

# FRIENDS OF BURMA, Inc.

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A COMMITTEE OF AMERICAN CHRISTIANS FOR AIDING THE PEOPLE OF BURMA

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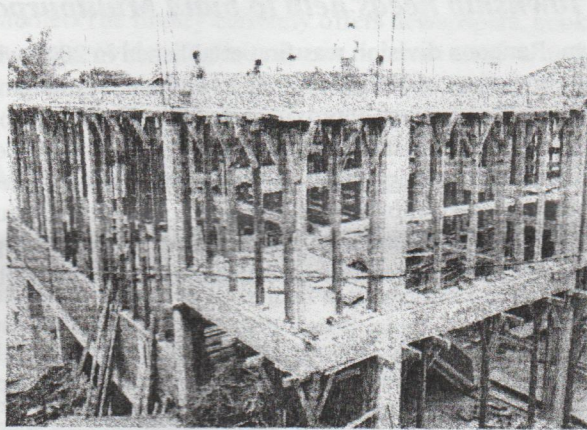
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## Ministry Through Healing

***KBC Clinic is officially recognized as a hospital!!!***



Maternity Ward Construction

The government issued a license to officially recognize the KBC Clinic on Seminary Hill in Insein as a hospital following the dedication of the extension of a new three story building in October 2009.

Construction has also started in March to add a maternity ward in order to accommodate increasing demand for the service, including a thousand births which took place at the clinic in 2009. There are twenty

staff in the maternity ward, in addition to five obstetricians and *gynecologists* who provide 24-hour service. Thanks to generous donors, Friends of Burma (FOB) granted thousands of dollars to help get the project off the ground. The KBC clinic needs more financial support for the following equipments and projects.

<u>Items</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Fumigation Machine	\$1100
Maternity Ward	\$40000
2 Operation Table	\$2520 each
2 Suction Machine	\$260 each
2 Oxygen cylinders	\$200 each
2 Nitrous Oxide cylinders	\$400 each
Diathermancy Machine	\$7000
Anaesthetic Machine	\$1800
Patient Monitor	\$1600
Ventilator	\$10000
2 Laryngoscope	\$100 each
2 Stool	\$50 each
2 Spot Light	\$300 each
Ceiling Light	\$4080
2 Mayo's Trolley	\$130 each
2 Table	\$300 each
2 Drip Stand	\$50 each
Medicine Trolley	\$300
Ambulance	
Generator	\$30000

## Index

Ministry Through Healing	Page 1
Ministry Through Orphanage Care	Page 2
Ministry Through Learning	Page 3
Ministry Through Sustainable Livelihood	Page 3
Christian Ministry, Education, and Evangelism	Page 3
Friends of Burma Annual Meeting	Page 6
Other Wish List	Page 7

Friends of Burma is a 501(c)(3) organization.  
 All work in the U. S. is done by volunteers.  
 "All donations are tax deductible."



### ***The Matthew 25 Love, Pathein, Irrawaddy Township***

The Matthew 25 Love Clinic is a ten-bed facility served by five doctors, two nurses, a midwife and many nurse's aides. This clinic performs minor operations, treats illnesses and assists in child deliveries. They treat 60 to 100 out-patients per day, including ten to fifteen in-patients. They charge fees but they are not as expensive as some private clinics. If a person has no money, he or she gets care free of charge. They serve the community nearby (both Christians and non-Christians) with a special emphasis on the seminary students, middle and high school students in the dormitory, and the students who come from mission fields to study in Pathein.

### ***Mobile Clinic in Bogalay Township needs help to build Multipurpose Building***

KBC mobile clinic in Bogalay town, Rangoon division was first established in 2008 when the KBC Health care clinics sent medical teams to help victims of Nargis cyclone to Pathein, Myaungmya and Bogalay. The clinic has a medical doctor and three staff and serves approximately 30 to 50 patients per day. Many of those patients come from remote villages and most of them are underprivileged populations of various religious and ethnic backgrounds. The clinic provides low cost and excellent care, but often treats destitute patients free of charge. Treatment offered by the clinic includes minor illnesses, acute medical and trauma care, antenatal care and post natal care, and dental care and health education to the victims of Cyclone Nargis. It also makes field visits to remote villages, and sends patients who need serious treatments to nearby healthcare facilities or KBC clinic at Seminary Hill, Insein.

The clinic has used the entire space of a guest house, which was built with the financial assistance of Hope International, a Non-Governmental Organization based in Rangoon. The guest house provides shelter for patients as well as serves as a center for training, where workers from local Non Governmental Organizations and churches carry out rehabilitation work and educational training. The guest house is overcrowded with multiple functions and activities.

The KBC mobile clinic in Bogalay town would like to construct a new building on the Church compound to create multiple spaces for a clinic, open sleeping areas for patients and relief workers, and rooms for training and for local NGOs and churches to carry out relief work. Your contributions are greatly welcome.

