



Blessed are the Persecuted

Kent Odor

“Blessed (happy) are those who are persecuted because of righteousness for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:10

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

The life change is visible and amazing among the Christians in Myanmar. All around them are very difficult situations. The military is working to make life extraordinarily miserable for the hilltribe people. Over 1,000,000 citizens are now internally displaced people living in camps with help sometimes supplied by outsiders, and sometimes in just makeshift shelters by locals who used the bamboo of the jungle. The hot summer is leading into the first heavy rains of monsoon. Category 5 Cyclone Mocha (a Pacific hurricane) just destroyed the western coastal areas, and many churches and Christian villages were in the path of that terrible storm.

Yet, our brothers and sisters have taken heart, just as Jesus said and are living for Him. They are continuing take care of one another and others outside their camps. Evangelists are rising up to go to new areas and reach new groups of unreached people and there is a sweet fellowship that they are enjoying every time they can be together with like-minded fellows.

On this side of the ocean you as a supportive team have been very generous. The results are that much fuel is being added to their fires to address the new opportunities that have been afforded through the difficulties of these times. Significant training events for equipping have been given to key evangelists and leaders. Recently, an ACS board member gave a CHE (Community Health Evangelism) Training on Trauma Healing/Recovery to a group of 80 ACS evangelists and then to many others. Medical kits were also provided to those evangelists also.

Audio video equipment has been distributed and the Jesus Film is being shown to children and adults who have never seen a moving picture. *“One evangelist reached and baptized 20 new members of his Khongso tribe.”*



Twenty Baptized

“Joseph Naw showed *The Life of Jesus* to the slum, homeless and outcast peoples in Yangon after getting Tablets from ACS. He also showed short stories such as *THE STORY OF ZECHARIAH*, *STILL STORM*, *LAZARUS*, etc., and then he shared the Good News. This made **great** impact in the ministry. Many can see, hear, feel and accepted the power of God and His Grace. He baptized 15 new converts and planted a new Church. God's Kingdom is expanded. (Simon)”



Khongso Baptism

New missionaries graduated from Bible Colleges that have continued faithfully in their teaching through these troubles. Four new missionary/church planters and a school teacher have been added to the ACS supported team and the construction of a new “wooden” school/ church is being built in two refugee camps. These are just illustrations of the forward-going ministry.

Read with joy the stories in this **UPDATE**. Jesus said clearly that those persecuted for righteousness' sake would be blessed or be happy. The Lord is good and His Word is true. Persecution and trouble abound, but His truth and grace abound even more!



Bringing Hope

Remembering Ruth Margaret Morse Johnson — Kent Odor

Ruth Morse Johnson entered her reward on May 19, 2023. Ruth was the daughter of J. Russell and Gertrude Morse and the little sister of LaVerne Morse, the founder of ACS. She was the last living member of the Morse family who went as missionaries to Asia in 1921. She was born in China and returned as a teenager to the USA when China fell to the Communists in 1949. She was never able to return to the field. She attended Cincinnati Bible Seminary and married. She had five children.

After moving to Joplin, MO in 1971 as a single mother, Ruth earned her LPN and worked the night shift at St. John's Hospital. By day Ruth would engage in real estate with a newfound vision for business.

For the last 50 years she worked hard in developing real estate investments leasing and renting more than 40 properties. This income provided resources to enable her to be very generous in supporting mission endeavors which besides raising her children, were the focus of her heart.



Ruth Margaret Morse Johnson
1935-2023



Morse Family 1937

Though she wanted to follow in her family footsteps on the mission field, Ruth found great gratification in “sending, encouraging and underwriting missions.” Her efforts impacted thousands. Ruth leaves a legacy with five children who have an active faith in Jesus Christ woven into their hearts. Ruth's grandson Justin, along with his family, are moving to Thailand this Fall as missionaries working in the Myanmar/Thailand area. Our ACS board is deeply grateful to Ruth and her family for their generous support through all the years.

