

ASIAN CHILDREN'S MISSION

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Prayer Requests

- Safety for those working in cyclone region
- Safety for Joana as she returns to Burma in July
- Resources and wisdom to meet needs that seem overwhelming
- For the Myanmar government to keep its promises to allow aid workers into the entire cyclone devastated region
- For emotional and physical healing for those who have suffered so much trauma

CHRISTIANS GET AID TO DESPARATE CYCLONE VICTIMS IN MYANMAR

On May 2-3 Cyclone Nargis hit southern Myanmar (Burma), leaving a path of death and destruction that defies human comprehension.

But in many ways, the worst was still to come. Myanmar's reclusive government refused to allow the international community, including the US, to bring aid to the victims. What little aid that came in through official channels was often stolen at the airport.

Despite overwhelming obstacles, Christian leaders in Yangon have made many trips into the Delta region, saving precious lives. These leaders have been supported by Christians around the world who have used their "back channel" contacts to safely get aid and money to the victims, bypassing the Myanmar government.

None of this has been easy. One leader described what his team saw, "Many villages are swept away and disappeared by the cyclone and



Refugees and orphans gather in a church building in the delta region. Food and water remain scarce commodities.

wave, as it is located the ocean. It was like Tsunami. Many corpses are on the water. All the well and water is contaminated by salt water. All the boats were totally damaged. All the rice barns were damaged and they are starving. The victims are also hurtled and injured by the storm, metal roof, fallen trees.

"It is danger to go there for relief ministry as the relief team might be attacked and robbed the supplies on the way by the starving brothers. Many children become orphans."

Keep reading to learn what you can do to help.

JOANA JONES RETURNING TO BURMA IN JULY

Joana was home from her three month teaching and development tour through Thailand and Burma only one day before the cyclone hit Burma.

Even though the Myanmar government was refusing visa

requests for most aid workers, Joana asked the Myanmar government to grant a fourth visa to re-enter the country. Based on the track record she has established in the country as a respected teacher, the government granted a visa in early May.

Working with Christian leaders both here and in Burma, it was clear that the best time for Joana to travel is in July.

When she returns she will help with safe water projects, the protection of orphans and various educational initiatives.

ACM AWARDED GRANT TO PROVIDE WATER PURIFICATION UNITS

Water-borne diseases

include:

- Typhoid
- Cholera
- Dysentery
- Diarrhea

The International Disaster and Emergency Service, IDES, a ministry of the Christian Church, awarded Asian Children's Mission nearly \$14,000 to purchase and deliver five water purification units for survivors of the deadly cyclone that hit Burma (Myanmar) on May 2-3.

Each unit will provide safe drinking water to a 1000 or more people through chlorinating the water. The units themselves make the chlorine through a chemical reaction with simple table salt.



Bodies — both animal and human — remain in the water weeks following the cyclone. Many people have no choice but to drink this dangerous water.

New Life International, based in Underwood, Indiana, manufactures these units. Joana has visited the facility numerous times,

and has learned the basics of installation. When she returns to Burma next month, she will be carrying over an

ORPHANS AT RISK FOR TRAFFICKING

By Simon, Christian Relief Team Leader

You may not have heard of traffickers of children. This is the short way to become rich. Many children are sold to China, Thailand and India. One thing I surely know is that they are used to replace organs of dying patients. I know that buying a kidney is about \$5000. Think about that. The Indian government just

arrested one gang who was working trafficking the people and giving operations to dying patients to replace their organs.

We are living in a spiritually dark and dangerous place. Thank you for your prayers and support of this emergency relief ministry.

“Many children are sold to China, Thailand and India.”



EVEN SMALL DONATIONS MEET BIG NEEDS

Do you want to help meet some of the physical needs of the cyclone victims? Here's a list of what your gift can provide to people who have lost everything.

\$200 — Bamboo shelter for a family

- 30 — 60 kilo bag of rice
- 7— Set of clothing
- 5 — Blanket
- 2 — Sandals

7 — Bed net

Larger gifts can be used as well — a water purification system costs \$2400. Some families have wells, but need to replace the pumps and generators destroyed in the cyclone, at a cost of \$700. Other needs are building materials to replace or repair damaged or destroyed building.

Gifts of any amount will reach



the cyclone victims if given through Asian Children's Mission. Send a check to Asian

ART THERAPY TARGETED FOR TRAUMATIZED CHILDREN IN BURMA

We are all familiar with the adage, "a picture is worth a thousand words." To children who do not have the vocabulary to express the depth of their loss, making a picture can help them communicate and deal with trauma.

A practical way to help children dealing with loss is to give them crayons, markers, paints and paper and ask them to create a picture. That's art therapy in its simplest form. People who are specialists in this area have found that both the process and the final product provides an opportunity to explore and

express feelings that are not easily captured in words.

