

TEAM MYANMAR UPDATE

Dear praying partners & friends,

September 2023

Warm greetings from TCM-Myanmar field ministry! By the grace of God, we are safe in His arms amidst the political upheaval in this country. For two years now, since the military coup in February 2021, the Myanmar people are still waiting for elections. They are so desperate, that more civilians are undergoing training to fight against the current military government.

CROSS-CULTURAL MARRIAGE Despite the national situation, my family is still thankful for many things. We thank God that my (Dan) heart problem is now normal. I really appreciate your prayers. Secondly, the wedding of our only son, Daniel Paul, to Aurora was successful in May of this year. I reminded him our reason for coming to Myanmar is for the gospel of grace, so their cross-cultural marriage is not just a marital union but our ministry connection as well.



THE FIGHT IS ONGOING While the physical fight for political freedom in Myanmar is ongoing in the country, Team Myanmar continues to fight God's enemies to win spiritual freedom for the people of Myanmar. The only liberating message for them is the gospel of grace. We were slowed down by the pandemic, but now it's time to move forward again with the message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18,19).



DIRECTOR BEN'S VISIT We are glad that after the pandemic, our TCM International Director, Ben Anderson, visited the Myanmar field. We were encouraged by his presence and direct participation in the local ministry. He challenged all of us to be strong in grace, especially the local pastors and church planters. Thanks, Pastor Ben, for the wonderful fellowship!

INSEIN CHURCH MINISTRIES Myanmar Grace Believers Church (MGBC) is the first Grace church in Myanmar that teaches the Bible "rightly divided." **Pastor Mawi**, our national leader, pastors this church. Aside from regular Sunday worship services, we resumed our annual Summer Youth Camp. This year's two-day gathering and teaching of God's Word emphasized Christian leadership and praise & worship. Moreover, MGBC offered English Summer Classes for our own young people to help them better understand the English language and supplement their government school lessons where English is poorly taught. During this summer we also re-organized the Women and Youth organizations. We praise God for their commitment!



SHWE PYI THAR CHURCH PLANTING We sent **Pastor Caleb** to Shwe Pyi Thar in June 2022, and he was able to build regular connections in the community by that October. We teach English with the Bible as textbook and other supplementary books. We used the *Highway of Life* lessons for junior young people. We were glad Pastor Ben Anderson was able to visit the site and share the message of salvation. Interestingly, not only the children attended, but also some of their mothers. Furthermore, we conducted English summer classes 5 days per week in the same house. Please pray that the seed of God's Word planted in the lives of these young children will abundantly grow.

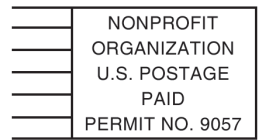
THAN THA PIN CHURCH PLANTING Another township adjacent to Shwe Pyi Thar is our next target for church planting this year. **Pastor Theophilus**, a graduate of our Bible school, is spearheading this effort to plant a grace church in this new area of the Yangon region. He bought a roughly 180 square meter lot and is building a thatch house that he is willing to be used for the ministry. Please read what he says below:



Hi everyone! My name is Theophilus. I am married, and my wife's name is Mary. I'm one of the grace pastors who graduated from Myanmar Grace Theological Seminary (MGTS) and lives in Insein, Yangon, Myanmar. I really enjoy the message of grace, so I want to share it more with others so that they can hear that grace message. Now I'm starting to plant a church in Than Tha Pin Township in the Yangon region. I'm building a small bamboo house where my family can stay and for a place to teach children and hold worship services. The building is yet not finished. If you can, please help me by prayer and financial help. My vision is that many Burmese people (unbelievers) in this area will know Jesus Christ and grow to be strong in the grace message. Thank you!



NEWS FROM
TEAM MYANMAR



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Summary of Needs for Than Tha Pin Church Planting Target:

→ Monthly support – \$100 per month for church planter, Pastor Theophilus & his wife Mary, to live.

→ Electricity connection - \$140

→ *Thank you to the TCM donors who provided \$350 to build the thatch house and \$100 to buy and connect the water pump!*

May I call on your generous heart to be part of this new ministry challenge through your prayer and financial support? Pastor Theophilus grew up in a Buddhist family with Burmese culture, so he can easily connect with the Buddhist community in the new target area. I personally witnessed how Pastor Theophilus made connections with the local people in the community. Let us continue to pray that God will prepare the heart of the church planter, the people and the place of gathering. The bamboo house is now ready for them to live in, though without electricity.

GRACE LITERATURE TRANSLATION During his recent visit, Pastor Ben challenged the Team to translate some grace books into Burmese. Our initial endeavor will focus on *The Bible Truth* by Charles Baker as the foundation of the grace distinctive doctrines. *Things that Differ* by Cornelius Stam is next in line. We've also found it helpful for young Bible study audiences to translate the booklet *The Highway of Life*. Please intercede for this project that our grace literature be accurately translated from the original English language into Burmese. In line with this project, a brand-new laptop computer has been provided by a generous donor, but we are still in need of \$655 to purchase a photocopy machine to produce the materials faster. Thank you all for your generosity.

MYANMAR REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND SEAGC 2023 Since the Philippine government placed Myanmar on Alert Level 4 until July, we did not want to risk attending the Southeast Asia Grace Conference (SEAGC) and not be permitted to return to Myanmar. Instead, we sent our local workers to attend the 5th SEAGC in Cebu City, Philippines on May 25-29. We believe that the mission conference encouraged Pastor Mawi & wife, Christmass, and Pastor Caleb, as God has also placed in their hearts the bigger perspective both local and global mission.

THE HEART OF A MOTHER In closing, please listen to what Amy, my lifetime partner, shares:
"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which we shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister" (Hebrews 6:10).

Thank you for all your prayers, support and encouragement to God's ministry in Myanmar. You have made sacrifices to serve God through finances and prayers, and God has definitely rewarded your faithfulness.

As I experience the joy and challenges of this calling, I'm also reminded of God's promises, "Call unto me, and will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." (Jeremiah 33:3). I'm grateful and thankful to the Lord for the 24/7 access we have in Him through prayer.

Sharing the gospel of God's grace and teaching His wonderful Words has been part of my daily routine in the field. It's my yoy to teach and encourage our women's group, youth and children in the church, as well as in Promise International Academy (PIA) where I'm connected.

Please pray for us as we help the local pastors to reach more people with the gospel and plant churches.

Thank you very much for partnering with us in the gospel as co-laborers with God (1 Corinthians 3:9).

God is faithful,
Dan, Amy & Daniela BANAC

