



The Ministry of Watering — Kent Odor

⁶ I (Paul) planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. ⁷ It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. —1 Corinthians 3:6,7 -New Living Translation

In January I visited Thailand with the excuse to participate in two leadership seminars. January is the month when Bible College school years are finished, the weather is hot and dry, and evangelists are weary. It is a great time for outsiders to bring some refreshment. Twenty years ago, LaVerne Morse saw this need and initiated a Golden Triangle Seminar in MaeSai, Thailand, where Myanmar, Thailand and Laos meet. This event was an annual highlight for many workers but it was canceled by Covid and this year it got a needed reboot.

My trip was ultimately fruitful in a variety of ways, but my determination to attend was motivated by the bottom-line requirement for showing love and appreciation, and that is just "showing up." It was so good to be with many of our teammates that we financially and prayerfully support each month. Giving them one-on-one encouragement, a pat on the back and a hug was priceless.

In one conversation with Simon, who is the ACS coordinator for Myanmar and Thailand, as we talked about his role in the events, he blurted out, "My role is watering! Others do the planting, but I water!" I was amazed at his statement – a simple statement of clear identity from a man who carries a heavy load of responsibility for ACS in SE Asia. Simon is key in the planning, implementation and accountability of a huge amount of good work that is being done in Southeast Asia. He watches over many evangelists, discovering new fields and helping us send evangelists to these people. He has guided the evangelists to implement for us the Jesus film Project. He



Moses baptizing a new refugee



Simon with teenagers who completed a Drug Prevention Course

coordinates training programs, medical care and building projects synergistically to reach people with the love of Christ. He does more than just about anyone I know, but he considers his work "watering." He knows his place in the strategy outlined by the apostle Paul in the book of Corinthians, that some plant, some water, but it is God who makes everything grow.

This profound insight identified for me the role of Asia Christian Services. Through the years, ACS Founder LaVerne "watered" in many ways through encouragement and direction. He focused on the works the leaders in Burma were "planting" when westerners were no longer welcome to participate with them in side-by-side daily mission activities in their country.

In 2014, the ACS Board took the baton handed over by LaVerne and carefully pursued the process of "watering" all that had been previous planted. A focused effort was initiated to pursue reaching the last 50 unreached tribes in Myanmar urging national evangelists to pioneer new missionary works. As of this date, sixteen of those last 50 tribes have had Asian missionaries establish churches in villages of those unreached tribes. Even more planting is happening in this current era in Myanmar (70% of the land is a war zone). ACS is "watering" those new works--AND God is making them grow just as Jesus promised.

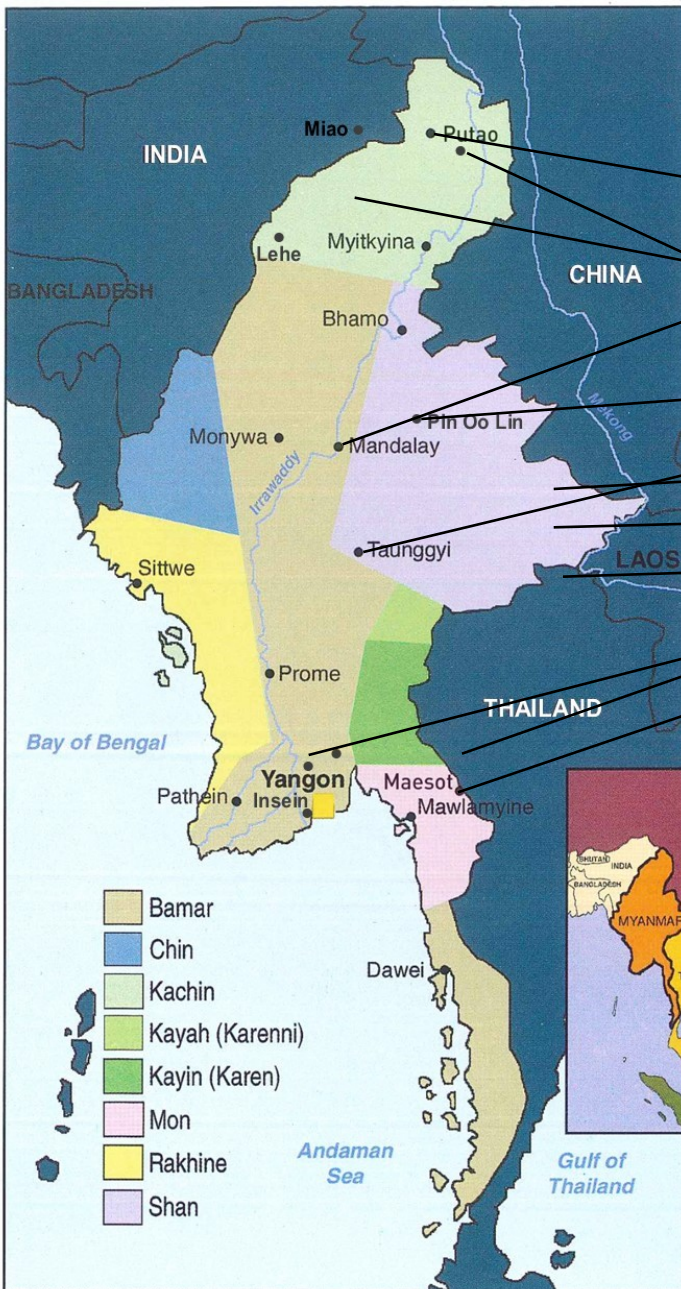
Our ACS role of “watering” will continue. Our Asian team is diligently planting the seeds of the gospel. Because of all the trouble in Myanmar, men and women of many different tribal groups are hearing the message of Jesus for the first time and are surrendering their lives to Jesus, claiming the hope of eternal life. ACS will continue to “water” the Gospel seeds and the seed planters, and trust our Heavenly Father to provide the harvest!

