

FRIENDS OF BURMA, Incorporated

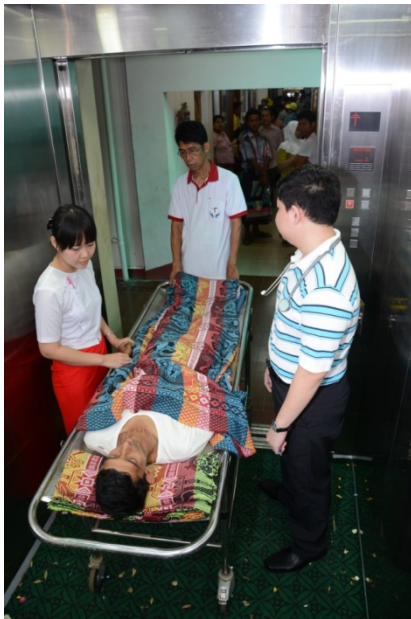
Ministering with those who meet needs in Myanmar since 1985

www.friendsofburma.org

Spring 2015

KAREN BAPTIST CONVENTION HOSPITAL COMPLETES ELEVATOR TO ALL FOUR FLOORS.

Thanks to a myriad of donors and faithful Karen churches, the once clinic on Seminary Hill in Insein, Burma is now a staffed hospital serving a wide community. As someone has remarked, "Every taxi driver in Rangoon knows where the KBC hospital is located". No one is denied care on a financial basis.



Previous *FOB Newsletters* pictured patients being transported between floors by staff holding the patient in a sagging sheet. Now staff easily wheel patients down the hall

and into the elevator.



Iron workers & Painters at work. OSHA not present!



CROWDED CONDITIONS OVERCOME DURING BUILDING

To add the elevator shaft to the KBC Hospital, a house for staff & the water storage tank were removed. This also meant staff needed housing elsewhere. In addition the water tank was relocated and building materials were placed in the parking lot much to the irritation of daily arrivals. Despite the danger to individuals in this busy area, contractors completed the facility safely and quickly.

NEEDED: SIGNIFICANT DONORS FOR TWO NEW, IMPORTANT BUILDINGS

Friends of Burma in its annual meeting faced the reality that it cannot meet the many capital projects that friends in Burma request and need. Living expenses and property costs in the immediate Yangon area are rising fast and many other needs demand attention.

However FOB, however, happily forwards special gifts especially for two needs that present themselves right now:

One project remains related to KBC Hospital—a **facility for patient relatives** who provide food and care while their relative is in the KBC Hospital. Send designated contributions through Friends of Burma.



The second project request comes from Dr. Samuel Ngun Ling, President of Myanmar Institute of Theology. Rising living costs in the Rangoon area can be met in part through seminary housing for faculty. The seminary has raised \$110,000 and needs only \$110,000 more for a **new faculty apartment facility**.

John and Ruth Peterson report that in their brief stay in seminary housing while helping in some classes at MIT, they noted how fully the apartments were utilized. One professor included the retired president of MIT in her modest apartment and daily fed a nephew attending school. Another professor was providing space in his home for many relatives and others—a fact they personally saw as they walked through the apartment one morning at 4 a.m. seeing people sleeping hither and yon on the floor. You can be sure your provision for housing will be well used.



KAREN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY TO OFFER UNDER-GRADUATE MUSIC DEGREE

KBTS with a nine person music faculty seeks degreed music professors. Happily, Thandar Aung Kyaw Soe, supported by FOB during her studies in Singapore, will be joining the faculty. Now KBTS will expand its two-year program into a full undergraduate music degree.

Three KBTS students composed Karen choir music as their M.Div. theses. Tah Mlah Paw wrote her M.Th. thesis on children's music and that remains her focus in teaching at KBTS.

TRIO SINGS AT MAUBIN EASTER WORSHIP



If you visit Myanmar, you will be thrilled with children such as these singing on Easter morning. **If you would like to tour Myanmar (Burma) in January, 2016 to see some FOB ministries, contact Neil Sowards, President of Friends of Burma. See the last page.**

Meet Naw Say Phoe—Nurse's Aid



She manages the guest house built with the support of FOB and the local villagers. Very close to Pyay-Taungoo's main road, it is

the best shelter for nearby villagers of BagoYoma.



A mother of eight she still has at home two mentally handicapped sons. Yet she maintains the entire house, cooks for travelers

and often feeds poor villagers with her food.



selling medicines and caring for patients.



