



Asianchildrensmission.org

PO Box 143, Orleans, IN 47452

Oxen Gift to Village Brings Hope for Better Future

In the five star hotels of Yangon, tourists from all over the world sample wonderful cuisine and travel in luxury to Burma's landmarks. They can easily remain far removed from the poverty and hardship that define the lives of most Myanmar citizens.

But some tourists choose to see the need and ask what they can do.

Lisa DeSimone is one such tourist.

An executive for a large financial organization, she and her friend Michael Silvav, a top-level administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency enjoyed the sites for two weeks — and then took a group of orphans to the zoo. She wrote, "it was the best part of the trip." Lisa and Michael, with the help of friends back



in the US, provided the orphanage with many needed items, including enough rice to last for several months.

But Lisa wasn't done. She provided oxen for a remote village in Burma's Shan mountains. With the oxen, more land can be plowed, making the subsistence farmers more productive.

With better farming, and good husbandry of the oxen, the families hope that in the future they will be able to open a primary school in their village.

Keep reading this issue for more inspiring stories of the difference individuals are making in Burma!

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Noah Benjamin Cranson was born on May 14, 2010, weighing in at 9 pounds 14 ounces.

His parents are Jessica and Alex Cranson. Noah is Joana's first grandchild and she finds him totally captivating. The Cransons live in the Portland, Oregon area.



Sherwood Oaks VBX Nets \$7500+ for Orphanage

"I heard some great stories of kids who initially gave

SOME of their own money, figuring to keep some for themselves. By the end of the week, they were emptying their banks—so they must have been moved by the videos and info shared," reported Cynthia Parkes, Children's Ministry Director at

Sherwood Oaks Christian Church in Bloomington, Indiana. With the theme of "Rock Hero," the VBX focused the children on Jesus, the sure foundation on which to build a life. The money provides a sure foundation (and more) for a new home for orphaned children in northern Burma. Total costs of the building are expected to be about \$23,000.

New Child at Orphanage

This is Shwe Thar, six years old. He is now living in the orphanage that desperately needs new shelter.



His mother died of malaria, and his father was killed in a lumbering operation in Burma's jungles.

Fighting Human Trafficking – One Orphaned Girl at a Time

By Alisa Wood

The decision to sponsor a child in Burma was easy for me. As I learned what Asian Children's Mission was already doing through its outreach to children who are orphaned, have only one parent who is too poor to provide for their child or other similar family circumstances, sponsoring a child who could thrive at a Hope Orphanage tugged at my heart.

Though there are numerous children around the world stricken by similar

situations, the high rate of child trafficking in Burma made the decision to sponsor a child through ACM even easier. I have a daughter and I couldn't bare the thought of her enduring the horrors of such a fate. If my dollars can keep even one child from



Yo Rose is sponsored by Alisa.

being a potential victim of trafficking, it is well worth the money! Because I know my sponsorship provides for a child's education, food, safety and receiving the Good News of Jesus, I feel it is an awesome opportunity to truly change a life. Though it may be just one child, who knows how that child's changed life may affect others someday! May it be to the glory of God that the Asian Children's Mission continue to serve the many children orphaned, abandoned and in need of the many basic things we so often take for granted!

A Christmas Gift That Changes a Life in Burma – and an American Family



Nary Na enjoys an ice cream cone during a trip to the Yangon Zoo.

By Dawn Lee

I chose to support a child in Burma with a portion of the money that I would typically spend on Christmas for my two sons and daughter-in-law. I framed pictures of the little girl that

we support and gave it to each of them as part of their Christmas so that they

"We are so blessed and spend so much money on things that we do not truly need."

could be reminded to pray for their "little sister".

We are so blessed and we spend so much money on things that we truly do not need, thus, I knew that we would all be blessed by giving to a child in Burma. My family does not go without anything and I am able to continue to support this child because God daily shows me how he provides when we give generously.

Did you know...Child sponsorship is only \$20 a month. Many children need sponsors! Consider changing a life...today!

Cyclone Orphans Find Safety Because of American Sponsors

By Blake Heemsoth



Ngwa Mee and Nyo Nyo Thein are both sponsored by Blake.

children who had lost one or both of their parents. I felt bad about the situation the children were in and I wanted to do something that could make their life better. I believe that sponsoring a

Joana came to our Bible study and informed us about the cyclone in Burma. She showed us pictures and told us about all the

child through ACM does improve their life.

By Brian Burns

I chose to sponsor because I know of no other American person (especially a local person) who is making a difference in the lives of Burmese people and shows her love for God by her sincere dedication to this particular missions field.

Also, to see, hear, and read about the children who have lost parents and everything due to the 2008 cyclone and other circumstances made me want to

help. It's nice to know I can be a part of the help and hope they

have by supporting and praying for God to do awesome things in their lives. It's encouraging to know we can be part of the "Great Commission" which still ongoing today. Reaching out to others around the world and by sharing hope, salvation and love through Jesus.



Sponsors Send Christian Teachers to Buddhist Villages to Open Schools

By Ruthie King

I would like to write to tell you what it means to me to support a teacher in Burma. When I see what I have here in America and I look at the life in Burma and other countries, I want to help do what I can. Also knowing what Joana and other Christians go through to get the word to the people, I thank God for the work. I hope I can find a way to help more. God bless the Burmese people and all who work with them.

A Report from an ACM Teacher

First of all I praise God for everything.

I thank you and all Christians who are taking part of this work to help the children. The village people do what they can — they feed us. But we would not

be here without our sponsors.

I live in Putaik gyi village. The village is based on the river side. All the little houses are built along the river side. This is a Buddhist village. There are only 10 Christians.

