



Asian Children's Mission

"Join the Adventure"

November 14, 2009

COMMUNITY HEALTH EVANGELISM COMES TO MYANMAR VIA ACM

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Prayer Requests

- Continued safety for Christians working and traveling within Myanmar
- For many opportunities to witness to Buddhist neighbors during the Christmas season.
- For good harvests to relieve famine conditions

REGIONS OF CHE OUTREACH IN BURMA



Community Health Evangelism (CHE) integrates evangelism and discipleship with disease prevention and community based development. CHE programs have been successfully used in more than 70 developing nations over 20 years. CHE has now arrived in Burma in a series of seminars led by Joana Jones, director of Asian Children's Mission.

Participatory Learning

The seminars are active events that rely on participatory learning. Joana and Dave Crist, the director of CHE initiatives for Thailand and Myanmar, facilitated a group-oriented process that helped people analyze problems, discover solutions, and define positive action steps.

The seminars are first steps in transforming villages. Following training, participants go back to their villages and train others. These trainers will go

into homes to teach both spiritual and physical lessons.

Health Lessons

Health lessons are among the first taught in villages. Many attending the seminar work in villages

where there is little understanding concerning how to prevent disease. Lessons on hand washing, clean water, dental care, prevention of malaria, care of children with diarrhea, and prevention of worm infections are very useful.

Spiritual Lessons

With each of these important physical lessons, there is usually a spiritual lesson. For example, sin can be compared to dirty hands, with only Jesus as the one who can wash us clean.

CHE Translation

About 100 lessons have been translated out of the 2000 lessons in the CHE library. The next series of lessons to be translated are the Bible, moral, business and women's health lessons. Following these, the agricultural lessons will be translated.

Cost to translate one lesson is about \$10. Contact ACM if you would like to sponsor the translation of one or more lessons.

More seminars are planned for 2010, along with a seven week internship for key leaders.



NAGA LEADERS ATTEND CHE SEMINAR

Imagine living in an area so remote that wild elephants sometimes trample villages. For the Naga people, whose homeland is near the Indian border, this is a real threat. And their challenges don't end there.

Slash and Burn Agriculture

They are subsistence farmers, using slash and burn agricultural techniques to plant corn

on steep bamboo-covered hillsides. The women chop down most of the trees, often with an infant strapped to their backs.

There are no schools, so children go with their mothers to work on the hillsides. Many have died as trees have fallen on top of them.

Opium

And then there is the drug abuse. Many grow opium, and many men are addicted. Naga leaders attended a community health evangelism seminar. They know CHE will not be a "quick fix" for their people, but with effort and time, a transformation is possible, through Christian messages in word and deed.

CHURCH MEMBERS IN “RAT FAMINE” VILLAGE CLING TO JESUS

By Nanda Soe of Myanmar

(Editor’s Note: The following article is written by a Sunday School teacher in a village in the Chin State of Myanmar. Every 50 years, the bamboo trees flower and produce a fruit that causes the rat population to multiply to the point that famine results. ACM, in partnership with IDES, has sent rice to the area. ACM also provides training and curricula to Sunday School teachers in the region.)

In the name of Jesus Christ: Baut Na Village Sunday School students and teacher write this letter.

This year the rats have destroyed rice and corn and all

the crops. There is not much hope to harvest this year. All the villagers, including the children, are having a difficult time to survive. Mothers go to the jungle to find firewood and sell it in the market.

Out of these difficulties, we still pray and still praise God.

I take care of the children’s health, and I encourage them to study hard. We read the Bible together, and play with the children. It is important that the children become strong in the faith. The need to learn that they

can depend on God.

Pray for us that we may continue to serve the Lord.

Note: For more information, go to YouTube and type in “Rat Famine.”



Rice is delivered on boat, then carried up steep mountains to a distribution point. Family members then receive enough rice for one month. This distribution is made possible through a grant to Asian Children’s Mission from the International Disaster and Emergency Service (IDES).