With FOB support, she earns a living by

DONOR SENDS DONATION FOR SURGERY AND PROSTHETIC EYE



Blind in one eye, Naw Say Phoe's other eye only gives blurred vision. She has now received the financial aid necessary for the initial surgery in Yangon.



We thank another donor for the above truck which Russ Kadoe, who coordinates FOB aid in Myanmar, was able to drive to assist in this drought stricken area.

DONOR ORPHAN SUPPORT RISES TO \$30 MONTHLY

Due to rapidly rising costs within Burma, *Friends of Burma* supported Child Care Centers report \$240 per child per year is no longer sufficient. FOB now asks donors to contribute \$30 monthly or \$360 annually per sponsored child. Donors unable to increase their donations are urged to continue with their giving at any level possible as costs continue to rise.

SHAN STATE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY EXPANDS FACILITIES; NEEDS \$20,000



M. Khaw Thein writes, "By the grace of God we got permission for constructing building from the local government. Yet according to given permission, we need to try to accomplish it within one year, 1 Dec 2014 to 1 Dec 2015."

They have launched their new construction with only \$10,000 on hand and need an additional \$20,000. FOB has no capital funds to distribute; therefore, we are looking for special donors.

KAREN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL AT INSEIN PROJECTS PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE

The curriculum, designed in cooperation with KBC Hospital staff, trains high level administrators competent in human health and well being programs that will be operated out of churches.

Magnolia is raising \$5,000 from local churches and **requests \$10,000 from FOB**. FOB encourages donors to support this innovative and needed ministry and welcomes donations directed toward this ministry.

GOD MULTIPLIES SMALL GIFTS



Russ Kadoe, on behalf of an FOB donor, gave Paw Gaw \$20 for any person she knew to be in need. Paw Gaw added ten dollars and gave it to three Indian Christian orphans whose father died ten years ago and whose mother recently died of AIDS.

Paw Gaw hopes to send the two older girls, now in the care of a

neighbor, to the loom and sewing training school at our Maw Bi center. The elder girl needs a medical checkup. She had cared for her mother unaware that her mother had AIDS. Their house also needs repair because it is not safe for the young girls. Paw Gaw reports "I've never known them before but when I heard about them I felt so sorry for them I went to their house and give this 20\$ but I've some plan for them through organizing some of my friends for their future."



ATTEND AN ANNUAL CHURCH CONVENTION



PREPARING FISH FOR DINNER



"WATER FOUNTAINS" AWAIT YOU



THE BAND IS PLAYING



ALL AGES ARE PRESENT



WELCOME AND WORSHIP BEGINS

Small villages of fifty or sixty families often host conventions of over 1000 people. That's genuine hospitality.

We would be pleased to send your copy of this newsletter by email. Let us know your email address if this is acceptable. If you prefer a hard copy, please consider passing the newsletter along to others after you have read it.

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

Traveling to and from a Pwo Karen Annual Meeting in Htaing Pin Yo Kyee Wine



Entrance to the village



Dining is a pleasure



Community Meal



Cane Ball competition


WISH LIST

\$360 Sponsor an Orphan (see p. 3)
 \$20,000 Shan State Seminary (see p. 4)
 \$10,000 KBTS Health Care Degree Program (see p. 4)
 Any amount to Naw Paw Gaw Karen Women's Development Center (see p. 4)
 \$1,000 partial assistance for Patient Relative Housing building at KBC hospital (p. 2)
 \$1,000 or more toward MIT Faculty Housing
 \$35 Hearing Aids, \$17 Eye Glasses
 \$250 Student scholarships at Bible Schools (Some students lost family and village support in the Nargis Tsunami.)
 \$600 Tube Wells
 Any amount to aid displaced persons
 \$500 Aid to any of twelve Bible Schools
 \$1,000 Rental Space for Inductive Bible Study Training Program led by Saw Daniel

Contributions may be made at the FOB website via PayPal or Razoo. Checks may be mailed directly to Friends of Burma, 548 Home Avenue, Fort Wayne, IN 46807.

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. In 1985 Neil Sowards began personally to visit Burma bringing badly needed assistance. Out of his contacts the Friends of Burma ministry was launched and today annually sends \$400,000 to \$500,000 to meet needs.

This issue compiled by Ruth & John Peterson

 Friends of Burma, Inc.

 <http://youtube/pD-oSBUtrog>

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