Teacher Sponsorship is \$50 a month. Asian Children's Mission has many invitations from Buddhist villages to send teachers to open schools.

This year it rains very little so the farmers are worried because there is no water to plow and to grow rice.

In order to make it rain, an elderly man threw 2 cats into the river alive but they swam back and came back to the

house. It's kind of funny, but it's real.

There are over 90 students this year. Without your help they would not be able to buy notebooks.

All the children are Buddhists. We teach them Bible lessons on weekends. The children are very interested in the Bible lessons. We also teach them Christian songs.

We taught them the Lord's prayer in their language. Now every morning before class they say the Lord's prayer. Then we start the day with a Bible lesson.

Sometimes very tired but we are happy to teach the children.

Washington State Church VBS Provides Boat and Nets in Burma

By Angie Stringer, Issaquah Christian Church, Issaquah, Washington



It was a very successful mission offering, and a very successful VBS. Our total offering was about \$800. We had about 75 kids and it's a rather rural economic area....so pretty good, in these tricky times!

The theme was "Adventure on the High Seas." Through the International Disaster Emergency Service (IDES) we got in touch with Asian Children's Mission. We learned about a fisherman who survived the 2008 cyclone, but lost his means to make a living. His surviving three daughters live at Hope Children's Home in Yangon.

Our offering will purchase a boat and nets for him! We are sending pictures and cards too, so he will know that we do all this in the name of Jesus. We rejoice in being able to help this fisherman and father see the love of Jesus in a very practical way.

I had so much fun showing the kids the photos, explaining how we could help and loved being able to share the story of the family in need with them. That really made it come alive for all of us. Many adults were very touched too.

Computer Lab to be Established at Hope Children's Home

Free Geek (freegeek.org) is an Oregon Non-Profit with the mission "Helping the needy of the world get nerdy."

Using donated components, Free Geek provides training to people who wish to learn how to repair computers. And they supply refurbished computers to other non-profit corporations.

Asian Children's Mission applied to



Recycling electronics keeps toxic e-wastes out of landfills!

receive three laptop computers to be used to establish a basic computer lab at Hope Children's Home in Yangon. ACM was granted the request, and the laptops were

received this month.

It is not safe to ship computers into Burma, so they will be hand-carried on a future trip.

We are so eager to set up this lab, and begin basic vocational training in the use of computers.

Thank you to Free Geek!

Asian Children's Mission
Joana T. Jones, Director

PO Box 143, Orleans, IN 47452

Phone: 812-276-8004

E-mail: joanatjones@gmail.com

Asianchildrensmission.org

You can now give online through our website. ALL gifts are tax deductible.

Losing Your Life...

By Joana Jones, Director of Asian Children's Mission

Matthew 16:24-26 contains one of the hardest sayings of Jesus. It is about losing your life to find it. Any one of us whose life has taken a different direction than we could ever have imagined knows the truth of this statement. We lost the life we planned, but gained a life that the Lord planned before the beginning of time!

But this truth of losing to find isn't just limited to huge, life-changing events. It is true for the relatively small everyday choices we make. In the cover story, Lisa took a day of her vacation to take orphans to the zoo. It was the best day she had in Burma! Dawn takes a portion of her Christmas budget, and her family's Christmas is immeasurably enriched. Children at VBS were excited to reach out to children half a world away.

What did Lisa, Dawn, the other sponsors and the VBS kids "lose" to find this joy? Sure, monetary gifts make a significant difference for Burma's children. But that's the added benefit. The basic beneficiary is the giver! It is the giver's life that is made fuller, more purposeful, more interesting and more joyful.

An old hymn calls the Gospel message "wonderful words of life." The Matthew passage invites us to consider the way we live our life, and the choices we make.

Treating Symptoms AND Addressing Root Causes of Burma's Poverty

There are no reliable statistics on the number of children in Burma who are orphaned, unschooled and vulnerable to trafficking, malnutrition, disease and death. The Asian Children's Mission orphanages and schools provide food, education and hope to hundreds of children.

But there will never be enough money or workers to provide for all the children in need.

Burma's vulnerable children are largely the result of spiritual darkness and weak local economies.

Burma is more than 90 percent Buddhist. Many have never even heard the name of Jesus. Many live in fear of spirits, and all believe they must earn "Nirvana" — the final release from cycles of life and death.

In addition, there is widespread ignorance in rural villages about the causes of disease. Basic hygiene and sanitation need to be taught in many villages. People know they need clean water, but need to know how they can obtain it.

Most farming done in Burma is subsistence. The low yields mean that there is little money left over for healthcare and education. It also leaves families vulnerable to hunger, especially for families who own no land.



Community Health Evangelism (CHE) is a tested strategy for making disciples of Jesus and lifting whole communities out of cycles of disease and poverty.

Healthy communities mean healthy families who can care for and educate their own children.

In August and September, Joana will

do a CHE internship in the Philippines. She will spend time in villages, farms and clinics, as well as the classroom. Due to a grant from the Fellowship of Associates of Medical Evangelism (FAME) and other supporters, four Myanmar Christian leaders will join Joana for the internship. As a national training team, we will be able to oversee the implementation of CHE in many villages, through training other leaders and providing expertise.

CHE is a hand-up, not a hand-out program. Local volunteers will be equipped and empowered to:

- ▶ evangelize their community
- ▶ provide discipleship training to new believers
- ▶ improve sanitation to prevent disease
- ▶ increase agriculture, improving food security
- ▶ create new small businesses
- ▶ utilize appropriate technologies so all improvements are sustainable.