### ***Introducing Sak Han Tha Health Workers training school Insein***

Sak Han Tha Health Workers Training School is a six month certificate program which offers low cost medical training on maternity and child development. Students must be at least 18 years old and pass 9<sup>th</sup> standard grade. They are required to attend three months of lecture, one month practical training at KBC Clinic, one month practicing home care, and the remaining month focusing on studying and taking exams. Each session trains 48 students. Most participants come from Yangon and Pegu divisions. They then return to their village, work in private hospitals or freelance as nurses' aids. In addition, the school also gives the *graduates of KBTS and evangelists three month medical training program. The cost of the program for each student is \$81. Some villages pay for their training but most pay out of their own pockets. One of the trainees is Naw Sha Khu Paw, from Aung Naing Gone, a Christian village. She took part in rescue operations during Nargis which destroyed her village. She saw many sick and injured people and could not help them. She decided to become a health worker and get training.*

*Wish list; oxygen tank 200,000 kyats (180 dollars) and foot operated suction pump 100,000 kyats (91 dollars). They would like to become a registered medicine shop (pharmacy). They would like to increase their supply of medicine by 300,000 kyats (270 dollars) so they don't have to make so many trips to keep all medicines on hand. They would also like to have books titled "Where There is No Doctor" which now cost \$3.30 each.*

## **Ministry Through Orphanage Care**

### ***Child Enrichment Centers in Great Need***

Pray for the children and staff in 8 child enrichment centers under the Karen Baptist Convention. The numbers of children under this program continue to grow, but our sponsors (71 individuals and churches) remain constant. Hser Kee Lar started as the child enrichment coordinator on May 1st. She will visit each of the centers, interview staff and children to determine needs and concerns. We look forward to sharing with you this news so you might pray for this ministry and consider sponsoring a child (\$180 per year) or making a



contribution to provide improvement to these meager facilities. Operating on such limited resources impacts the quality of food, health service as well as shelter, clothing and recreation. If you can sponsor a child, contact: Dave Horton, 2466 N. Camino Reloj, Green Valley, AZ 85614 (E-mail: [dehgvaz@cox.net](mailto:dehgvaz@cox.net))

## **Ministry Through Learning**

### ***Dr Chit Maung Library***

Dr Chit Maung library has requested a total of \$1,412 to build the toilets to accompany the growing numbers of members who come to the library to check out books, read journals and magazines, study English, attend Day Care, and use the internet. The library currently offers newspapers, books, magazines, which can be checked out by members, and provides English courses, internet service, and fitness program to residents in the Neighborhood.

## **Ministry Through Sustainable Livelihood**

### ***Micro financing project***

The majority of micro-financing groups FOB helped to supported were affected by Nargis cyclone, leaving only 23 out of the original 40 groups that are fully functioning now. FOB currently supports micro credit groups in Thantlang, Chin State, Irrawaddy Division, and Lwe Kaw, Kayah State.

Thanks to the FOB support, farmers from Nay Yaung Kan village, which lost all the goats during Nargis, were able to jump start their goat raising business. Within 6 months they got 4 baby goats and they also sell milk for income. One of the beneficiaries includes a lady who went overseas last year to work as a housemaid but came back indebted due to the exploitation she suffered at the hands of her employer. She was very depressed but now she is happy and busy raising her goats. She says she can now pay back her loan and service charges, and support their family which has 10 members.

Another FOB supported micro financing project is called Care for Domestic Helper Project in Rangoon which has bought one sewing machine to make clothes, bags and hymn books' leather covers to help housewives earn extra income. They dedicated a building on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009 and named it Hope Center, where they plan to build basic vocational skill training center for teenage girls at Hmawbi. FOB supported KBC Women's Department with agriculture projects on soil preparation and pig raising. FOB also provided assistance to Myanmar Baptist Convention Women's Department with self supportive training and projects including a Model farm called Eve (mother of life) which has planted fruit trees, seasonal plants, and raised pigs. Income from these activities will go to vulnerable children.

## **Christian Ministry, Education, and Evangelism**

The Henzada Association which carries out evangelist mission to Li Lan Goo village mission field needs 350 dollars to build a two story building which will serve as Christian center and library. Only fifteen members out of 40 families are Christians in the village. They also need assistance to buy classroom materials such as table, chairs, and blackboard. This project is spearheaded by The Rev. Esther Hsu Paw, who, along with her husband, spent many years teaching at the Shan State Bible School in Taunggyi. She returned to her native home to help those less fortunate.

