

# ASIAN CHILDREN'S MISSION

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## Prayer Requests

- Safety for those working in cyclone region
- Resources and wisdom to meet needs that seem overwhelming
- For emotional and physical healing for those who have suffered so much trauma



**Burma (Myanmar) is in Southeast Asia. The area devastated by Cyclone Nargis is circled.**

## GUSTAVE, IKE & NARGIS: RESPONDING TO NEEDS ON TWO CONTINENTS

It was non-stop coverage on the cable news programs when Gustav was headed to New Orleans. Within two weeks attention turned to a second killer hurricane, Ike, which aimed for the Texas coastline.

Returning from Burma only a few weeks ago, I could not help but to think of the contrast to Cyclone Nargis which hit Burma on May 2 and 3. At the time, there was no warning, no evacuation. But there was horrendous loss of life and property. Official estimates say 133,000 people died. Other observers place that number much higher. In the US, seven deaths are blamed on Gustav. Although the number could rise, at this point 8 deaths are blamed on Ike.

There are so many sad stories in Burma (Myanmar). Everyone I met had multiple losses — children, parents, brothers,



*A nine year old orphan drew this picture of bamboo homes tossed in the air by the cyclone and floating away in the water. He survived by holding onto a log for 10 hours, then walking 3 days for help. He is the only survivor in his family.*

sisters. Their bamboo homes were destroyed as the survivors desperately climbed trees to escape the storm surge, or held onto logs for

hours on end while the wind, waves, darkness and death were all around them.

In our country, government at all levels was prepared for the disasters. Americans are mobilizing to begin the re-building.

This is right. These are our countrymen and we owe them our help and our prayers.

But even as we help our own, let's remember the victims in Burma — those who have no houses, no jobs, little food, and little hope. We can help them — and not just their material necessities. As Christians serve them, they are ready to hear about Jesus.

Cyclone Nargis opened a great door for the Gospel in this Buddhist nation. This newsletter contains information on how you can make a difference and bring hope to these stricken people.

## CHILDREN'S HOMES SAVE CYCLONE ORPHANS

Hope Children's Home was planned for 15 children — orphaned because of malaria, tuberculosis or other preventable diseases. But then Nargis hit the delta, and Hope became home to 30 orphans within a matter of weeks.

In addition to the bamboo shelters, the first permanent building is nearing completion. This brick and wooden two story building will be

home to the girls. Downstairs, a large living room/study area will be enjoyed by all the children.

This building is also important for their psychological well being. Many saw their bamboo homes literally be blown away, and know the loss of life that can come from inadequate shelter. The children will feel safe, knowing they have a strong building that is

their own.

In addition, Asian Children's Mission provides

funding for two other children's homes in Northern Burma, supporting approximately 70 children.



## ECONOMIC RECOVERY AID IN DELTA VILLAGES COST EFFECTIVE



Farmers use water buffalo to plow fields. Additionally, fishermen need nets and boats. Students need school supplies in the devastated communities.

The delta area of Burma is resource rich. People make good livings growing rice and catching fish.

At least they used to. Cyclone Nargis sunk boats, ripped nets, and destroyed farm animals and rice processing equipment. Now, many farmers and fishermen can not make a living.

But we can change this. Farmers need water buffalo to plow their rice paddy fields. And when the rice is harvested, the com-

munity needs a rice mill to process the precious grain. Fishermen need nets and simple boats.

*Economic Recovery Needs for a Village of 100 Families*

Item	# Needed	Cost Each	Total Cost
Fishermen's Nets	50	\$30	\$1500
Boats	25	\$70	\$1750
Water Buffalo	10	\$125	\$1250
School Supplies	100	\$10	\$1000
Teachers	2	\$1000	\$2000
Rice Mill	1	\$7000	\$7000
<b>Cost of recovery for one</b>			<b>\$14,500</b>

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SEMINARS TRAIN TEACHERS; OUTREACH TO BUDDHIST CHILDREN

A week-long seminar has been developed for Burma's Sunday School teachers. The purpose of the seminar is to equip teachers to use Sunday School curriculum developed by Joana and recently published in Burmese.

The most recent seminar was held in July in the city of

Sittwe, on the coast with India and Bangladesh. Thirteen teachers attended. Christians make up less than 1% of the population in the region..

The teachers plan to extend Sunday School to all day programs to help Buddhist children who are unable to attend school to learn to read and

write.

"You will help us still have a real and warm in the night have a better life than now. I will not think of the event in home at Christmas evening."

### A Buddhist parent to a Christian Sunday



Teachers do an object lesson exercise together.

## PRAYING TO THE GOD OF THE KAREN

There are many ethnic groups within Burma.

One ethnic group is the Karen and they are a largely Christian group. Through the years, many ethnic groups have signed ceasefire agreements with the Burmese military, but the Karen have not. A 50 year civil war exists in part of Burma where the Karen are a majority.



But in other parts of the country, Karen Christians live peacefully beside their Burmese Buddhist neighbors. This is true in the delta area.

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The woman pictured is Burmese, and was a Buddhist when the cyclone hit. As the storm surge carried her away and death looked imminent, she prayed to "the God of the Karen." That's all she knew. But that was enough. She credits the Name for her survival. She has since become a Christian.