TUTORING CENTER LEADS TO CHURCH PLANT

“If you don’t want to live very long, go to Lapuda.” This ominous warning was based



“And a child shall lead them.” This is exactly what happened in the establishment of the Lapuda Church of Christ. A children’s center (pictured above) provided free tutoring and weekly Sunday School classes. Parents were evangelized by their children, and a church is now established in a village known for its witchcraft and sorcery.

on the practice of sorcery and witchcraft in this village. Still, a local Christian owned some land, and, with the blessing of the village leadership, a children’s center was built there by Asian Children’s Mission in late 2008.

Staffed by Bible college students who volunteer their time, village children attend the center for tutoring and for Sunday School lessons. Parents began to notice a difference between the children attending the center and those who did not. Children receiving Christian instruction were more confident, less shy

and more respectful.

The children began to evangelize their parents. In October, the first parents asked to receive instruction in how to become Christians. They are ready for baptism and are the nucleus of the newly formed Lapuda Church of Christ.

This new church is the second one to be established as the result of ACM’s work with children. The other one is in Putaikgyi village in southern Myanmar where ACM established a school in this Buddhist village.

SMALL GIFT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

It has been a year since Cyclone Nargis killed more than 160,000 people in southern Myanmar. Joana returned to Wapugone, a village where she and others visited last year to carry in emergency relief.

Much has changed for the

better. People have their own homes, Asian Children’s Mission operates an elementary school, and some shops are open. But there is still surprising need.

After distributing school supplies the day before, Joana noticed that a pair of scissors

remained. At breakfast with some of the women, she asked if anyone needed a pair of scissors. Yes! One lady in the group was a tailor — and did not own any scissors! This small gift will make her much more income secure as she will be able to make clothes again.

“If you don’t want to live very long, go to Lapuda.”

“One lady in the group was a tailor — and did not own a pair of scissors!”

WIDOWED MOTHER OF FOUR RECEIVES LIFE SAVING OPERATION

By Simon in Myanmar

"The Tumor is about your Grape Fruit size," The doctor said after operation. Our medical team was amazed and praised God for healing. It is miracle!

God is faithful! To be honest, we are weak and have not enough faith in our daily walk with Him. I did not have faith to heal this suffering lady Ahdu who had a big tumor and no one could help her. As my last news letter, She had great pain and tried to take out her tooth (Molar) by contaminated fork and become big tumor in four years ago. Her husband was died by malaria and taking care of four children. She is going to die if we do not help her.

God opened the door through Joana Jones (Asian Children Mission) to raise the fund to care this lady. Our medical

team sent the good news to Ahdu. She had to work hard to leave enough food to her children. She walked 15 miles and then waited three days to get air ticket. Thank God! Sometimes we have to wait over 30 days to get air ticket as there are only two flights in a week and always having VIP passengers.

Some fellow workers in Myitkyina picked her up directly to State Hospital. They checked and had a great discussion among the Medical Doctors to handle this lady. Eventually, the Dentist was the man who charged and led her jaw operation. They tried to insert the oxygen pipe to give her general anesthesia and it did not work out. The dentist decided to operate from inside of her mouth by giving just local anesthesia and extracted five teeth and then took out the tumor successfully. They took this tumor to

their laboratory office and said "Grape Fruit Size". She was discharged from the hospital after 10 days.

Our medical team in Putao welcomed her back, and asked her to stay a night at the medical center as it was about 1:30 PM. But she was eager to go back home to tell the good news to the villagers and see her children, and walked 14 miles to her village. She would get home at about 8:00 PM. I can't imagine about her joy and the wonders of the villagers for healing her. Actually Our Lord Jesus healed her as you all have the Spirit of Jesus and had mercy on her.

Thank you for your prayers and consideration for this suffering lady. May God richly bless you all as you care the suffering people in Christ.



