



# NORTH BURMA CHRISTIAN MISSION

(Now based in Thailand) Field Update from Ron and Pat Morse in THAILAND

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END of JUNE - 2015 REPORT

## Dear Friends, Family and Partners in Christ,

It hardly seems possible that we are half-way through this year. As we review these past months we realize that much forward movement has been accomplished for the church on many fronts. At times we are perplexed at how best to share insights of what takes place here – concisely, yet still informative, so you, who help make the work here possible, are kept abreast of crucial information even as we *keep on moving ahead*.

### PROGRESS UPDATES AND NEW ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY

There have been a number of new tasks which we want to share with you but first we want to thank person/church who shared in a number of past special needs or concerns which we've mentioned during the past 6 months. These include the following :

- ❖ *Rice for the PK Youth Home for this school year has been supplied;*
- ❖ *Deborah, the minister's widow-- her home construction is completed;*
- ❖ *Food for a number of aged, elderly ministry workers was provided for;*
- ❖ *Communion tray project sponsors helped with 1400 trays so far;*
- ❖ *Reading glasses supplied to hundreds of believers in critical need;*
- ❖ *Solar lamps supplied to 200 more church workers in distant regions;*
- ❖ *Chapel roofing assistance sent to 8 areas, 2 others also assisted;*
- ❖ *Two electric rice cookers & utensil given to 2 youth homes so far;*
- ❖ *55 Kids at the PK Youth Home supplied with umbrellas & notebooks*
- ❖ *The Workshop at our Bible school finished-(no electricity installed yet);*
- ❖ *A number of printing projects completed and being used in churches;*
- ❖ *Various other smaller needs at the many youth homes provided for;*
- ❖ *A special gift enabled us to secure an adjoining acre at the Prao Hostel;*
- ❖ *Teaching tools--charts, books- supplied to evangelists; 63 decisions.*
- ❖ *Special gift to assist Pat on her trip to Italy to care for her mom.*
- ❖ *Help received for the parsonage being built at Huay La Hey village.*

These are just some of the more identifiable efforts that we've had occasion to mention over these past months-and which have been mostly completed as of this time. More updates on these will be shared as we can in the days to come – where relevant to do so.

In addition to the above, there is much more that has been done too, some of which we will share about below. For each enabling gift we thank you. Many of you send non-specified gifts – which is really good because that is what allows all the rest of the work to be attended to--most of which we do not “*specify*” in our letters as a particular need. Whether for a project, need or for gifts given “*for where most needed,*” we thank each person for sharing.

### A NEW PROJECT UNDERWAY: BBTC KITCHEN RENOVATION

In 2004 we broke ground to establish the Bethany Bible Training Center (BBTC) near the current Bethany Christian Village (BCV). A total of 8 initial buildings were erected over those first 2 years. In the 11 years since then very little more has been done at the campus. We did add a *lean-to* section at the back end of the dining hall for open air cooking (using firewood). That hastily put up lean-to finally stopped “*leaning*” and was ready to collapse. The tin roofing we'd used had rusted through. So after discussion



utilized. The retaining wall and fill-dirt work is now nearly done & work is



shifting to the extension roof to cover the now open space (left). In the 11 years since the campus was first built, all of the staff have had a chance to consider *what works best* and what is needed as we address this special need—considering various limitations of space and funds of course. In the following images you will see the land as it was before the retaining wall was built, the process involved for it to come together and the nearly finished phase, as it is right now.



CLEARING THE DROP-OFF DRAINAGE AREA



A SOLID CEMENT FOUNDATION FOR THE WALL



THE RETAINING WALL IS UP, BACK-FILL DIRT EXPANDS SPACE & THE STRUCTURE GOES UP



The reclaimed sloping area of land 8' high is now reclaimed after being back-filled. The retaining wall stops all erosion, enables a cleaner and more convenient work space for taking care of even larger crowds during conventions & seminars. But we still need a bit of help finish off this vital facility – it's a huge blessing!