⁷ It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work.
– 1 Corinthians 3:7-8

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BEYOND SUFFERING —



Simon with Refugee Family

An Opportunity To Thrive A New Refugee Village

Simon Thaug — ACS Coordinator in Asia

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ from Asia Mission field. We all the fellows are doing well under our God's care in this challenging time. God is good and faithful to protect us even serving Him in the most dangerous mission fields. The coup continues fighting and striking the villages by jet fighters and the whole villagers have to escape for life by leaving all properties.

1. NEW VILLAGES

We are building new villages for refugees! Two are under construction and we are buying the land to build one more! There is no safe zone in Myanmar. Many refugees escape into jungle without food. Many cross the border and become refugees along Thailand/Burma border.

Our message and motivation is God's word

⁵ Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him.

⁶ He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress; I will not be shaken.

⁷ My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

⁸ Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge. - Psalm 62:5-8

In these villages we build homes for refugees and dig well for the refugees. These refugee camps are safe for refugees, and people are well relieved in Christ's Love.



A New Refugee Village

(This is a new additional evangelism strategy for ACS. Most of these refugees are Buddhists, not Christians, so in each new village: 1. We buy the land. We dig a well and create a sanitation system for the village. 2. We build a "Community Center"/Church building. 3. We put a church planter in the village supported by ACS for several years to evangelize and pastor this new group of people. 4. We place a school teacher who graduated from one of our Bible Colleges in the village to teach elementary children, to stabilize them and help the village be at peace. The refugee children are outside of the public school system and so will not receive a public education in the refugee village. 5. And we help secure bamboo for them to build the housing structures to live. This complete package is needed to re-establish these Internally Displaced People and help them rebound from the traumatic experiences they have just gone through. Jesus is the greatest need they have! Our love for them in this way allows for the gospel message to make sense as they are sorting out their new life in a new place with new people.)



A New Well

2. LEADERSHIP SEMINARS IN THAILAND

Jesus said, The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray therefore the Lord of the Harvest to send out LABORERS into His harvest." Matt: 9:37-38. There are many Christians, but a few disciples will pay the price, obeying the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus and "GO OUT" in the new mission field, to the most challenging places, villages and reach new unreached tribes. They face many hardships, attacks, barriers, dangers, disturbances, trials and working among battle ground. God is faithful and protecting us from this challenging world as Jesus said, **"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" Matt. 28:20.**



Simon

A. 19th Golden Triangle Leadership Seminar - After four years of pandemic we were able to restart! IDES (International Disaster Emergency Services) provided funds and medical kits to Evangelists to heal the people's physical, mental and spiritual. Tasanee, our teammate was the coordinator. Many friends are discouraged, dried up, becoming weak, feeble, fragile and about to give up. So, it is important to plan our strategy to retreat from the battle ground and equip the weapons again to go back to the new mission field fight. We call back all the fellow soldiers from the front battle ground and give opportunity to recharge, revive, relax, restore, refresh by the Living Word of God, fellowship and praying for each other. It was a great blessing to be a partner with IDES for many decades to help emergency needs in the mission fields to show God's Love and sowing the seed of Love.



