

# TEAM MYANMAR UPDATE

Beloved Partners in Ministry,

September 2020

**Pandemic Results in Panic.** If you drop *dem* from *pandemic* it results in *panic*. Our global situation reminds me of the disciples' response to the storm while Jesus Christ was sleeping in the boat (Matthew 8:23-27). The disciples were caught by surprise! Jesus Christ could say: "Why do you panic? The Great I Am is with you!" When they panicked, He first rebuked them, and then the storm. The best preparation for panic situations is fortified faith, for Jesus Christ added: "Oh ye of little faith." To be overwhelmed by this current crisis is insensible behavior for those indwelt by God's presence, as it eventually leads to being unable to experience the peace of God (Philippians 4:5-7). Thankfully we have a BIG God who is just a prayer away!

**One Thing in Common.** This worldwide health and economic crisis brings us all into a common position: standing together with bended knees. I recall Ma'am Joyce Anderson saying: "Wherever you are on the mission field, when you look up at the sky, we have one thing in common—we all see the stars, the moon and the sun." This reminds us that there is a Creator who created them and "He holds all things by His power" (Colossians 1:17). Practically, we access and experience this power when we lift up our concerns to Him.

**Giving Under Grace.** Thank you for standing with us in prayer during this crisis. We see God's hand moving



and helping His people in our home country, the Philippines, and on the mission field. God's desire is for everyone to be saved (2 Peter 3:9). The financial support and donations we receive are fruit of your deep concern for reaching lost souls. Indeed, your generosity is a replica of the Macedonian attitude in giving under grace (2 Cor. 8:1-5). Despite your financial constraints, you are still willing to share your blessings. Consequently, our needs are met, and we're also able to extend financial aid to our local Grace members in Myanmar during the pandemic.

**Major Events Postponed.** Due to the pandemic many plans and activities were postponed. In early March, our co-workers, the Improsos, went to the Philippines to attend the wedding of their daughter, Keziah. We were to follow a month later for our Home Assignment but this health crisis hindered us. Two big events we planned to attend in the Philippines—both good venues for mission reporting and promotion—were postponed. Nonetheless, we can say "All things work together for good to them who love God, to them who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28)

**The Wisdom in Postponement.** We discovered twofold wisdom in the postponement of our plans. First, if we had flown to the Philippines we would not have been able to carry out the intent our trip because our movement would be limited to our house. We couldn't visit churches and promote mission due to mandatory quarantine and nationwide lockdown. Second, by staying on the field, we helped our church workers and members receive financial aid from the TCM CARES project. We are grateful to our donors for the supply of needs!



**Public Gatherings Restricted.** For 7 months now, the Myanmar government has restricted all churches and monasteries from holding any form of religious gatherings. Since the Grace believers in Myanmar are still very young (just a one-year-old church) this situation hampered their spiritual growth despite our efforts to visit them occasionally with food supplies and monetary aid.



**Social Media.** The Team has adapted to the trending technological social media platform; yet, not all can use smart phones to attend the meetings online. For a while, we visited members' houses, but now the government again locked down most of the townships and states. We covet your prayers for us to fully empower the local believers so they will be able to reach their own people with the grace gospel message.

**Visa Extension.** July 19th of this year, we applied for a 1-year visa extension from inside Myanmar. To our surprise this extension was more expensive than doing it from outside the country, and they only gave us 6 months. However, we thank God for the provision and extension which my family received.



**THINGS  
TO COME  
MISSION**



**NEWS**

**FROM**

**TEAM MYANMAR**



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT NO. 9057
--

P.O. Box 127  
Beech Grove, IN 46107  
(317) 783-0300  
tcm@tcmusa.org  
www.tcmusa.org



**School Opening.** We usually open our Bible school, *Myanmar Grace Theological Seminary (MGTS)* the first week of June, but this year the Myanmar government closed all public and private schools. Later, they allowed schools to open for a while, but during this second wave of the virus, forced all schools to close for the second time. Since we operate a dorm-type Bible school, we are not allowed to open during the pandemic despite the minimal

number of students. However, this pandemic can't hinder the students from learning the Word of God. Now, we are conducting online classes with 5 students, although face-to-face instruction is more suitable for these learners. May the online avenue facilitate effective learning for these young people!



This "new normal" has changed many people's lives, including ours as Grace believers, in our attitude toward God's Word, prayer, fellowship and family relationships. The following thoughts and experiences during the pandemic were written by our children.

**Daniel Paul wrote:** *Greetings from Myanmar! I am grateful to be able to write to you. We all know that the past few months have been filled with many challenges and sad events. Despite these odds, I have learned many things and had new experiences throughout the lockdown here. I was able to spend more time in prayer and devotion. I also realized that the various programs used for online classes can be utilized as platforms to share the good news with others through social media.*

*It saddens me that many were greatly affected by this virus, but I am encouraged by believers who help others despite being in tough spots themselves. I am thankful to God for His provision for my family throughout the lockdown. To our supporters, thank God for continually using you to allow us to serve here. I pray that all of you are in good health. Thank you for your prayers and support for God's work here in Myanmar. Stay safe and God bless!*

**Daniela May wrote:** *During the pandemic, hanging out with my friends and water fights at school became impossible. With extra time on my hands, I started to regularly do household tasks such as washing dishes, cleaning my room, and cooking. Though I'm not much of a fan of preparing food for my family, I did try to learn a few dishes for the future. After countless attempts at trying the perfect egg, I can say the results have improved in these few months. Setting a schedule also became a factor of my stay at home. Cooking, washing dishes, laundry schedules, and even some time set aside for artwork summed up most of my vacation timetable. With this, I'm learning to manage my time.*

*This pandemic blessed our family with more time for devotions. At first, only our parents led the devotions, but soon, leading the meditation was extended to us young members of the family. Leading devotions is not that hard if you are prepared. I learned to prepare at least an hour before devotions or possibly even a day. It's always good to be ready. Preparation is an essential part of anything and in everything.*

*I also spent some of my time memorizing the Book of Proverbs. I started memorizing 5 verses, then 10 verses and finally it became 20 verses. I actually completed memorizing up to chapter 20, with 11 more to go. Unfortunately, my school work, along with my daily chores, made it difficult to memorize anything other than formulas, scientific definitions, or the kinetic theory of matter and gases. I do hope that I'll be able to finish the Book of Proverbs someday. There are great lessons in it still waiting to be discovered.*

On behalf of the Team, I would like to thank you all for your continuing partnership with the ministry in Myanmar since the first day until now.

May the Lord richly bless your family and ministry.

**Dan & Amy, Daniel, Daniela Banac**