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ASIAN CHILDREN'S MISSION

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Joana's Speaking Schedule

- August 19 — Paoli Christian Church (Sunday School)
- August 26 — Orleans Christian Church (Evening Service)
- September 4 — Syria Christian Church (Willing Workers)
- September 9 — Hillcrest Christian Church (Sunday School)
- September 23 — Bedford United Methodist Church (Sunday School and Morning Worship)
- September 26 — Paoli Mennonite Church (Fellowship Dinner)
- October 10—November 12 — Myanmar Mission Trip
- November 15—18 — National Missionary Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio

Please call Joana at 812-865-2065 to schedule a speaking event..

MYANMAR CHILDREN TO RECEIVE THEIR OWN SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

Imagine a child hearing the good news about Jesus for the very first time. Imagine how her eyes light up when she watches colorful pictures go up on a piece of flannel as she listens to the Bible story.

Very little Sunday School material is available in Myanmar, also known as Burma. But that is changing.

Asian Children's Mission Director Joana Jones developed a 24 lesson series for pre-school and elementary age children . The lessons have been translated three languages — Burmese, Lisu and Rawang. The visuals for the lessons come from public domain coloring books, reprinted on cardstock and hand colored. They are

backed with Velcro to adhere to the flannel.

It has taken a small army of

volunteers to prepare these lessons . Children, adults and seniors from Springs Valley to Bloomington have been involved in making 21 copies of all the visuals for the 24 lessons. That amounted to over 4000 visuals hand colored, cut and backed!

The visuals and text for each lesson will be placed in a Ziploc bag. The 24 lesson set will then be delivered to churches in three regions of the country, with teachers trained to use them to teach children.

But that is just the beginning — read the article below about Myanmar women, and on page two about DVDs for more information on the next steps to equip churches in Myanmar — and in Thailand and China — with this series!



MYANMAR CHRISTIAN WOMEN COULD PRODUCE MORE TEACHING VISUALS

They are called day laborers. That means that if someone hires them for the day, their family eats that night. When they do get work, it may be backbreaking and/or dangerous. The going rate is about a dollar a day.

With a gift of \$35 one woman can be hired for one month to make additional visuals for the churches in Myanmar.

Think how that blessing will be multiplied! The woman will be safe and have a secure

income for one month. The children of these mothers will not need to worry for one month about meals. Finally, additional churches will have needed Sunday School material to teach and evangelize children.

DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE PREVENTION CURRICULUM WRITTEN

“It is important to start with elementary age children, because that is when habits are formed and friendships made.”

Drugs are cheap and plentiful in Southeast Asia. Even Christian children and teens are not immune from the temptations.

Missionaries and Christian leaders in Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, Thailand and China have requested curriculum and training from Asian Children’s Mission to meet this urgent need to protect children from the ravages of addiction.

An eight-lesson curriculum aimed at elementary age children is nearly complete. The lessons cover the following areas: self-esteem, decision-making skills, the wonder of

our bodies, advertising techniques, stress management, communication skills, social skills and assertiveness.



Each lesson has a strong Biblical foundation. For example, in the self-esteem lesson, children learn that they are created and loved by God, and that Jesus came to earth to die for them. In the lesson on advertising, children are

taught to be discerning between truth and areas of incomplete information, and are challenged to be young people of truth.

It is important to start with elementary age children, because that is when habits are formed and friendships made that will make them more — or less — able to resist the temptations of tobacco, drug or alcohol in the future.

Joana will conduct “Train the teacher” sessions in three cities in Myanmar in October. Cost of preparation and duplication of the material is about \$1000.

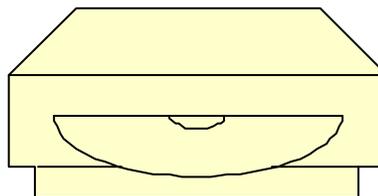
DVD PRODUCTION COULD EXPAND “LIFE OF CHRIST” LESSONS INTO THAILAND, CHINA

Christians are a minority within Southeast Asia, but there are thousands of churches in the region. The labor intensive work of hand-coloring and cutting out Sunday School visuals is simply not practical to supply all the churches in Thailand, China and other countries who would like to have a copy of the Life of Christ curriculum.

Even in the most remote villages in Thailand and China, someone owns a color TV and a DVD player. Veteran missionary Bobby Morse, who works in with tribal groups in both nations, suggested making DVDs of the lessons to distribute to the churches which do not have access to children’s Sunday School curriculum.

Here is how it would work. Let’s say the lesson is about the birth of Jesus. A native

speaker would narrate the lesson. A PowerPoint presentation, utilizing the visuals already produced, would show each scene. For example, the first scene is Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem. From there the story progresses to



the stable with the manger, with shepherds in the field with the angels, and so forth.

The DVDs would be updated versions of filmstrip productions. The entire 24-lesson series will cost less than \$2 each!

During her travels in remote tribal villages in Thailand, Joana saw that children like TV there just as much as do

our kids here. But these children (and the adults) have not developed any “filtering device” concerning what they see. What is on the screen is watched intently, with the sound and images going directly to the brain!

What an awesome opportunity to reach and teach children! Non-Christian children can hear the Good News about Jesus through these DVDs as well! The PowerPoint presentation is scheduled to be completed by the end of September here in the US. Narration will be added at the Good News Production Studios in Yangon during Joana’s October trip to Myanmar.