Golden Triangle Seminar

We conducted "LEADERSHIP IN GOD'S WAY" for four days January 16 – 19, 2024 at **Maesai**, near the Golden Triangle in Northern Thailand and four days at **Maesot** in southern Thailand on January 22 – 25, 2024. Over 400 Leaders attended the two seminars and were well recharged. *(About 85% of the attendees came over from Myanmar.)*

We sent them back to the new mission field to bear more fruits.

PAUL SAID: "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building." ACTS 3:6-9



IDES Team

Thank you, IDES Team: David, Randy, Terry, Jeff, BG, Dr. Joe Putting and Kent Odor (ACS) and Mike Flinchum (Professor and Missionary) for your dedication and coming to mission field to equip, encourage our fellow brothers.

B. Maesot Leadership Seminar was a great impact to reach refugees. Many tribal leaders joined the seminar. *(This program was a repeat of the northern seminar for the evangelists along the southern border. In addition to the ACS evangelists, guests came from two UN sponsored Refugee camps of 40,000 and 50,000 about 50 and 100 miles away that have Christian movements happening in them. About thirty Christian leaders from those camps also attended this seminar.)* We also had a Futbol (Soccer) Tournament at night for fellowship. The Mark team was the champion of The IDES Futbol Cup (The four teams were: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John -KO)

You all came to water and then God makes it grow and multiply and expand God's Kingdom. Thank you, IDES team, for your contribution of funds and your presence for this leadership seminar!



Maesot Leadership Seminar



IDES Futbol Cup



Youth Worship Leaders



Leaders Hungry for Encouragement

C. The Jesus Film Project. At both seminars, a new open door provided by the fighting to reach refugees was presented to the groups. With funds from the ACS matching gift initiative over Christmas, computer tablets loaded with the Jesus Film and other Christian videos in Burmese were offered by ACS to both Seminars. Receiving a tablet had a cost: Every person who would take a tablet would commit to show the Jesus film to 25 refugee groups and then present the Gospel message to lead them to believe in Jesus and follow him. At both seminars many willingly responded to that challenge! **108 evangelists** signed up to do that good work.



Watching the Jesus Film

Those tablets are in the process of being loaded and shipped to Chiangmai, Thailand to be distributed in April. In addition, three large-group solar powered video projectors provided by Good News Productions International for larger group presentations of the Jesus Film were given to three Burmese Evangelism Committees. The first report has just come in that the first experience with the projector was very good and there were decisions for Christ and two baptisms. God is at work! – Kent

3. EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE

Ah Phu Sein was born with a cleft palate in Putao, a remote area and could not drink mother milk. There is no surgeon there. They are poor farmers and unable to take the baby to Mandalay hospital, 600 miles far. After one and half year they traveled to Mandalay to get treatment, but it costs about US \$2,000. The parents could not sleep and requested us to help. We raised US \$1,000 in Myanmar and IDES helped US \$1,000 and well-done operation. Now he is able to drink milk and food. Thank God. God is master planner and in control. Jesus said, "When I was sick, you looked after me" Matt: 25:36



Ah Phu Sein after Surgery

4. OBEYING THE GREAT COMMISSION

After sharing God's Love and the Good News to refugees, IDPs and new tribes, many accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior. As Jesus' great commission, we baptized them in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. The Disciples go out, reach the unreached, hopeless refugees and give them HOPE IN CHRIST and baptize them after believing and accepting Jesus Christ as Savior!

WORDS OF THANKS AND CHALLENGES

Dear friends, I am deeply appreciated for your prayer support, partnership, and cooperation in expanding God's Kingdom.

- A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others. Proverb 11:25
- Lord Jesus himself said: It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35
- Let's not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap the harvest if we do not give up!" Galatians 6:9

Let's continue serving our best for the Lord when we have times. May God continue to bless you, strengthen you. Your fellow Laborer in Christ's Service, - Simon



