

# FRIENDS OF BURMA ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011

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A COMMITTEE OF AMERICAN CHRISTIANS FOR AIDING THE PEOPLE OF  
BURMA

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We have over 50 programs and all have continued to serve His people in Burma (Myanmar) and move us toward the Kingdom of God. We also have a wonderful core of people who continue to support the work there, in spite of this being a time of financial difficulty. Many have continued their former level of support even though they have seen their personal income decline. Because of your sacrificial giving, contributions increased by 24 percent in 2011.

Your Executive Committee continues to give their time and talent to keep the organization going. We still have only one paid person in Burma. The members of Friends of Myanmar Governing Board in Burma also continue to serve without pay and continue to provide us with guidance and feedback.

The overhead for printing and mailing our three newsletters, office expenses and all other expenses, including one salary, continues to be less than one percent. (\$1 of every \$100 given.)



*Myo Bible School class*

Grant/Project Category	2011	
Christian Education & Scholarships	\$ 98,737	16.8%
General Contributions	\$ 61,985	10.6%
Gideon Bible Publication	\$ 48,000	8.2%
Health Care	\$ 36,937	6.3%
Libraries	\$ 66	0.0%
Memorials	\$ 1,160	0.2%
Ministry Projects	\$ 21,211	3.6%
Ministry Support - Individuals	\$ 21,001	3.6%
Ministry Support - Organizations	\$ 134,932	23.0%
Misc Building Projects	\$ 2,450	0.4%
MIT Scholarships and Building Project	\$ 76,204	13.0%
Orphan & Child Support	\$ 58,508	10.0%
Publications	\$ 579	0.1%
Special Humanitarian Relief	\$ 25,000	4.3%
<b>Total Projects/Grants</b>	<b>\$ 586,770</b>	

Total Expense \$ 5,006 Expenses less than 1% of income.

The following describes a synopsis of FOB's activities in 2011.

### Scholarships

The FOB scholarship programs provided scholarships to more than 469 students in 2011:

- The Sowards Scholarship program, which is financed by endowment and awarded by the Myanmar Baptist Convention, served over 360 students preparing for full-time Christian service.
- Health Education Scholarship program, made possible by a board member, supported 11 medical school students, eight dental school students, eight nursing school students, and 16 nurses aid students. This board member also provided 58 scholarships for outstanding students from mission fields and village churches brought to Patheingyi for high school.
- FOB supported eight students who were studying in Thailand, Singapore, United Kingdom, Nagaland, and Philippines. Dr. Eh Tar Gay received her PhD in New Testament from Birmingham University (UK) and returned to Burma to serve at Myanmar Institute of Theology.
- In addition, other scholarships were given to students from Pwo Karen Seminary in Ahlone, Pwo Karen Bible School in Patheingyi, and Shan State Bible School.



*Dr. Eh Tar Gay*

### Hospitals and Clinics

FOB supported the Karen Baptist Convention Hospital, the Matthew 25 Love Clinic in Patheingyi, and four smaller clinics serving the poor in Myaung Mya, Kyauk Kyi, and Shwe Gyin.

- In 2011, KBC Hospital provided various medical services to 52,470 out-patients and 4,876 in-patients, and performed 1844 surgeries. FOB provided funding for the operation theater, which will be completed in early March. This is a major accomplishment, as a new operation theater will allow more patients who need surgery to be operated on in a timelier manner and satisfy requirements by the Health Ministry.
- Matthew 25 Love Clinic, with 12 doctors and 20 other staff, treated approximately 30,000 patients in 2011.



*A child being x-rayed at KBC Hospital*

## **Child Care Center**

FOB collaborated with seven Child Care Centers and supported 150 orphans in 2011.

## **Music Program**

One of the supporters of FOB is very interested in music. She enabled a teacher from KBTS to study in the Philippines and this woman developed the whole music program when she came back. Others have been trained, so now there are music programs at several schools and students can now major in music.



*Orchestra in Burma*

## **Kachin Internally Displaced People (IDP)**

Some of you may have heard that the long-term peace agreement between the Kachin army and the Burmese government broke down in June 2011. Since then, there has been widespread fighting in the Kachin state. Many villages have been affected by the fighting. Many people have fled to outskirts of larger cities such as Myitkyina. There are thousands of Internally Displaced People (IDP), living in tents with no access to education. FOB has been sending small amounts of money as it received undesignated contributions. We were asked for \$30,000 to support education provisions for these IDP's but were unable to give this much aid.

## **Adoniram and Anne Judson's Bicentennial**

In December of 2013, the Baptists of Burma are celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Adoniram Judson's arrival to Burma in 1813. They expect 20,000 to participate. Stan Murray of Baptist International Ministries is planning a tour of 50 Baptists. Neil and Diana Sowards, Jim Tompkins, Sue Dolbow, and perhaps others are also planning to attend.