I'm Here in Heaven Because of You — Mark Morse

When Ruth Johnson was just 6 years old, the Japanese bombed her school! Ruth did one better—she became a “Kamikaze for Christ.” She committed to lay her life on the line for the Cause of Christ, and she dropped many bombs on the enemy for years, before making that last dive (which, for her, was UP ☺). When my father (LaVerne Morse, who was in the school being bombed along with her) went to heaven, I had the pleasure of “taking his place” by getting to talk with Aunt Ruth often on the phone. Ruth had the heart of Jesus—she loved God, and she loved people; and this was evidenced in her giving to both. Ruth freely gave; but, she wasn't happy with just giving—she wanted to know that there was FRUIT-BEARING as a result. Each visit we talked about the different projects she was involved in as well as new needs.



Joyful Believers in Myanmar

The radio broadcasts, for which she helped lay the foundation by purchasing the land needed for the studio, were reaching millions. When Marcia and I went to our hometown, Mulashidi, Myanmar, at Christmas, we found that 90% of the people listen every day to these broadcasts. With the popularity of social media today, we were astounded at the continued effectiveness of these broadcasts.

She cared about training leaders. She bought the land for a training center in Naga land, where the people were previously headhunters, but were now “preaching the Word” and winning other tribes. She funded 7 buildings at Taunggyi Bible College. When I went there many years ago, the bamboo housing for the men and women leaked much of the time, so she



A Joyful Believer

built very nice dorms for them. She wasn't just concerned about the spreading of the gospel to the millions, but she cared about the individual needs of those who would spread it and those who would receive it, just like Jesus did.

She cared for the sick, especially, providing the funds toward the Muladi Medical Clinic, which helps over 1500 individuals per month even today. In a self-sustaining effort in Northeast India, she bought a Tea Garden. This land not only provides for the needs of her dear friends, who are spreading the gospel, but hosts a church of 350 people. In Ruth's last months, when Kent and I showed pictures that Marcia had prepared for Ruth to see the fruit of different things she had done, she almost jumped out of her bed to hear about the fruit of the Tea Garden project. It was like she had gotten a new life. She has—an eternal one.



