

# TEAM MYANMAR UPDATE

February 2022

Dear praying friends and partners,

Gracious greetings from Myanmar field ministry!

**Health Challenges.** The middle of 2021 was really stressful for me (Dan Banac) and the rest of Team Myanmar. That time was the surge of the 3rd wave of Covid in Myanmar. I wasn't aware how the global news reports about the pandemic had affected my health. We witnessed people in Myanmar dying due to the virus, even our neighbors and friends. Consequently, I visited the nearest hospital to find out about my own health condition. I underwent a series of medical tests, only to find out I had Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) due to stress. I thank God for His Word and sufficient grace (2 Cor.12:9-10). Team Myanmar is grateful for *The Sent*, a monthly online gathering of Filipino missionaries with the TCM-Philippines Mission Department to encourage one another. It's quite hard to fully communicate our physical pain in a foreign country where English is their second language. For this reason, I convey my gratitude to Dr. Ruth Improso for being there (albeit remotely) during those sleepless nights. Just a word from her soothed and comforted me. God, our Great Physician, has greatly used her to help many of us on the mission field.

**Thankful for Covid Vaccinations.** Covid vaccinations have been essential for our family on the field. The medical system and facilities in Myanmar failed to provide services to their own people due to the protest of many doctors and paramedical personnel after the February military takeover. We thank God that He used our Philippine Embassy to provide Covid vaccines for three of us. Being vaccinated not only boosts our immune system; it also boosts our confidence to go out for ministry and personal reasons. Please pray that our daughter, Daniela, will be able to receive the Covid vaccine as well.

**Highlights of 2021.** Despite the pandemic and the political upheaval in Myanmar, by the grace of God we were able to do the ministry. We continue to operate Myanmar Grace Theological Seminary (MGTS) online with four students. God has opened doors for four new outreaches in Yangon, which gave our students practical exposure to the actual ministry of the Word. We closed 2021 with great celebrations: Myanmar Grace Believers Church's 3rd anniversary, our Christmas gathering and my 52nd birthday! Pastor Mawi, our speaker, spoke on I Timothy 1:15-16. We praise the Lord for around 70 people who attended and heard the message of God's grace during the celebration. Moreover, before 2021 actually ended, we had the opportunity to travel outside Yangon for a visit. Our trip proved that travel restrictions due to Covid were lifted, and many places in Myanmar are safe to visit despite the unstable political condition. We also gained a fresh vision for potential ministries.

**Recent Development.** On January 30, 2022, the military government announced that gatherings of 200 people are now allowed; however, due to surging cases of the Omicron variant, we went back to online church services and meetings. Please pray for our health because we and our Bible students have coughs and colds. We really appreciate it! We thank God that 2 weeks ago we received our booster shots, but this time it was no longer free.



**Daniel, Daniela, Dan & Amy Banac**  
**Limited gathering after Covid**



**Lunch fellowship after the service**



**First child dedication in 2022**



**Sunday afternoon outreach**

## Words from a Thankful Mother (Amy Banac)

*We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; praying always for you.  
I thank my God upon every remembrance of you. (Col. 1:3; Phil. 1:3)*

I am grateful for this opportunity to share my journey in the ministry and how blessed I am to be where God wants me to be, together with my family. Way back when I was studying in Bible school, God gave me this burden to reach the lost by sharing the good news of salvation. Every time I heard someone sharing about the 10/40 window and billions of people around the world who have never heard about the saving grace of Jesus Christ, my heart ached and tears poured from my eyes.

Now, those tears of sadness are turned to tears of joy at having this opportunity to share the gospel with people where the Lord brought me. That burden remains in my heart



**THINGS  
TO COME  
MISSION**



**NEWS FROM  
TEAM MYANMAR**



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**Children's Sunday School**

and is one of the many reasons why my family and I stayed in Myanmar when most missionaries left because of the political situation.

My family and I want to thank you, our prayer partners and supporters, for continually helping us. We can see that this moment is a harvest time here in our mission field. We have many opportunities to minister to people because their houses are open for online and offline Bible study, children's Sunday school, as well as one-on-one discipleship. The Bible School is one of our main ministry strategies for training young men and women how to share the gospel and study the Bible in this present dispensation of Grace. To teach them the Word of God is a great privilege, so they can teach others also with the same teachings they have learned. The Lord had given us another opportunity to be part of Christian education at the school where our two children, Daniel and Daniela, are studying. Through this school we are also given a chance to minister to teachers, students, and parents. May God give us a greater understanding of His vision for each soul He places in our path.

*Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good deed in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. (Phil.1:6)*

**Plans/Goals for 2022.** God used this global health crisis and the unstable political condition in Myanmar to open individual homes for Bible studies and fellowships.

**1. Simultaneous Bible Studies and Worship Service.** The 2nd Sunday of January 2022, we started conducting simultaneous home Bible studies and worship services. Most attendees of our church anniversary celebration in December 2021 were new contacts of Pastor Mawi and Pastor Caleb. Since huge gatherings in Myanmar are not yet safe, we brought the fellowship and worship into their houses. I'm glad to share with you that the last few Sundays we have held a fellowship and Bible study in a "Tea Shop" nearby. The owner has purposely closed the shop during Sundays for that intent.

**2. Church Planting Program.** After 3 years of existence, Myanmar Grace Believers Church decided to plant a church in Shwepyitha, a place adjacent to Insein where we live. Pastor Caleb, one of the first fruits of our Bible training, has committed himself to spearhead this church planting activity. By April this year, he will move and stay in Shwepyitha to make more contacts and connections with the local community.



### Thanksgiving

- God's provisions for our daily needs
- God's wisdom and perfection

### Prayer Requests

- Join us in praying about starting a new ministry in the eastern part of Myanmar
- Pastor Caleb, who has a desire to plant a church in Shwepyitha, another part of Yangon
  1. The heart of Pastor Caleb to reach the unreached and share the gospel of grace with the unsaved.
  2. The hearts of the people in Shwepyitha to be open to the gospel.
  3. Financial support for this program. Our local church has collected \$100 for the 'set up amount'. Meanwhile, Pastor Caleb is receiving \$40 monthly since we accepted him as a worker of Myanmar Grace Believers Church. He needs to rent a room for himself and buy cooking utensils and other personal things.
  4. Protection and safety. He will be living alone in his room, and Myanmar soldiers are abducting young people unreasonably nowadays.
- We are praying and saving for a piece of land for our future ministry center, to use as our own church building, office and training center. We believe God supplies our needs according to the available resources and upon His blessings! (John 6:5-15)
- Our brethren in Myanmar Grace Believers Church – God's provision of jobs and for their daily needs
- Our Bible School students who will be finishing this coming March 2022 – their desire and commitment to be used in the ministry.

May the Lord grant all our requests according to His purpose and grace. Thank you very much for your partnership in Christ. God is faithful!

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