### ***Mrokhmi Baptist Churches Association, Rhakhine State***

It was started in 1983 by Bassein Myaungmya Sgaw Karen Baptist Association. It has become one of the Baptist associations under the umbrella of the KBC in January 2008. Their goal is to make it become the Mrokhmi Baptist convention (MBCC) in 2013. In order to be recognized as a Regional and Language convention by MBC, one must have at least 50 churches, 5,000 baptized members and 15 ordained ministers. At present they have 17 churches, 17 mission fields, 3,200 baptized members and 7 ordained ministers. Mrokhmi Baptist Mission training center (MBMTC) has 17 students and 7 full time teaching staff, and offers 6 months classroom teaching and 4 months practicum or fieldwork. Courses include learning Christian education, English, basic health care, music, and civil laws.



### ***Loikaw Baptist Church (LBC), Loikaw, Kayah State.***

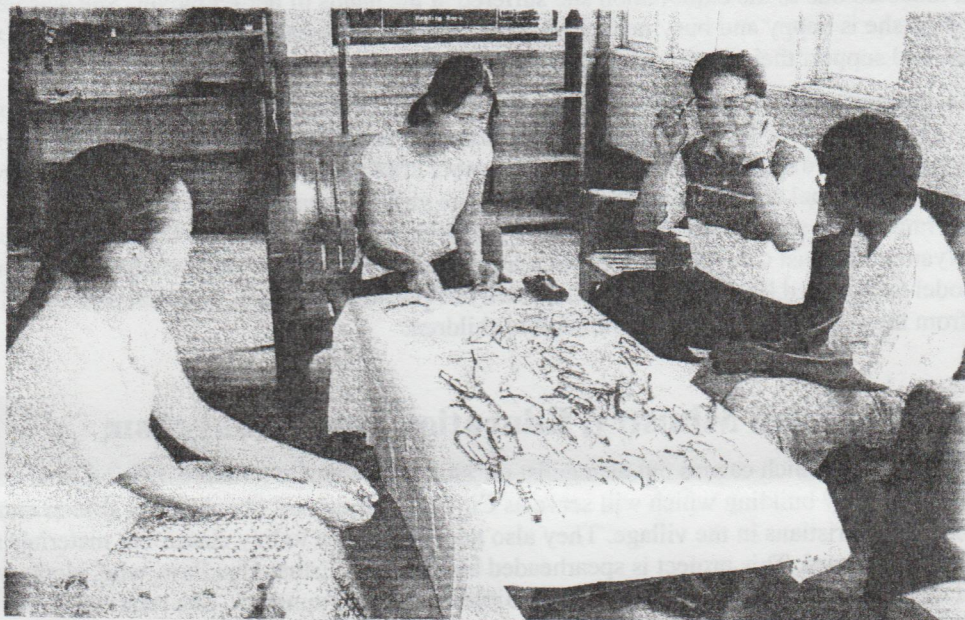
LBC has 7 mission fields, 800 Baptized members, Agape Orphanage, and center for HIV positive people. The The Agape Orphanage Project supports 12 students who go to primary, middle school, high schools, and bible school. They have managed to grow paddy to feed the orphans and seek local donations to support the orphans. Dr Honor Nyo, a former KBC General Secretary, is serving as a senior pastor. It has constructed a 2 story building for multiple purposes. It was dedicated in 2010 March. The Church's main activities outside worship services include prisoner's care, annual leadership training, and a Christian center which hosts over 150 middle and high school students.

### ***Pwo Karen Baptist Bible School, Bassein, Irrawaddy Division***

The Pwo Karen Baptist Bible school, which has 33 students and 10 staff, will celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee year. They are in the process of trying to raise funds for building a one story building which costs 800 lakh (\$82,000). This school has a history of being among the best in giving back feedback on how things are going, and what they are accomplishing. Sramu Lulu Watson always sends pictures and letters to keep us up to date. This is the school which took in dozens of young students after the cyclone and the students at the Bible School gave up their own desks for the youngsters. The students built thatch and bamboo housing on their school compound to feed and shelter victims of Nargis cyclone.

### ***Eyeglasses for Karen Baptist Theological Seminary***

Many of KBTS students could not afford to get a pair of them nor had ever had eye exams. A pair of eyeglasses costs at least 9,000 to 10,000 kyats (\$12). FOB contributed 750,000 kyats worth of eyeglasses which benefits one hundred students who needed eye exam and glasses.



### ***Henthada Mission Field***

It is a holistic ministry which began initially to strengthen the churches in Henthada district which have been and are continuing to be devastated by economic recession, and the destruction of infrastructure and education system. The work in the town and villages grew each year to include sharing of resources, small business, animal raising, treatment and nutrition for destitute patients, daycare, street children, vacation bible school, and Nargis orphans support,

It also empowers deacons to reach out personally to the poor regardless of their religion, provides training programs, day care, scholarship, and supports orphans and students who study rural development abroad.