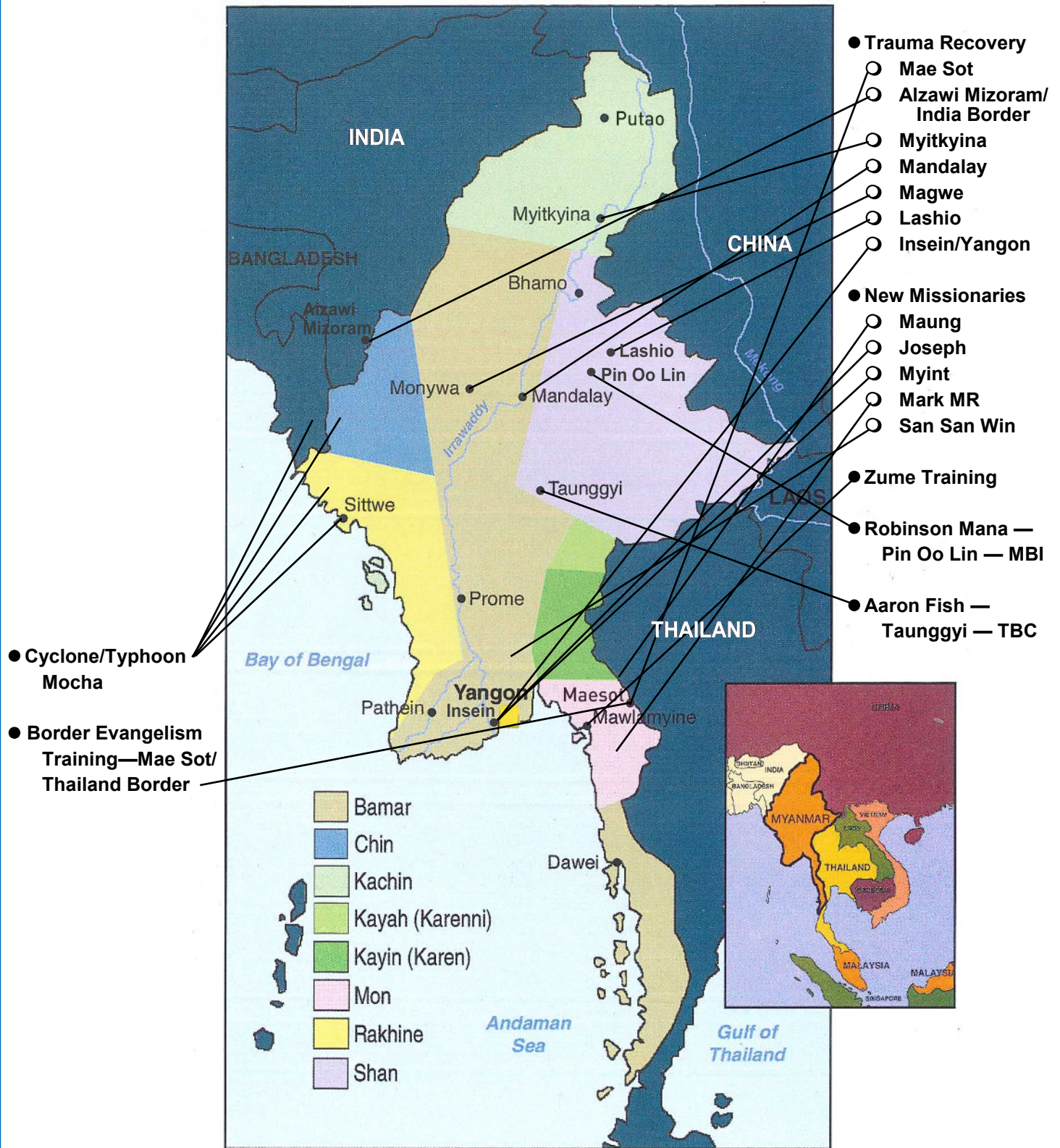
Mulashidi Clinic



Lisu Christians

On May 19th, 2023, Ruth “jumped” from her bed to meet her Savior in heaven, and, besides her mother and father and many others that she has known, there will be a throng, waiting in a very long line, saying something like, “Hi Ruth, I'm Phillip. This is the first time we've met, but I'm here in heaven because of you.” “Hi Ruth, I'm Phoebe, I'm here in heaven because of you....” Jesus said, “My Father's house has many rooms...I am going there to prepare a place for you” (Jn 14:1-3). Today, Jesus is saying to us, “I'm here in heaven because of YOU” (Jn 3:16).

Map of Myanmar with the Locations of the Updates in this Edition



Border Evangelists Training Seminar — Kent Odor

The first week in April was the first chance in almost 3 years that a gathering of evangelists came together face to face along the Myanmar/Thailand border in Thailand for training, encouragement and fellowship. All of them had been working primarily alone during that time with any connections with others coming only via the phone or internet. Evangelists and missionaries, including most of their spouses, participated in this event. It was a spiritually filling week of blessing for them. Worshiping together, scriptural teaching, a seminar on Trauma Recovery, watching the Jesus Film along with receiving the training and a computer tablet to use the Jesus Film in evangelism made up the week. They also received backpacks of medical supplies with the training to use the supplies. Eating together and storytelling filled in the cracks and made the time together refreshing.



Fellowship Eating Together

They all were able to return safely to their homes with a few escaping through a battle zone with actual bullets flying around them as the fighting was intense at the border. Your donations to the Jesus Film Project and our ACS general fund made this event possible for them. Thank you. This experience was priceless in its value of continuing missionary work. These photos are just a sample of those that are pouring in from their ongoing work of preaching and showing the Jesus Film.



Photos, top to bottom and left to right:
Distributing Tablets
Jesus Film with teacher Joel
Showing the Jesus Film
Watching the Jesus Film
Presenting the Gospel after watching the Jesus Film
Baptizing a new believer



ACS Has Been Active in “Trauma Recovery” Seminars

ACS has a board member who has been active for years in CHE (Community Health Evangelism) Seminars on several continents. CHE Seminars cover many subjects and easily crosses language and cultural boundaries in many countries. This kind of seminar has a “oral” mode of teaching/understanding and is very replicable to pass on the information to others who need to hear the information.

