

Friends of Burma Annual Report 2004

We thank each and every one of you for your prayers and faithful support that has enabled Friends of Burma (FOB) to respond to many needs in Burma and among the Burmese in Fort Wayne.

Clinic Support. Tansy Kadoe, TansyJKadoe@cox.net, David Horton and their committee have continued to raise support to support the Karen Baptist Convention Clinic and its healing work in Insein, Burma. In addition, they arranged to have five medical kits from C.U.R.E. carried from the U.S to Burma.

Orphan Report. David Horton, dehgvaz @cox.net, has continued to oversee the Orphan Support program. FOB channels support of \$144 per year for over a hundred orphans at six orphanages in Burma.

Chosen Students. Lwin Moe taught two semesters this year at BARS (Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies) and is now temporarily working for an NGO in Laos. It was very disappointing when another student FOB had invested a lot of time and money in announced she would not be going back to Burma to teach as promised. Hopefully the three others in the U.S. will go back soon. Three Burmese students in Burma who were accepted by colleges here were not granted visas by the U. S. Embassy. FOB will not bring any more students here to study.

Myo Evangelistic Program. This program has been going on for over 10 years and has grown to 40 evangelists and teachers. A church in Maine now supports ten and others are supporting others. The cost is \$60 per year. Evangelist Honor Nyo on the left is pictured with Myo woman.

FOMGB. Several programs initiated by Friends of Myanmar Governing Board in Burma have been continued this year and have been supported by FOB persons in the U.S. These include \$50 hearing aids for hard of hearing pastors, \$10 Eye Glasses for seminary students, and \$10 grants to retired Christian workers.

Christian Fellowship Tour. Dr. Paul Aita, paulaita @juno.com The 2005 tour was cancelled but we have scheduled a tour for 2006. Let us know if you are interested or know anyone who might be interested in a wonderful experience of Christian Fellowship with Burmese Baptists. The cost is \$1,500 for 14 days plus airfare.

Library Report. Sue Dolbow, suedolbow@earthlink.net Future plans include creating a network of existing libraries for encouragement and reporting purposes. A March trip to Burma to begin the networking project is planned.

Chit Maung Library. Ardeth Maung and her committee have been working to expand the educational program at the Dr. Chit Maung Memorial Library at Insein, Burma.

Lay Nyin Thit Library, Taunggyi. Mawchi raised over \$600 for its support and it has opened a branch in Loikaw under the guidance of Dawro Mu, Mawchi's mother.

Book Publishing. Funded by FOB the Karens copied and distributed 3 religious books in Burmese to twenty seminaries and 5 books in Karen Language to twelve Karen schools.

Karen Baptist Convention. FOB contributed \$5,000 toward their staff building and \$3,100 toward the purchase of a van.

Computer for Mon Bible School. FOB contributed a computer to this school recommended by Lwin Moe.

FOB Website. Saw Htaw Plaw Htoo has redone FOB's website which is now at friendsofburma.org. Take a look and tell others about it. Mawchi also created a 60 second Power Point Program on Friends of Burma. We can send it by e-mail if you would like to see it.

Mosquito Nets. FOB has purchased and distributed over 300 high quality mosquito nets that last 10 years and are the cheapest, best protection against malaria (\$7). Word has spread and many want them. We have had to limit giving them to evangelists and pastors.

Other Projects: FOB supported a student recommended by Lwin Moe, helped purchase a Multimedia projector for Seminary Hill, aided three theological students studying outside of Burma, helped Nyaungleben Bible School, are in the process of building a building for the Kayah Pu orphanage.

Volunteers. Gail and Paul Aita taught seven weeks at Myanmar Institute of Theology. Neil Sowards will be teaching one month in January, 2005.

Ministry in U. S. Two Burmese are living with the Sowards; one who has now passed her first medical board test and the other, a Mon refugee, who is finishing high school.

MIT Annex. \$23,749 has been received for the new building called the Jubilee Building Annex towards the \$270,000 that is needed.

Scholarship Programs. The Sowards Scholarship program helps support over 650 students who are ministers' children or from poor families in their studies for full time Christian Service. In addition, FOB supports other students at \$150 each at seven seminaries and Bible Schools.

Entrepreneur Loans. FOB has given money for entrepreneur loans to several locations in Burma and channeled money for another organization. Naw Paw Gaw has developed real expertise in organizing women and teaching them to be effective business persons.

If you want these reports by e-mail, please send us your e-mail address to Neil Sowards at neildianasowards@juno.com

Opportunities for Helping our Fellow Baptists in Burma (Myanmar)

1.**Myanmar Institute of Theology.** New classroom building, \$270,000. Memorial rooms are \$5,000. Memorial equipping a room is \$500. They also need twenty beds at \$20 each, 50 chair-desks at \$12.

2.**Karen Baptist Convention Staff Housing.** The total cost is \$110,000. They have raised \$70,000 and need help with the balance.

3.**Van for Karen Baptist Convention.** A reconditioned vehicle costs \$6,000. \$2900 is still needed for this project.

4.**Karen Baptist Convention Clinic.** A tube well @\$650, Two Nitrous Oxide cylinders at @\$200 each, Eye surgery operating microscope @\$9,600.

5.**Book:** "Where There is No Doctor" for village health workers. Cost is \$2 each.

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.**Christian Resource Books.** The Christians need religious resource books and have permission to reprint in Burma some of what they need. They need capital to underwrite the printing. The books will be sold and the money recycled to print more books.

8.**Entrepreneur Loans.** After training and saving their match, a group of want-to-be business persons 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. Usually about thirty six benefit in the first round.

9.**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 members need them as well as students.

10.**Sponsor an Orphan.** Cost is \$144 per year--all this money goes to support the orphan.

11.**Aid a Retired Christian worker.** \$10 goes a long way in Burma. It is more than two months income for many desperate retirees. If your retirement is comfortable, perhaps you will like to help a retiree on the other side of the world.

12.**Mosquito nets for evangelists.** High quality mosquito nets are the best protection from malaria. Each net is \$7 and that will last ten years and 21 washings. A \$7 donation may save a life for ten years.

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

Please make checks payable to Friends of Burma, South Wayne Baptist Church, 548 Home Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46807. Phone: (260) 745-3658. neildianasowards@juno.com All donations are tax deductible. All work in the U.S. is done by volunteers--Neil & Diana Sowards, David & Doris Horton, John & Ruth Peterson, Tansy Kadoe & Adam Maung, Paul Aita, Saw Htaw Htoo, Sue Dolbow, Show Ei Ei Tun.