



STORIES OF CHILDREN

The care, protection and education of vulnerable children in Myanmar is the primary mission of Asian Children's Mission. In this newsletter, we want to highlight some of the remarkable children we serve, along with some of the teachers. You can be an important part of a child's life through a monthly commitment of \$25 or an annual commitment of \$300.

Mary Ma-Le Escapes From War Zone

"There's no safety for the ladies," says 15 year old Mary Ma-Le. The soldiers of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) often will take girls to make them their wives. This happens "all the time," said Mary. Fleeing an area of on-going conflict between the Burmese army and the KIA, she and a younger sister have found safety at Loving Fountain Orphanage Center.



Fighting and trafficking aside, this young woman has experienced hardship. Her father killed her mother in a drunken rage. He fled from the home, never to be seen again. An aunt took care of Mary Ma-Le and her sister. They have now been at Loving Fountain for five years.

She hopes to become a medical doctor. She explains, "There are many weak people in my village. I want to heal and provide medicine." She likes the rigorous schedule at Loving Fountain, which includes both before and after school study time. "I like to study well and learn here," she says.



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Lum Nan Hopes to Serve in Remote Areas

Lum Nan knows what preventable diseases can do to a family and a community. One of seven children, her mother died when she was 7 years old. Five years later, her father died. Killers in her remote community include malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS.

Poverty is one reason, Lum Nan believes. She wants to study nursing and return to her village to teach health and hygiene, as well as treat disease.

"I want to be an educated person," states Lum Nan. She gives praise to God, and thanks to donors. "Even though I am an orphan, and have no money, God takes care of me."



A Shelter in the Time of War—Ngwa Mar Sar's Story



She's only 11 but Ngwa Mar Sar has spent two years with her new family of fellow students and caring mentors at Loving Fountain. Two years of safety, education, healthy food, clean water and a caring community has made this young lady flourish.

Ngwa Mar Sar remembers the uprooting of her village and the fight for survival prior to finding refuge at Loving Fountain. Caught in the crossfire between the Myanmar and Kachin Independence armies, she ran for her life. An aunt later took her to Loving Fountain for safety.

Since her arrival, Ngwa Mar Sar has thrived and mentions her new-found feelings of security and joy. She enjoys participating in nightly devotions, singing, coloring pictures, being encouraged by teachers who care for her, and playing with her friends. All along, she is learning to take responsibility and live in a community that shares a schedule of

chores, study, and fellowship.

"I'm grateful because of your support!" says Ngwa Mar Sar, as she reflects upon the generosity of the donors. She is also thankful for what she has learned of Jesus through leaders who invest in her soul. "Jesus Christ died on the cross for my sin. Jesus loves me," she says with a smile.

In the future, Ngwa Mar Sar aspires to attend Bible school and become a minister. It is evident that she wants to share of the love and blessing she has been given.

A “Sweet Flower” in a Village

By Daw Pan Cho (ACM Teacher)

I am from Thani Bauk village. It is a small place in the delta. The only roads are the rivers, and no boats ever come here on a regular basis. There is not even a telephone in this village.

In English, my name means “sweet flower.” I have lived in Thani Bauk nearly twenty years. I have taught children nearly 20 years. I love children. I had visions for the children. So I raised some students to come back to work in this village.

One was my own daughter, the others were students of mine since they first learned to read and write. My daughter got four distinctions in the high school graduating exams. But my daughter, and all the other students died in Cyclone Nargis in 2008. Before Nargis I had 90 students. Only 28 survived.



Daw Pan Cho's students take first place honor at a township-wide academic competition. They competed in poetry and math.

But I still have hope for those children, and the new one who have been born since that terrible day. I teach 19 kindergarten kids from 7—9:30 am. At 10 to 4 I teach 1st through 5th grade students. Then from 5:00—6:30 I teach the kindergarteners again. My time is always talking and teaching. Sometimes I wonder why. But I want these students to be educated.

Last school year 4 of my students went to Laputta (a larger port city a day's boat ride away) to students' competitions. Two of them won first price prizes for Laputta township level. One of the two first place entries was in poetry. Surprisingly this student is not a Christian but he wrote a poem about Christmas and he won the first prize!

A team of students got the first price in Math.

Editor's note: Recently Daw Pan Cho received her own cell phone, so now communication with this remote village will be much easier. There is still no storm shelter in this village. ACM would like to raise funds to build a storm shelter that will also serve as the community's school and church. The cost will be \$15,000.

Than Dar Joins Hope Staff

Than Dat came to Hope Children's Home in 2008, after being rescued following Cyclone Nargis in 2008.

She recently graduated from high school, and is now enrolled in university. In a few years she hopes to return to her home village as an educator.

But in the meantime, as she continues her education, she continues to live at Hope, and is now a tutor to the young children living there.



As a young adult, she can reflect on how her life might have been different if she stayed in her village as an orphan. "I would not know Christ. I would not be educated. I would be seeking work on a daily basis."

Health Care Clinic Construction Slated to Begin this November

The land is paid for, much of the infrastructure is in place. Recently Asian Children's Mission received permission to begin construction on our first building — the health care clinic. Funding for the clinic has been provided by the Galesburg Baptist Church in Illinois and FAME, the medical mission group based in Indianapolis.

We look forward to improving health care in the community, and we look forward to developing a health care curriculum to train health care workers.

And we look forward to continuing to develop the Myanmar Community Development Center, as a center for holistic ministry. For more information on MCDC, visit <http://www.asianchildrensmission.org/portfolio/community-development-center/>.

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Visit us on the web

Asianchildrensmission.org

How to Give to Asian Children's Mission

A child sponsorship is \$25 a month, or \$300 per year.

A teacher sponsorship is \$50 per month or \$600 per year.

Gifts of any amount are always welcomed. Designated gifts are also welcomed.

Gifts may be made by check written to Asian Children's Mission and sent to the address above.

Gifts can also be given through the website — <http://www.asianchildrensmission.org/join-the-adventure/donate/>

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