TRAUMA RECOVERY – Written by a Board Member

Myanmar has been overwhelmed with trauma for the past three years. We call these the “4-C’s”: Covid, Coup, Civil War, and now Cyclone Mocha. During the covid crisis, Myanmar was crippled by lack of hospital capacity and social reporting infrastructure. During the earliest phases of covid, India made global headlines because of the staggering death rates – but Myanmar undoubtedly matched



Cyclone Mocha Damage

India, except for the fact there was no organized reporting network to calculate totals. Then, during the height of the pandemic, Myanmar suffered a military coup, which has triggered a return to large scale civil war. Over 60% of the country is now considered an active combat zone, and there is no foreseeable end in sight.

On Mother’s Day Typhoon Mocha added to the chaos, bringing 155 mph winds and a 45 ft storm surge into the low-lying areas of Rakhine, Magwe, and Chin States. Again, there really isn’t any reporting infrastructure in place, and much of the flood zone lies outside the government control area, where various ethnic armies set the rules – so estimating casualties is difficult. But as reports trickle in, it is conservative to estimate fatalities of several hundred, and displacement (destruction of family shelter) of at least ¾ million people. Crops were destroyed, and most livestock drowned. Distribution of food, medicine, water filters and tarpaulins has become top priority for saving lives.



Distribution of Food

In the midst of this continuous trauma, a number of ministry organizations have partnered to provide a series of Trauma Recovery workshops where Biblical story-modeling is used to facilitate culturally appropriate methods of relieving grief and finding God’s purpose in the midst of chaos. Working in conjunction with the Golden Shores Initiative, and Multiplying Hope International, we (ACS) were able to present several Trauma Recovery “Vision Seminars” where we modeled a replication process which can be passed on via oral storytelling and group reenactment activities throughout grief-stricken communities.



The Trauma Recovery Seminar

These seminars were conducted in Mae Sot (Thailand), for dozens of ACS evangelists, Aizawl Mizoram for displaced refugees from Chin State, Myitkyina Kachin State, Mandalay, Magwe, Lashio, and Insein, all locations inside of Myanmar. During three of these workshops, leaders who attended reported their home villages had been bombed by the Air Force while they were away during the week of the seminar!



Teaching at the Trauma Recovery Seminar

Our work is not finished. These “Vision Seminars” merely introduce the concept that God has a plan which is now unfolding for the future. Together with our partner organizations, we continue to offer ongoing workshops in local languages or via Zoom when meeting in person is not practical or safe. The oral story replication model begins with the life of Joseph, as we examine the emotions he was suffering during betrayal by his family, human trafficking into Egypt, false allegations of sexual crime, neglect for years in Pharaoh’s dungeon, and finally rising to power – only to be confronted by the brothers who betrayed him.

We discover that Joseph was able to discern God’s purpose behind all this tragedy, and mentor his brothers into a journey of redemption! What does God have in store for the future leaders of Myanmar....? And how can we best position ourselves to equip, encourage and assist them as they mentor their brothers and sisters along this same path...?? Thank you for supporting ACS in this unfolding journey of redemption as our local ACS evangelists and church leaders prepare for the next phase of ongoing ministry!



Christians Worshiping while enduring hardship and trauma

New Missionaries Have Been Added to the ACS Team

New ACS supporters have made it possible to add workers to the existing team of missionaries and evangelists that are funded each month. Our ACS Mission statement reads: **Empowering Asian missionaries to reach the unreached, plant new churches and disciple believers.**

REPORT FROM SIMON THAUNG...

1. **Maung** became a refugee about 10 years ago. He was led to Christ and has been discipled by Moses since then. He escaped the fighting as a young man. He has now married and has a daughter. He completed the Monsoon Bible School that Moses led. He is planting a church along the border in Thailand in the May Saw Khe Buddhist village.



Maung Myint

2. **Joseph** is a graduate of EBI and has been evangelizing in San Pya village – in Min Gone Ward, (A slum suburb of Yangon for 7 years—beginning when he was a freshman in Bible College) He has established a growing house church and now with this support, will be able to work full time to reach these people and fully establish and nurture the church in this area.