Even a \$2 donation will get one lesson series to one church in remote regions of Thailand and China.

“Children have not developed any “filtering device” concerning what they see on TV. What is on the screen is watched intently, with the sound and images going directly to the brain!”

OTC MEDICINES NEEDED FOR OCTOBER TRIP TO MYANMAR

There are a lot of sick people in the remote villages of northern Myanmar. Some even estimate that 95% of the villagers in that region need medical attention.



Occasionally, medical missionaries come through. But most of the time, people suffer from many diseases including malaria, tuberculosis and hepatitis.

They also suffer from skin

rashes and the aches and pains resulting from hard work in the fields.

We can help with these conditions. From now through early October, Joana is accepting OTC medicines — aspirin, ibuprofen, antibiotic creams and antifungal creams.

Several people told Joana during her last trip that because of the “American medicine” they have awakened without pain for the first time



in years.

Perhaps in the future a medical team can travel to Myanmar as part of an Asian Children's Mission trip. But for now, OTC medicine is providing real relief from suffering.

Perhaps your church, civic organization or Sunday School class could provide this much needed medicine. Please call Joana at 812-865-2065 for more information, or to schedule a pick-up of the medicine you would like to donate. Please make sure the medicine has not passed its expiration date.

“Villagers suffer from skin rashes and the aches and pains resulting from hard work... We can help!”

HOSTELS PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR CHRISTIAN TEENS IN MYANMAR

Imagine being a bright teen and not being able to go to high school, simply because one does not exist in your village. You are told to be satisfied with your seventh grade education.

That is the reality for many students in the Kachin state of Myanmar. But one family is working to change that, for at least some boys and girls.

Asian Children's Mission recently provided \$1000 to build a Christian youth hostel which 20 teens are now calling home this school year. Their families provide the food, but otherwise there is no cost to stay at the hostel.

The hostel is operated by a young couple, both recent graduates of Eastern Bible Institute in Yangon. They

prepare the meals (cooking outdoors over open flames), provide free tutoring and conduct discipleship training for these future leaders.



Joana stands with Josa Fish and Simon Thuang in front of the boy's youth hostel. Josa and his wife lead the hostel operations. Simon is academic dean of Eastern Bible Institute in Yangon.

Originally, there were no plans to operate a girls' hostel. Even among Christians, boys

are educated before girls. However, a primary mission of ACM is to improve opportunities for girls and women in Southeast Asia, and so funding was provided for both a boy's and girl's hostel.

The two buildings themselves are simple — bamboo and thatched roofs. There is no electricity, no plumbing, not even any interior walls. The only furniture are the colorful bed rolls laid down side by side on the floor.

Bamboo buildings generally last between five to 10 years. The money provided by ACM also built a small home for the couple whose ministry is to these young people.



Myanmar is also known as Burma. In Southeast Asia, its neighbors are Thailand, China and India. It is ruled by a military junta.

A closed country to missionaries (and to journalists), the Myanmar government does permit Joana to travel using a 4-week tourist visa. The people she works with in the country take risks to be seen with an American Christian teacher.

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To be sure your check is tax deductible, write it to the Smithville Christian Church with the note it is designated for the Asian Children's Mission

JOANA'S SCHEDULE IN MYANMAR

October 12—23 — Yangon (Teach at Eastern Bible Institute, Work at Good News Production, Make contacts with CARE and other agencies working within the country, hire workers to produce visuals for Life of Christ series)

October 23—30 — Taunggyi in Shan State (May not be allowed to publicly teach, but will visit and encourage the Christian minority in the city, and distribute copies of the Life of Christ curriculum to evangelists and teachers from at least 10 ethnic groups.)

October 30—November 6 — Myitkyina in Kachin State. (Teach at two Bible Institutes, visit friends made on earlier trip, distribute medicine in the villages, distribute Life of Christ and Drug Prevention curricula)

November 6—9 — Return to Yangon, check on progress of curriculum production.

November 9—Return to US

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.

FUNDING SOUGHT TO BUILD TWO ORPHANAGES IN MYANMAR CITIES

In this short space, it is impossible to describe the tragedy of the growing number of orphans in Myanmar. There are many reasons why, but perhaps topping the list is the AIDS epidemic.

Life for orphans in Myanmar is dangerous. These children can be conscripted into the army and used to clean mine fields. They may fall prey to human traffickers. Or they simply may die from preventable and treatable diseases. Even if they manage to survive, they will not be educated.

Concerned Christians in Myanmar are taking action. Some stretch already meager budgets even further by taking in street children into their own homes and families. But the need far outstrips the resources available to these Christians.



Church leaders in both Yangon and Myitkyina (the capital city of the Kachin State in Myanmar) have asked for funds to build orphanages. They will provide the oversight and recruit the staff.

The orphanage in Yangon will be small — at least to start — and will provide for 15 children. Yangon, as a major city, has some social services available. In Myitkyina, the request is for a building to



house 60 orphans. Churches will provide food and staff to provide for the children. A small farming operation will be attached to the Myitkyina orphanage.

Initially, the orphanages will be built with bamboo and thatch. Cost to build the orphanages will be about \$5000. Will you consider a generous gift?