Many children have been orphaned by the cyclone, and many more traumatized by the loss of family, friends, and their homes. Therapists have found that art making is particularly beneficial in these kinds of circumstances. A child's art can express overwhelming and complex emotions when words are insufficient.

Drawing and painting help children find joy and comfort in the process of creating art. In addition, drawing appears

to stimulate talking about one's experiences. In fact, children who draw while talking about a traumatic event communicate more details than those who only talk about it.

Many teachers and youth leaders can successfully integrate these techniques in their classrooms and meetings to help children move forward with their lives. Joana will teach some of these techniques and suggest various art projects to people working with orphans and other children.

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TWO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION LESSON SERIES READY TO BE PUBLISHED IN BURMA

The 24 lesson series called the "Life of Christ for Children" is ready to be published, along with the eight lesson series called "Life Skills for Children."

During her March visit to Burma, Joana taught these lessons, and held seminars for Sunday School teachers.



The Life of Christ series will include visual aids teachers can cut, color and use in the lesson

With the field evaluations of the two series complete, the next step is to publish

them in Burmese.

When Joana returns next month, she hopes to have sufficient funds to publish the two lesson books in Yangon. The initial run is expected to be 1000, and will be distributed to Sunday School teachers within the country.

RELIEF TEAMS SHARE STORIES OF LOSS

BY SIMON AND ESTHER, RELIEF TEAM LEADERS IN BURMA

People are still in the process of healing from emotional and physical wounds. Most families have lost some family members and all their possessions.. One woman told how she was holding her baby in her arm while trying to swim when the storm surge came in. "The wave took away my child," she said.

Another mother thought she could save her two sons, but

she could not. She had her 10 year old son climb to the top of a tree, and she followed holding her one-year old baby. A branch hit her arm, and she dropped the baby into the waters below. It was nighttime, and the water was moving very fast. No one could hear her yell for help. The 10 year old son thought both his baby brother and his mother had fallen into the water, and he did not want to

live without them, so he jumped into the water and died. The mother can not say any words now.

Victims appreciate the Christians who are coming to their aid. "Christians are very good. They come to us and help us. They give us rice and clothes. We want to be Christians too," one group of refugees told a relief team.

"Christians are very good. They come to us and help us."

Joana T. Jones, Director
joanatjones@gmail.com

Asian Children's Mission
PO Box 143
Orleans, IN 47452

Phone: 812-865-2065
812-276-8004

We're on the web!
Asianchildrensmission.org

*Promoting justice and Jesus for the
women and children of Southeast
Asia*

Mission Statement for the Asian Children's Mission



The Asian Children's Mission is an equipping ministry to national Christian leaders in Southeast Asia. An important part of this mission is a teaching ministry in four areas:

1. Effective children's ministry
2. A Biblical understanding of the worth of women and children
3. Substance abuse prevention and treatment among children and teenagers
4. Parenting skills

Additionally, the mission will identify projects to enhance the health, safety and education of women and children in the region, and seek funding for those projects. Current projects include safe water provision in Thailand and Burma and the construction of orphanages in Burma following the cyclone.

OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD

Our sophisticated western culture doesn't know what to do with words like "evil" and "wicked." But the actions of the Myanmar government in abandoning their people to the destruction of a

killer cyclone can only be described through the use of such harsh adjectives.

The Christian leadership in Yangon is doing heroic work in rescuing victims. They have left their own damaged homes to reach out to others. They have taken risks that the precious aid they carry into the victims will be stolen — either by desperate and starving people, or by their own government. They e-mail their supporters back in the States, boldly describing conditions that their government does not like told to the outside world.

Romans 5:20 tells us that where sin abounds, grace abounds even more. As this chapter in the story of Burma continues to be written, this verse often comes to my mind.

In the past few weeks it has been my pleasure to work with many individuals and organizations in various countries to safely get aid and dollars into Burma. This informal partnership is led, to a large degree, by Laverne Morse, a veteran missionary who has "retired" but retains contacts that are making life and death differences half a world away.

Laverne recently challenged me to be part of a team to work on the orphan crisis in Myanmar. Asian Children's Mission exists to "promote justice and Jesus to the women and children of Southeast Asia." That certainly includes the thousands of orphans from Cyclone Nargis.

"Operation Noah's Ark" is the working name I am giving to this joint effort to save these

children. It will mean coordinating resources, sharing information, and being "as wise as serpents and harmless as doves" in a country where orphanages are illegal (that is why they are called Children's Homes).

Many children's homes in Burma are self-sustaining, because they have to be. Some have small farms that provide much of the support. This is the model I am starting with, along with inexpensive structures that use readily available natural materials.

There is much to be learned, and many obstacles to be overcome. Plans formulated in the safety of this country may have to give way to the realities on the ground in Burma.

But the opportunities are so great. We have the opportunity to teach a generation of children about Jesus. We can love these children. What can we sow in Burma today that will reap a great harvest in the future?