Joseph Naw (left)

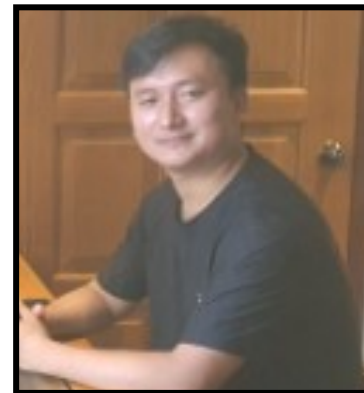
3. **Myint** is originally from India and was converted at the Church of Christ in Insein, Yangon. He graduated from the Monsoon Bible School in 2018. He is establishing a multi-tribal church in the Saw Bwa Gyi Kone, Insein district of Yangon that includes emigrants



Myint Lwin

from India and several other Burmese unreached groups.

4. **Mark MR** is from Putao. He is Rawang and finished Grace Bible College in Yangon led by James Kong. He has been a professor at EBI (Emmaus Bible Institute in Yangon and he has also been serving along the Thai/Burma border with MB Yohan, whose daughter he married in 2019. He is moving to Mon state and will be planting churches among the Mon tribe in SE Myanmar.



Mark Myo Ram

5. **San San Win** is a refugee from Rakhine State. San San Win was from the Mro Tribe. Her family became Christian after hearing the Good News from Rawang Evangelists coming from Putao in 1990. After finishing high school, she went to MBI-Myanmar Bible Institute and graduated in 2000. Then she went to serve God as a schoolteacher in Rakhine State. But her region become a battle ground in Rakhine State and she left all properties and moved into Hle Ku IDP camp. She continued teaching 40 children at Hle Ku IDP. She will be a paid co-worker with the church planter **U Kyaw Thein** in that camp.



Simon with San San Win in her class at the camp

Zume Training — Kent Odor

Zume is the Greek word for yeast. It is an internationally used video training curriculum to help evangelists become disciple making reproducers. It is DMM (Disciple-Making Movement Training). ACS has sponsored this training several times via Zoom calls with both USA and Asian leaders working together. Now it is being taught in Myanmar in Burmese and Mon. This time the training is sponsored by **TEAM Expansion** from Louisville, Kentucky. We are grateful for their partnership.



Zume Training Meal Time

Mark MR wrote this report.... *I am so blessed to share about Zume training with you. This is the first time we do training in Mon state by leading us (Church of Christ). And 7 Mon people attend this training. All are 20 Participants. This will be good seeds for the people of Myanmar especially for Mon people. God bless you.*



Zume Training in the Capital of Mon State

Report From Robinson Mana — President of Myanmar Bible Institute

Hello! This is a new chapter for this year indeed. Even though we cannot set up and predict everything but the Lord. Who can deny that our God is alive? He leads us in the green pastures every day in accordance with His unfailing love. Yes, He is good all the time.

Baptisms for the Summer: The baptism goal for this summer was to baptize 60. However, the Lord led us to baptized 104 persons. Some came to Christ at the evangelism trip and others at the Summer Youth Camps. Wow! It is really amazing. We can do nothing, but the Lord can!

MBI Graduation: We celebrated MBI graduation in the middle of February 2023. Totally 19 were graduated. 17 will go to the ministry. As usual, I challenge them that "How many of you will go to the field right now?" I am so happy that most of them make decision to go to the ministry. Yes, we teach these young people for the extension of His kingdom. Thank you, Lord, for sending these young ones to our college.



Baptism at Youth Camp



The MBI Students on Summer Mission



Robinson and the Youth Conference

Summer Youth Camps: I brought 15 students from MBI and held two youth camps and one Youth Bible Conference. I taught “WHO IS JESUS?” at two youth camps and “YOUTH AND MISSION” subject at youth conference. The attendees totaled 1,470. Many of young people responded our preaching. The sermon I taught was “Staying positive in this negative world.”

Water Project: As we are always seeking a good relationship with local churches, we normally do some social reform works with them. Accordingly, we did a water project in Ziwun village. We provided them water PVC pipes and all other equipment. Finally, they got a very clean water.