### **Rev. Lew Murdock, Long-time Executive Board Member**

We would like to conclude our annual report with sincere thanks to Rev. Lew Murdock for his long-time service to Friends of Burma. There is no way we can replace Lew. He is stepping down from the executive board and will be serving on the advisory board.

### **Friends of Myanmar Governing Board (FOMGB)**

Friends of Burma funds Friends of Myanmar Governing Board (FOMGB), which is a group of people representing various disciplines inside Burma. They are given \$20,000 a year to apportion and distribute as they deem worthy. The following describes projects funded by FOMGB.

- Eyeglasses were given to 80 students and teachers at two Theological Seminaries. Six people received hearing aids.
- A total of 14 grants were given to 14 Bible schools. Each grant was \$200.
- FOMGB provided funds for publishing a book on Judson and programs dedicated to him.
- FOMGB's Retired Christian Workers' Aid program gave a \$25 financial gift to 80 retired ministers.
- Bible map books were printed and distributed to the Theological Departments of the Myanmar Baptist Convention.
- A total of 490 mosquito nets were distributed in rural areas and mission fields. These gifts are appreciated, as recent research has confirmed that the use of insecticide-treated bed nets significantly reduces mortality due to Malaria.
- FOMGB also provided scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 to students studying for Master of Theology and Doctor of Theology degrees at Myanmar Institute of Theology and Karen Baptist Theological Seminary.
- Four Bible School libraries received grants from FOMGB. Each grant was \$500.
- FOMGB gave \$1,000 to the Myanmar Baptist Convention Evangelism Department.
- FOMGB also funded \$1,000 for a room for Dr. Chit Maung's Children Corner program.



*Myo evangelists received mosquito nets.*

*Myo Bible School library*

## **Pegu Yoma Famine Relief**

A Jewish woman's organization donated \$10,000 for famine relief. KBC Hospital also went to the Pegu Yoma areas and taught health education, built toilets, and treated approximately 1,000 patients. Majority of the patients were suffering from diarrhea from water contamination.



*Pegu Yoma villagers, house, and cistern*

## **Dr. Chit Maung Library's Report**

Dr. Chit Maung Library received 202 new members in 2011. From March 7 to May 21, 2011, the library offered summer English courses in four different levels. A total of 220 students, whose ages ranged from three to 14 years, attended English classes. Students who scored the highest on the final tests in each level will be offered scholarships for 2012 summer English classes. Dr. Chit Maung Library continues to offer weekend English courses to students who are preparing to take standardized English language exams at the British Embassy. In 2011, eleven students passed with merit. The library also held competitive activities such as poem recitation, balloon debate, and impromptu speech for children to improve their fluency in English.



*Dr. Chit Maung Library Fun Fete in 2011*

## **PERSONAL STORIES**

### **Paw Wah Doh**

#### **Director of Christian Religious Education Department Shwe Gyin Baptist Association**

“Under Shwe Gyin Karen Baptist Association, we have got Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) centers. My heart is with this program as I love children and I believe that giving them a good start in life is critically essential. Funding is always a problem for us. Your contribution helps us financially and it encourages me in what I do. Your love and kindness upon us never ends. I am sure God is smiling upon your good conduct upon me.”



*Children from Shwe Gyin area*

### **Rev. Dr. Cyrus Sein**

#### **Principal, Hnin Thada Karen Baptist Bible School**

“We are thankful to you for your donation, which enables us to install lighting in our library. This is a great upgrade for our library. We pray that, “Surely goodness and love will follow you and your ministry.”

### **Jenny Paw**

#### **Licentiate Theology student**

Dear Father Teacher David (FOB’s executive member) [In Burma it is common to address teachers in Bible schools as Father Teacher.]

“May God bless you and your family! Thank you for your support in my education. There is nothing I can give you back. But every day I pray, I think of you and pray for you and your family. In everything you do and plan, may it be according to the will of God and may He fulfill it. Please pray for me so that I will be obedient to the Holy Spirit and true to our God.”

(Jenny Paw lost her parents in the battle zone when she was three years old. She was accepted in one of the Karen Baptist Convention child care centers. She is now attending a Bible school.)

### **Needs List**

- ♥ Support an orphan – \$240/yr
- ♥ Scholarship for a Seminary student – \$200/yr
- ♥ Medicine for the poor at a small clinic – \$200/yr
- ♥ Inductive Bible School scholarship – \$200/yr
- ♥ Eyeglasses – \$17/pair; Hearing aid – \$25/pair
- ♥ Jubilee Annex Building at MIT – any amount
- ♥ Pwo Karen Building at Ahlone and at Pathein – any amount.
- ♥ KBC Hospital
  - ▣ A sewage water treatment plant
  - ▣ A lift
  - ▣ One ventilator for ICU
  - ▣ 75 KVA generator
  - ▣ A place for patients from remote areas to stay.
- ♥ School fees for IDPs children at Myitkyina – \$30/student. Or give to “most needed” so we can respond to new situations and needs.