Robinson Mana — President of Myanmar Bible Institute (MBI) in Central Myanmar



Robinson Mana —
MBI President

1. MBI Graduation and 40th Anniversary and Bible Seminar...

- This year, we have 21 students who graduated from Myanmar Bible Institute. 3 of them would like to continue their study at MBI. 82% of our graduates go to the field. Wow! Before they walked to graduation, we had an exit interview. We asked them some theological questions, doctrinal questions, ministerial questions, and etc. They all were qualified for the ministry. We are so thankful to God for having these great future leaders that we had a chance to train at MBI.
- This year we celebrated our 40th year as a college. At our graduation celebration, we had a Bible Seminar for students and alumni. There were (264) in attendance. This seminar was very meaningful at this much hard time. We all can see what the Lord has done during suffering in Myanmar. Our mind goes back to the Old Testament time when Moses led the Israelites in the desert. Brian Jobe from Compass Christian Church in Arizona, James Gonzalez and Justin Johnson got involved in the teaching sessions on our campus. They did great jobs. Anyhow, our God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Praise God!
- In deepest appreciation, we conferred Doctor of Divinity to our old leaders: Graham Dakum Pi, Shemyan Pung, Khuah Sang, Shikun Pungram and Yohan Mana. We believe that gratitude toward our old leaders is to receive blessings from God who ordained them. They all had tears in their eyes. So did we. I feel so good for them. Yes, we are fellow servants of the Lord.



MBI Graduating Class 2024



Brian Jobe Teaching from the USA via Zoom



Shemyan Pung
Teaching

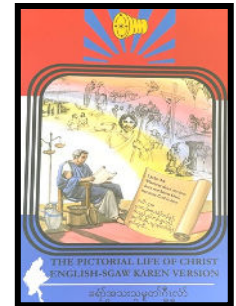
2. Jesus Pictorial Book Translation:

I have been able to translate the Jesus Pictorial book in Burmese offered by brother Justin Johnson (LaVerne's sister, Ruth Morse Johnson's grandson). We printed in Myanmar and shared 800 books with unbelievers so far. It works very effectively. We will continue to share the rest of the books in summer outreach.

- *(The Pictorial Life of Christ project was initiated by Justin's grandfather — Johnny Johnson—who mortgaged his farm to pay for the first publications in Mandarin Chinese and Khmer Cambodian languages. It was published by Don DeWelt at College Press in Joplin, Missouri. Justin inherited the publication rights and the templates and is currently publishing this again in five new Burmese languages to use in refugee evangelism.)*



Sharing Jesus Pictorial Book



Pictorial Life of
Christ

3. Additional MBI Mission Outreach News...

- **Construction at MBI:** Our new girls' dorm is on construction. The ground floor of three stories will be for rent to the nearby Pin Oo Lin University student girls so that we can earn some income for MBI. We will also build friendships to share the gospel with them in our safe environment. We would like to use these funds for supporting staff members. The next two floors will be for MBI ladies. We need **\$25,000** for finishing the construction. Keep us in your prayer circles please.
- **Christmas Outreach:** For this past Christmas, we went to Hindu communities. As we all know that Hindus have a caste system. That is why we tried to cook rice by ourselves to avoid division so that all people can eat together. Our students performed some Christian action songs. In the meantime, I delivered an evangelistic sermon. Also, we were able to feed a little over 300 people. That was wonderful. God is good.



Evangelistic Preaching among the Hindus

Thank you so much for your constant prayers and financial support. We need you. Without you we cannot do anything. Let's continually work together hand in hand for His kingdom. We love you all. Your fellow servant in Christ. - Robinson and family

Manasseh Fish — Founder of Taunggyi Bible College and Director of Taunggyi Christian Center



Manasseh Fish Preaching

1. **Graduations — Taunggyi Bible College** joyfully celebrated its 16th graduation on November 18, 2023, with eight students successfully completing their studies. Six of these graduates come from the Naga mountains.

Bethany Theological College (In Putao) marked its 27th graduation on November 28, 2023, with seventeen students graduating. We believe that this will significantly contribute to enhancing the ministry in Northern Myanmar.



The TBC Faculty and Students

2. **Naga Evangelists** — We are excited to share the inspiring efforts of our Naga evangelists who are working to bring positive change to the lives of the Naga animists who worship various spirits.

A. This past November, Mr. Ah Kaung, one of our dedicated Naga evangelists, experienced a joyous moment with eleven baptisms of new Naga converts.

B. In December, Mr. San Linn, another committed evangelist, also celebrated seven baptisms of new converts. San Linn is someone who passionately engages in mission trips to Naga non-believers' villages, spreading the message of hope.



San Linn Giving Baptism

3. **Naga Christian Convention** — The Naga churches joined forces for an unforgettable Christmas Convention this past Christmas at the Nyi Shawng village where Mr. Timothy and his wife are ministering. Timothy shared that this gathering became a powerful and impactful testimony of Christ's love and hope with the non-believers.