### ***Pathein Mission Field***

Students who received scholarships from Pathein mission field ranged from university to primary school students. There are 63 students who received support from FOB since 2005, and 9 are attending university now. Many of these students who received scholarships either come from poor families, or do not have a high school in the village, or are victims of cyclones, orphans, or have great passion to study. It costs 300 dollars per year to sponsor a student.

### ***Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Bible School (KKBBS)***

KKBBS was established in 1983 with four teachers and 6 students, but it has now grown to 40 faculty and staff (including 23 studying abroad) and 273 students. It was relocated to Mae La Refugee Camp in 1990. It has 5 bible schools in 7 Karen refugee camps in spite of all the difficulties and hardships. KKBBS carries out holistic mission, which includes outreach, music team, orphanage ministry, women organization, youth organization, Christian education department, and internal relief committee in all 7 Karen camps in Thailand and in the internally displaced areas.

### ***Neil Sowards on Jubilee Building and Annex***

After a four year wait, Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT) has received permission to build the Jubilee Annex building where about 40% of the present MIT facility will have offices and reside.

### ***Celebrating the arrival of Adoniram and Ann Judson in Burma***

There will be a huge celebration in December of 2013 the arrival of Adoniram and Ann Judson in 1813. Plan to join our brothers and sisters in Christ for this celebration.

## **Friends of Burma held their annual meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, February 27, 2010**

The majority of FOB executive board members traveled from all over the United States to attend the annual business meeting on February 27, 2010 in Phoenix, Arizona. FOB members would like to thank and appreciate the works of Judy Lundy who has resigned from the Board. We will all miss Judy, her laughter, the passion and energy she brings to the table and we wish her all the best as she continues to fulfill her goals and dreams.



We would like to welcome and introduce you to our two newest members, Christopher Hmum and May Hnin Thet. Born and raised in Burma, Christopher and May met in Singapore while they were studying and working. They got married in 2005, and immigrated to US in 2006. Christopher, a mechanical engineer, is currently working as an Interpreter in Master Word Company in Houston, Texas, and May, who got her Nursing degree at Nanyang Polytechnic in Singapore, is an **OR** nurse in Methodist Hospital in Houston. The couple are active members of a growing church called Greater Houston Burmese Christian Fellowship, where Christopher serves as Secretary/ Music Leader and May as Praise & Worship Leader/ Sunday School Teacher. May Thet is now on our EC Board and Christopher is on our Advisory Board.

Phil Schock, one of our esteemed members, has volunteered to go annually to Burma, and will be responsible for contacting, supervising, and interacting with the ministries which we sponsor.

May Pearl and Tansy have translated into Karen an abridged edition of the Friends of Burma newsletters and a translation of the FOB brochure which can be distributed to Karen churches in the U.S.

Dr. Adam Maung will begin to assume more of the responsibilities of Neil Sowards. Lulu.com has two of Neil's books—Games Played in Mae La Refugee Camp and Life in Burma.



The following new one-time grants of \$58,000 are approved by FOB executive board members.

• Pwo Karen Bible School building at Pathein.	5000
• KBC (Karen Baptist Convention) Clinic at Insein.	10000
• MIT (Myanmar Institute of Theology) Jubilee Building Annex.	5000
• Grants for medicine to Myoma, Sitway, Matthew 25, and Bogalay.	5000
• Rangoon Home Mission Bible School Building.	5000
• Pwo Karen Seminary at Ahlone Building.	5000
• Shan State Bible School, Taunggyi. For Building.	5000
• Mrokhamsi Bible School.	1000
• Chit Maung Memorial Library toilet.	500
• Lay Nyin Thit Library at Taunggyi.	600
• Rebuilding Hostel and Faculty Houses at Pathein	2000
• 153 orphans at Pwo Karen Seminary at Pathein.	2300
• Increase annual grant to Friends of Myanmar Board	5000
• Student Lwai Wah studying for PhD. In Singapore, KBTS Faculty.	1600
• New dorm for Hpu Saw Bu Orphanage	2500
• New dorm for Kwe Lwe orphanage	2500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58000</b>

### Other Wish List

#### *Faculty homes and men's dormitory at Sgaw Karen Seminary in Pathein destroyed by Fire*

In January, 2009 fire destroyed the men's hostel and some faculty homes at the Sgaw Karen seminary in Pathein. The wife of one professor was responsible for the fire so the government sentenced her husband to prison for two years. Construction has now commenced to build a new men's hostel and three duplex homes. It will cost \$52,500 for the hostel and \$22,500 per duplex (or possibly all three duplexes), and the association of churches in that area has been asked for fifty-five million kyats (\$55,000). It is a lot of money for the local residents and they are desperately in need of support. We would appreciate your contribution toward the construction of these buildings.

**Please remember Friends of Burma in your will!**

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