



Asian Children's Mission
Fall 2018
10th Anniversary Edition

Who Sinned?

DISABILITY IN MYANMAR

When it comes to disabilities, many in Myanmar believe that they are the result of trespasses in an earlier life.

That attitude is not so different than the thinking of Christ's disciples when they encountered a man born blind. "Who sinned—this man or his parents?" they asked. Jesus replied, "Neither" and then explained that the "works of God would be made manifest through him." (John 9)



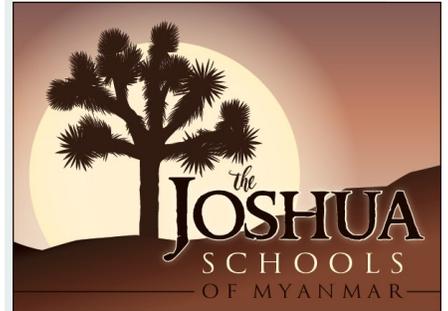
Tinman is physically disabled, and has been since birth. His parents, both leaders in Asian Children's Mission, prayed for a miracle. God answered their prayers — but in a totally different way than they imagined.

Children with disabilities usually have no school to attend, or therapists to work with them. But now Tinman is the Myanmar inspiration for the new school and therapy center for special needs children.

Thanks to the generosity of the **Montgomery and Tulip Street Christian Churches** in Indiana, and many private donors, the doors to this first "Joshua School" will open in October! Watch for updates on the Asian Children's Mission Facebook page in the weeks ahead.

Coming to America...this November!

Josiah and Phoebe, leaders of Hope Children's Home and the Myanmar Community Development Center, will make their first trip to the US in November. They will be at the Sherwood Oaks Christian Church in Bloomington, IN on Nov. 10 and 11. They will also attend the International Conference on Mission on Nov. 16-17.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Joshua School Opens (10/1)
- Staff Retreat in Myanmar (10/23-25)
- American ACM leaders in Myanmar (10/16-11/1)
- Josiah and Phoebe at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church Nov. 10-11
- ICOM Nov. 16-17

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AH DEE FINDS PLACE AT NEW PRESCHOOL

Six year old Ah Dee, his family and all their neighbors fled their village before it was destroyed by warring factions in northern Myanmar. With disabled legs, Ah Dee was carried as the family ran.

Eventually, they resettled in a community they called “Comfort Village” - because they had been comforted in their time of need. With the help of generous grants from the **Sherwood Oaks Christian Church** and



purchased.

After a year of putting down roots and

learning to farm this new land, the leaders of Comfort Village decided it was time to open a preschool.

They could afford the materials, and people donated their labor. At their request, Asian Children’s Mission is bearing a portion of the operating costs — but on one condition. —that Ah Dee would be allowed to attend. Ah Dee can’t walk, but he has a bright mind and wanted more than anything to go to school.

The school is open now, and Ah Dee is joyfully attending. There’s much work to be done concerning accessibility, but the fact that Ah Dee is in school at all is a win. Ah Dee dreams of becoming a pastor some day.



TEACHER HELPS WAR WEARY FAMILY

By Ma Soe



This is Maung Haung Hein. He is in the third grade and is the oldest child. His family left their home because of the war and came to Kyauk Taw village. They are new in the area. So they have difficulties to make a living. The parents do odd work to support their children. Sometimes they get jobs, other time no work. The mother says she is worry for Maung Aung Hein's education. So I brought him to stay with me and attend in my school. He is a hard worker. He studies well.

Ma Soe is an Asian Children’s Mission teacher in a remote village in western Myanmar. Ma Soe teaches 60 elementary age children, and often takes care of her most needy students in her own home.

Learning to share the “True God” with Buddhist Neighbors



*Timothy Pungsar (center in purple longyi) graduated the 7th class of Christian leaders who are now trained in evangelism for their Buddhist neighbors. The eighth class will begin in November. This training is a joint program between **Good News Productions** of Joplin, MO and ACM.*

SAMARITAN NURSING SCHOOL STUDENTS LEAD CLINICS IN REMOTE VILLAGES

After being mentored by Hoosier medical missionary teams from **FAME** and **Bring Good News International**, the Samaritan Nursing School has begun conducting their own medical clinics.



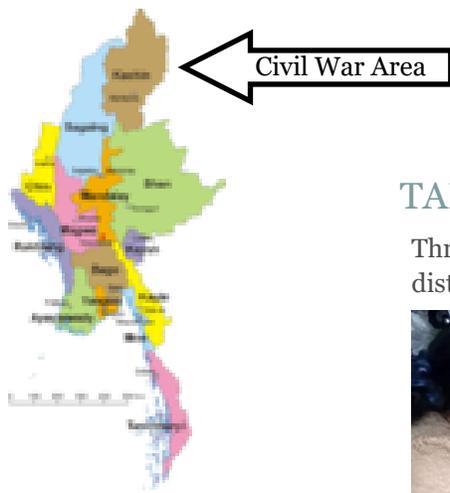
Under the supervision of Nurse-Educator Lucy, the students travel to remote villages on the weekend to conduct clinics. Lucy’s husband, Reggie, leads Christian worship in Buddhist majority villages. A Myanmar Christian leader noted their service and said, “Medical evangelism is one of the best ways to show Christ’s love.”

MEET A TEACHER

A licensed preschool teacher, Daham Ti is a graduate of Myanmar Bible Institute and also holds a bachelors degree in philosophy from a secular university. She has been serving at the Mandalay pre-



school, located in a poor and dangerous neighborhood, for five years. In addition to her preschool teaching, she tutors older youth and also teaches Sunday School.



TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU CAN CARRY

Through a grant from **IDES**, Meram distributed emergency food aid to



more than 2000 refugees, fleeing from the latest fighting in Kachin.

