and universities were closed due to instability in the country. In that dark time, Friends of Burma shined forth the light of Jesus Christ and offered a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to continue my education in the United States. I experienced the love of Christ through Friends of Burma. My gloomy day became the noonday. For that, I am forever grateful to God and FOB. It has been an honor to serve Friends of Burma.

*Tansy has served on Friends of Burma Executive Committee for the past 8 years. She currently resides in Phoenix, AZ with her husband Adam Maung and two children Zachary 11 and Zoe 9.*

## *Do you have a will?*

If not, consider the following risks associated with not having a will or estate plan.

- Your loved ones will have no control over the distribution of your assets once you are gone. The local court will decide how your assets should be divided.
- In the court decision, no religious, educational, charitable or other philanthropic causes will be included.
- Taxes, expenses, and fees could substantially reduce your estate.
- You will miss opportunities for charitable gift annuities and trusts that can benefit you during your life, as well as helping your favorite causes.

Additionally, the court will appoint a lawyer at \$200 per hour (total costs subtracted from the estate) to sort out the mess without will. There are countless stories of anxieties and frustrations that surviving loved ones face because the departed simply did not have a will. So, if you do not already have a will, perhaps it is time to start thinking about what tomorrow will bring. You cannot take it with you but you can still be a good steward on what you are leaving behind.

If you do have a will, please consider Friends of Burma in your future plan to continue your favorite programs or projects. You may contact Neil or Diana at [neildianasowards@juno.com](mailto:neildianasowards@juno.com) for more information. For planned giving opportunities, you may also contact, American Baptist Foundation at [abfadmin@abc-usa.org](mailto:abfadmin@abc-usa.org) or visit [www.abcofgiving.org](http://www.abcofgiving.org).

## FRIENDS OF BURMA

[www.FriendsofBurma.org](http://www.FriendsofBurma.org)



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



<http://goo.gl/Gp21fD>

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