Naga Combined Christmas Convention

4. **One of the last 50 unreached tribes** — Mr. Mai Aung Myat, a Palaung graduate of TBC, has been dedicatedly spreading the gospel among the Palaung people residing in Eastern Shan State. According to Mai Aung Myat, he has welcomed around thirty new converts into the community.



Mai Aung Myat



New Palaung Believers from one of the last 50 unreached tribes

Words of Thanks...

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to IDES for generously providing funds to construct a **small hydro power plant for the Nam Tung Khuu villagers**. Your support has not only eliminated the need for them to purchase gas and candles to light the church and their homes but has also contributed to significant time and energy savings. This significantly enhances the overall quality of life for the villagers.

We also extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all of you who have been faithfully and generously supporting our family and TCC ministry. Your contributions have touched countless lives, and we are forever grateful for your ongoing commitment.

Please Pray - Our country's situation is getting worse and it becomes very difficult to go from one pace to another and thus, we can't do evangelism and conduct the seminars as before. So, please remember our country in your prayers.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS CAROL (ELLIOTT) MORSE

Beloved Lois Morse transitioned to Heaven on November 22, 2023. Lois as a young child wanted to be a missionary. In college she met LaVerne Morse who had grown up in China with his family, J Russell and Gertrude Morse. LaVerne and Lois married in 1953. In 1954, they sailed on the "Peter Maersk", a freight cargo ship. The journey took 3 months and she found the open seas a delight. Lois and LaVerne lived in Northern Burma from 1955 to 1964 with the rest of the Morse Family. They lived in Muladi, a small village at the foot of the Himalayan Mountains. Their home was a wooden house with a grass roof. She was a trouper, living in a remote part of the world with few amenities. As part of the team, she used her skills in typing to prepare many of the teaching projects. She also taught the people and the leaders to sing and lead others to sing in four-part harmony. The Hallelujah Chorus was among the songs she taught. It was an exciting time of growth for Christianity in that part of the world and she was glad to be part of it.

Throughout her life she inspired countless people with her inspirational writing and speaking. She had a deep desire to communicate the love of Jesus Christ, the assurance that he cares and the joy from obedience a person can experience by obeying the Word of God. She recently finished her most recent book (not yet published), Bread for the Journey – A 365 Day Devotional from Genesis to Revelation.

Lois was a also true inspiration to her family and friends. She was very devoted to God and was a living example to her five children, twenty grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren. Her children considered her to be both a role model and a trusted friend. She lived her days as an example of a woman fully surrendered and dedicated to please the Lord.

Psalms 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." II Corinthians 5:8 "To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." Lois looked forward to the time she would be with her Lord. We rejoice with her and we also miss her deeply.



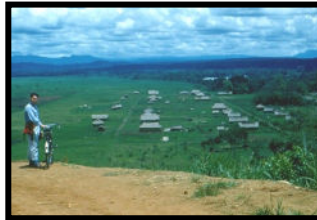
Leaving for Burma



Lois on the freighter



Lois leaving for Muladi



The village of Muladi



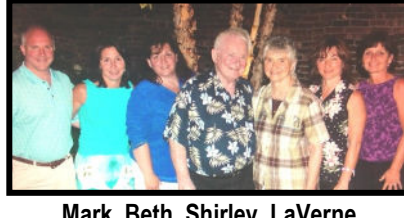
Lois and Esther



Morse family



Lois directing the Hallelujah Chorus



Mark, Beth, Shirley, LaVerne
Lois, Cindy, Marcia



LaVerne and Lois 2016

As a tribute to her life, in India, Myanmar and Thailand, spontaneous memorial services were held honoring her - the missionary who taught them to sing - and they sang, "The Hallelujah Chorus!"



Lois Morse memorial service in Yangon



Singing the Hallelujah Chorus

In Memory Of

Deloris Dixon

Weldon Dixon

Lois Morse

Jennifer Anthony
Vernon C. & Judith B. Bissell
John T. Boyd
Christ's Church Seekers
Janice L. Cummins
William & Peggy Elliott
Donna Fehl
John & Debra Hratko

Dale Victor & Evelyn Knowles
Tina McKinley
Kathryn E. & Thomas L. Moll
Ruth Odor
Shirley Shepherd
William & Roberta Thiemkey
Dot Yeaton

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