Collecting the Pipes



The Reward — Clean Fresh Water

My beloved friends! I would like to say thanks to you all. By your generous giving and prayers, my family and I can still do the ministry that God has assigned me. Thank you so much for your financial support and prayers. We appreciate that. In His Service, Robinson, and Family

Prayer Requests/Needs:

1. We are trying to roof our soccer field (because of monsoon rains). We need \$ 7,000.
2. I want to buy **EBSCOHOST** scholarly journal webpage which can join with MBI Website so that students and professors can browse and study from it. It will cost \$ 6,500. Pray for us in your prayer circles.
3. We will receive some new students at least 20 for this year. We need \$40 a month per student. This will cover foods, dormitory, library, and all school fees.
4. Please pray for the mission works in Myanmar in the midst of various persecutions.

Report From Aaron Ngwa — President of Taunggyi Bible College

Greetings from Taunggyi Bible College, Myanmar. I hope that all of you are doing well under God's grace and care. I wish that each day of your life has been filled with blessings, joy, and peace. I'm writing you today to give you updates on Taunggyi Bible College. My staff and I are preparing for the 2023 academic year. And, we have already been contacted by more than 20 potential new students. One of them is a non-Christian young man. God has been good!



TBC Graduation — December 2022

On Nov 5th, 2022, the college conferred degrees to a total of eight students. Through the past two years of the Covid pandemic and political turmoil, these students endured hardships, but came back to the college to continue their studies. Some of them have already started their ministries right after the graduation.

The 2021 academic year was a new life God has breathed in into the ministry of Taunggyi Bible College. The 2021 academic year saw the highest new student enrollment in the history of the college. For the first time in the history of the college, a non-Christian student enrolled at the college and later received baptism as a symbol of accepting Jesus and her new life in Christ. All praises and glory to God.

And my heartfelt gratitude to everyone that has supported us throughout the 2022 academic year. Your support and donations have helped us feed, accommodate and teach the Bible to many young minds coming from different regions, cultures and languages of Myanmar. You are not only changing the lives of many young students at the college but also building His Kingdom in Myanmar. Thank you very much. -Aaron Ngwa

The First Convert Baptism at TBC: Zin Zin Zyaw's family was against her going to a Bible college to study the Bible. Her father is an unbeliever who is vehemently against her decision. She had to come to Taunggyi Bible College without his knowledge. It took a while for her to understand the Gospel as she grew up in a family that worships both Buddhism and Christianity. She took the baptism along with her 10 friends on 11th November, 2022. She is the first ever non-Christian student to study the Bible at the college and took the baptism upon the decision to accept Jesus Christ as her Savior and Lord.



First TBC Student to be Converted and Baptized at College



TBC Students Celebrating a New Sister in Christ

One Graduates Story:

After graduating from Taunggyi Bible College last December, **Daniel** has gone back to Maing Hsu to start pastoring and evangelizing people in a rural tribal village named "Pan Nyaung". His ministry is a



Daniel Ministering to Animists in Pan Nyanung Village



Daniel

pioneering effort to evangelize the 150 households in the village. A few tribal families have started coming to the church, including many who are interested in accepting Jesus Christ as the savior and hearing the Gospel. In addition to the ministry at Pan Nyaung village, Daniel is also traveling from one animistic tribal village to another to evangelize the animists.

Prayer Requests/Needs: Ever since the coup on Feb 2nd, 2021, the country's economy is going down the hill. With no sign of relief in the foreseeable future, the price of commodities, energy and food are increasing ever. It is taking a toll on the college as well. We, the leadership at the college, have been praying for an increase in scholarship and general operation fund of the school to continue providing food and accommodation for the students. Please kindly consider supporting us to help us accommodate, feed and teach the students. Thank you very much.

ACS is Involved in the Cyclone Mocha Relief Efforts

In partnership with IDES and funds from the ACS general fund, Simon has led a delegation providing relief to those in despair from the devastating effects of the Cyclone on May 14. This brief report and photos came to us June 6. Please be in prayer as the Gospel is shared in the midst of this time of rebuilding and restoration to normal living.

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Myanmar Mission field.

Our team is serving rescue and relief mission trip to the victims of Cyclone Mocha at western Burma, Bangladesh border. We need emergency food, shelters, tarps, and medicines. It will be great if you share these needs to churches. Need your prayer support.

Blessings - Simon



In Memory Of

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phone: 513.923.0928 or
e-mail: kent.odor@gmail.com

Last Word, God's Word

⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. — 2 Corinthians 12:9-11