NEW CHILDREN ARRIVE AT ACM ORPHANAGES

The care of orphans remains central to the work of Asian Children's Mission. In the past few months, several new children have joined the extended families at Hope Children's Home in Yangon, and Loving Fountain Children's Home in Myitkyina.

Yo Rose is a 9th grader and would like to be an airline hostess someday. She lived with a relative and attended a school where students were expected to bow down to a Buddha statue. When she refused, she was expelled. She now lives at Hope and can worship Jesus freely and get an education.

Leme Dwe was a malnourished and sad little boy when

he arrived at Hope, and could not walk well. But with love and good food, he is now smiling and playing with the other children.



Thein Shew Win and his sister Nargis. They had been staying with relatives, but are now living at Hope. They are Buddhist children and are now learning about Jesus.



Sara lives at Loving Fountain. Her mother died when she was very young, and her father was murdered by the one of the armed resistance groups in the country. He had

been conscripted and when he tried to escape to return home, he was shot as an example.

Ngwa Mi and Peter are siblings say their parents were killed by de-



mons! Belief in evil spirits remains very strong in remote areas of Burma. In reality, many die of malaria, TB and other preventable diseases.

"The care of orphans is central to the work of Asian Children's Mission."

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We're on the web!

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TEACHERS FIND LARGER CLASSES

When the 30 Asian Children's Mission teachers went back to their schools, many found larger classes. In one school, enrollment increased by 100 students!

This is good news. Nearly one-third of children in Burma never even start school, and only half will complete even a basic primary education. As children see they can learn with a competent and caring teacher, and parents understand the value of an education, we are seeing increased retention and enrollment rates.

Additionally, the witness of the teachers has resulted in two church plants in the villages.

This success highlights the need to send more Christian teachers to villages without adequate schools. As soon as funding is available, we need to double the number of teachers. Teachers can be sponsored for \$50 a month, or \$600 a year..

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 three areas:

1. Effective children's ministry
2. A Biblical understanding of the worth of women and children
3. Holistic ministry joining physical and spiritual initiatives through community health evangelism.

The mission will continue to identify projects that will 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, the building and funding of children's homes to protect orphans and other vulnerable children, community development projects and the provision of Christian teachers in villages that lack educational resources.

Be sure and visit our website — www.asianchildrensmission.org

CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS TUTOR STUDENTS IN NORTH BURMA; PRIMARY SCHOOL OPENED FOR 65 STUDENTS IN WEST BURMA

Tutors For Teens in North Burma



Teenagers in the very northern most region of Burma are getting some world class tutoring in their studies,

thanks to a partnership between Asian Children's Mission and the Putao Bible Institute. In this first academic year of operation, it is expected that more than 100 students will benefit.

Underpaid government teachers charge tuition to students to cover all the material that will be on the year-end exams. Many students stop their education as teenagers because they can not afford private classes to prepare them for the exams.

But the teachers at the Putao Bible Institute have advanced degrees in a wide range of aca-

demical subjects. They will provide the tutoring free of charge to the students.

The cost of this project is \$2500 per year — only \$25 per student!

This program is one bright spot for these young people. *This is an area known for severe human rights abuses including human trafficking, forced labor, rape and conscription of children into the military. Other threats to young people concern drug and alcohol abuse.* Helping these young people succeed in school will help keep them safe now and give them more options for the future.

It is expected that the program will grow as more and more young people will see an education is possible — even in Northern Burma.

Primary School Opens in Remote Area in Western Burma

The young lady traveled 12

hours by boat to attend the one week seminar for Sunday School teachers. She is the most educated person in her village. She has a high school education — in a village that does not have even an elementary school.

The educational system in Burma is very weak. Only 4% of the population has a high school degree. As the most educated person in her community, village leaders asked her to consider opening a primary school for the community's 65 children. They would pay her a small salary. She was willing, but there was no money to build a school house.

IDES and Asian Children's Mission provided the funds for a small bamboo school, complete with benches. School supplies were provided. A Christian school is now open in a village so remote that the nearest phone is six hours away.