Sumna Hkawn Bu told her story.

"My life is pass 100 years now. I have run away from home 6, 7 times in my life, due to the fighting . Before I was strong, But now my grandson has to carry me. We had to leave everything. We lived in the jungle for a month before we got here. He had to carry me every time we moved in the jungle."



THE WORLD'S LONGEST CIVIL WAR

Civil war in northern Burma has continued since 1948. For 17 years, a cease fire held, but in 2011, fighting began anew. ACM began to provide aid to the people of the region that same year.

Since this January, more than 10,000 people have been displaced in the region. Often they were trapped by fighting on both sides., and many died trying to reach a place of relative safety.

The churches in Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin state, have taken in thousands of refugees. ACM, through our partners of **IDES** and **Sherwood Oaks Christian Church**, have provided emergency aid, and have significantly assisted in resettlement efforts through gifts of land, building materials and farm animals.

The majority of the displaced people are Christians. Their stories are harrowing, but our gifts in their time of desperation has kept faith and hope alive.

Stories from Refugees

By Meram Rawang, ACM Missionary and Aid Worker

Afraid of Bullets

"We left our own homes because we are afraid of bullets, and we do not like either side of the fighting. We travelled in the jungle for a month, avoiding fighting whenever we could."

Missing Persons

"The day we left the village some were not ready . My husband, the village head, went back to find them. Since then I have not heard from him."

Birth in the War Zone

"We had a phone call after we arrived that a mother with 5 children had her 6th baby at the camp of the insurgents. When they heard gun fire all the soldiers ran to fight, leaving the mother and children behind. No one knows what happened to that family."

Losing Farms

"We heard a loud explosion, and then gun fire. A toddler was shot in the head, his father shot in the stomach. Many others were injured. The fighting lasted two hours. The next morning all the men were tied up and beaten. We were accused of being insurgents. Our church money was taken, and all our land."

Living in Tents

"The United Nations tent shelters are OK but very hot during the day. When it rains the dirt floors are wet. When the sun is out the vapor from the wet floor causes sickness."



*The rice bags were the first food assistance this group of refugees received. **IDES** provided funding and Meram (pictured above left) distributed the grain to more than 2000 people.*

RICE AND WATER FOR FLOOD VICTIMS



Flooding in the Karen State of Myanmar displaced more than 16,000 people. Both local and international aid groups assisted with emergency supplies. Thanks to **Sherwood Oaks Christian Church**, Josiah was able to deliver rice, noodles, cooking oil and fresh water to hundreds of victims in Hpa-an, the capital of the province.

Josiah is a leader in Asian Children’s Mission, responsible for both Hope Children’s Home and the Myanmar Community Development Center, and is an experienced aid worker.’ Partnering with Josiah at Hope is an Arizona non-profit called **A Generous Life**.



“I was hopeless, but out of nowhere I received the gift.”

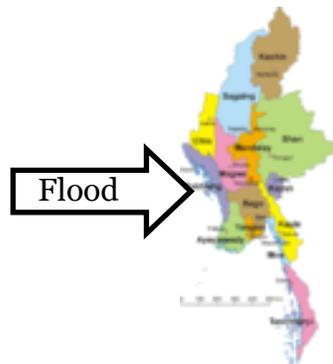
UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP FLOODED WITH COMPASSION

“I was hopeless after the flood. But out of nowhere I received the gift to build a house. This is a strong house for my children,” said Daw Hla Hlaing, a widow with six children. She lives in the Rahkine village of Pa Jwe. Her family is receiving one of 31 houses built to replace homes destroyed in a flood. This work was made possible through a generous grant from **IDES**.

The villages are home to members of the Mro people group, one of 135 ethnic groups within Myanmar. The Mro people are primarily Buddhist, but have some outstanding Christian leaders among them. Asian Children’s Mission is

coming along side these leaders to assist them in reaching their own people.

In addition to providing humanitarian aid, ACM has opened a youth hostel in Pon-nagyum, a major city at the center of the Mro population. This leader of the hostel coordinated the aid, and has established the first church in this city of more than 100,000 people.



Above — Young Mro teachers find a welcome at the Christian Youth Hostel for Mro students. Below — Bzan Bzan, the leader of the hostel and its outreaches, coordinates relief to flooded⁵ areas.

10th Anniversary

About us:

Asian Children's Mission

Justice

Myanmar is a beautiful nation marred by a significant imbalance of wealth and power. We focus on protecting vulnerable women and children and providing them with educational opportunities.

Jesus

As a Christian organization, we are motivated by the love and compassion of Christ and the truth of the Gospel.

Adventure

Our work takes us to exotic locations on the planet. But the real adventure is in coming alongside Myanmar's people to love and serve them.

Asian Children's Mission

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By Joana T. Jones, Executive Director

2018 is Asian Children's Mission 10th Anniversary! We have come a long ways from the two small orphanages that opened in 2008!

We still have those orphanages — which are now on nice campuses that are truly community development centers. But there's so much more! There are a **dozen schools, a medical clinic, a campus devoted to evangelism and vocational training, seven new churches, and on-going ref-**



ugee aid and resettlement work. All of this is the result of prayer, work, vision and the investment of \$1.2 million dollars in Myanmar spread over 10 years. We don't have a large donor base, but God has blessed us abundantly with wise local leadership and good stewards.

Our newest endeavor is the establishment of Joshua Schools for special needs children. We celebrate the opening of our first school and hope to open more in the coming years. *We are particularly interested in recruiting therapists who will pass on their learning to our Myanmar teachers during short term missions trips.*

If you have not already "joined the adventure," will you consider doing this now? There are many ways outlined on our updated website — asianchildrensmision.org. Take a few minutes to review all the ways we work in Myanmar — and see what calls to your own heart.