Many Buddhists are becoming

## CHRISTIAN TEACHERS SENT INTO DELTA BY ASIAN CHILDREN'S MISSION

Burma's cyclone killed hundreds of teachers. This tragedy is providing an open door to send Christian teachers into Buddhist communities.

At this writing, 14 teachers are teaching both high school and elementary students in several villages in the delta. In one middle school with 700 students, ACM has placed seven teachers. In one village, two ACM teachers opened a school for 57 elementary students.

In addition to their teaching



Teachers prepare to go into the delta region. Maeram, coordinating the program in Burma, is the 4th woman from the left.

responsibilities, they will monitor for nutritional needs in the communities and help protect children from traffickers. In the future they will also receive substantial train-

ing on community health initiatives.

Coordinating this program is Maeram Rawang, an American educated teacher at Eastern Bible Institute near Yangon.

ACM expects to have 30 -35 teachers working in the delta region over the next few months. Teachers are paid a stipend of \$50 -\$70 monthly. Many of our teachers have dual degrees — one from a Bible Institute and one from a secular university.

## MIRACULOUS REUNION AT HOPE ORPHANAGE

After three months, the three sisters had given up all hope of seeing their father again, but a miraculous reunion took place at Hope Children's Home in August.

The girls' father, a fisherman, was found five days after the storm, floating on a fishing ball in the Bay of Bengal. He

was nearly dead. Sailors from Bangladesh nursed him back to health for over a month.

When he was strong enough, he searched for his daughters, and the trail finally led him to the orphanage near Yangon, three months to the day of the cyclone. It was a joyous, unexpected reunion!



## WATER SYSTEMS INSTALLED IN DELTA REGION

Ten water treatment systems were delivered to the delta region. Most have been installed, providing safe drinking water for hundreds of people.

The systems, provided by the International Disaster and Emergency Service (IDES) and New Life International, operate by turning common table salt into chlorine, which then chlorinates the water.

As with new technology any-



A local aid worker learns the daily maintenance required for the water purification units.

where in the world, there were unexpected communication challenges, as people struggled to accept the different taste of chlorinated water and deal with installation and maintenance challenges.

Lessons learned this trip will help better prepare leaders and communities in the installation, operation and life saving potential of these units.

*An open door to send Christian teachers to work in Buddhist communities exists..*

### Children's Centers Near Yangon To Be Built

A series of six children's centers an hour's drive away from Yangon are planned. These children's centers will operate on Sundays, and students from nearby Eastern Bible Institute will teach Sunday School classes to the predominately Buddhist children. Think of them as children's church plants.

In addition to teaching the Bible, the teachers will provide free tutoring to children. This will be a welcomed service, especially for poor children who can not afford to attend public school.

The land has been purchased, and the first center is being built now. Other centers will cost \$2000 each. Operational costs will be minimal as the EBI students donate their time.

*Lessons learned will help prepare leaders and communities in the future.*

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

*"Jesus saved our lives to  
continue to shine and live  
for His glory."*

## **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, sending teachers into Burma's delta region and providing safe havens for children.

## **ON THE RIVER OF NO RETURN**

BY SIMON, RELIEF TEAM LEADER

***Travel in the delta is dangerous. I learned that first hand on a small boat that was lost in the middle of a storm. I was with a team returning from a remote island where only Christians have delivered aid. Read Simon's account of the long night...***

We went to Pysialon, beside the Andaman Sea. We crossed the River of No Return. The local people give this name as the people who pass this river can not come back when it rains. It means that all the people who pass this big river died in the high wave when it rains.

After traveling five hours by boat, we arrived in the village where more than 50% of the people died by 15 feet of high wave of Nargis. Joana Jones was able to distribute relief supplies to the villagers. As soon as we arrived, I purchased five pounds of fish from the fisherman and asked a villager to cook for us. I knew that our team would be very hungry. This was lunch and dinner for our team.

Thank God for feeding us daily bread. We know that the first aid workers to arrive just ate bananas for daily meal.



### **Jesus stills the storm**

When we left Pysialon, it was about 6pm. We requested two villagers to be our guides on the way back as it was going to dark. I was very tired and slept on the boat. After three hours I heard murmuring voices from the crew.

***"Call the guides."***

***"Where are we now?"***

***"I don't know."***

***"Why?"***

***"I can see nothing."***

***"Do you still have diesel?"***

***"Four gallons."***

I woke up and saw we were in totally danger as the rain and

wind were strong. The captain had a hard time to control the boat. There were only four life jackets with bad quality (there were 16 of us on the

boat). To be honest, I had great fear for this situation. We all would be died if...

**The engine stopped (it was an old boat)**

**The paddles (blades) get caught in the fishing nets in the river**

**The diesel gone out**

**Our boat hits on the rock or shallow sands.**

We all could do nothing...and eventually, prayed together and called Jesus for HELP! After prayers, the storm calm down and the high wave had gone. We saw the light of Labutta in the distance and followed it home safely. Jesus stills the storm today as He did 2000 years ago.

We safely arrived in Labutta after midnight. Jesus saved our lives to continue to shine and live for His glory.