## A NEW CHURCH PLANT IS LAUNCHED IN A PROVINCIAL CITY

Some months back we were approached about a need to help start a new church in an area just inside a near-by country. This need came to us via a Christian worker named Samuel who'd moved to that area a few years ago. He'd been trying to join forces with other believers but had not succeeded – until he met up with one of our teams returning from an outreach trip. He shared his vision with them and that is when they began to discuss the possibilities. There were five families of believers who now were meeting there and if a meeting place could be established, as many as **20 more families** were expected to rally and become a strong Christian community. Their vision has been to reach out to the growing numbers of people *slowly settling* on the outskirts of this provincial



cross-roads city. The proposed church site is at the location above, left. There is a university campus just 3 minutes walk away from this site – directly across the dirt road and up a gentle incline—the campus buildings of which can be seen in the tree line of the above right photo. If **location** is ever a factor, then this is the place to be at. The potential for gospel outreach is excellent!. Until now we've not had **a strong local leader** to head up the critical work needed, but with Samuel there, the whole perspective is changed.

A small plot of land has been secured for a chapel at the above site. While not very large it will work for a chapel, a parsonage and maybe even a dorm for college students down the line. This is a **cross-roads town**, with many ethnic groups converging here for schooling and seeking work. The primary focus will be to target 6 people groups: **Lahu, Lisu, Ahka, Shan, Burmese & Chinese** initially.

At this time the first order of business is to finalize the property status, then explore ways to start building a chapel, parsonage and other ministry efforts. This is a forward-looking vision and we wanted to alert you to be praying for this new frontier of outreach that is being carefully and prayerfully launched. We've gotten just a few pictures so far to share here (shown above) but hope to get more as work moves ahead. As this is a brand-new work, there will be few believers to “carry the ministry load” just yet. Pray with us for the resources needed, as this new endeavor begins.

## NEW MEMBERS ARE ADDED TO THE CHRISTIAN FAMILY

We've often stated that the purpose of all our efforts here is for reaching people with the Gospel message and training them. So it



was a great delight that we were able to witness the baptism of 5 young people last week. This took place **just after** our **monthly pastor's conference**, which was hosted by the **Mukhoto village church** (left). We had an outdoor

baptismal for these young people who had made their decision and wanted to be immersed into Christ in accordance to Scripture.



They had been taught for some time by Ohmiah, the pastor at Mukhoto. He knew they were ready for this next step in their lives.

## CURRENT SPECIAL CONCERNS, NEEDS & PRAYER REQUESTS

**1. Berea Bible College** (Burma) reports they have 42 new students. Most of these come from distant areas and arrive with very little means to buy the most basic needs. They have asked us if we could help with two special needs: **\$600** for basic medical supplies to have on hand to self-treat most of the daily needs (meds available over there if they have funds to buy it) and **\$600** for buying candles, toiletries, mosquito nets, changes of clothes – core supplies – for these young people from distant regions to use over the coming year. All items can be bought at their local market *if they had the funds for this*. **Total requested need: \$1200.**

## **2. Bethany Bible Training Center Kitchen finishing work (previous page)**

So far the core foundational work--with the retaining wall – has cost \$3000 and was provided through special gifts from many of you. However we find we still have a ways yet to go before the new kitchen is “functional” – putting in cement flooring, sinks, work tables, dishes storage cabinet, plastering, electrical stuff and some paint. Based on what we can calculate, **\$3300 is still needed**. If this is something you would feel led to assist with, or towards this of any amount, please know every gift *will be applied* to what still remains to be done. If funds should permit, a fridge too, needs to be replaced as well as an electric rice cooker! May our heavenly Father be honored in and through every endeavor as we strive to equip and empower those dedicated to serving Him.

**3. Family Concerns:** Pray for Pat as she's still in Italy with her mom. If you recall, Franca broke her femur and though healed, needs a lot of help to regain mobility. Pat's presence was urgently needed to fill in during a time when others had to be gone. During the month she's been there Pat has seen much progress in her Mom but there is still much therapy needed. Pray for Franca and Pat both, that by the end of July good mobility will be restored and Pat can return as planned (*it is our visa renewal time here*).

There is so much more but will close for this time. Please know it is always of great encouragement to us to hear from you. You are daily in our prayers too. Your prayers for us and the work here is of utmost importance as well. Thank you also for your continued sharing through your gifts that enable every facet of local and regional ministry, as we push ahead. Serving our Lord with you,

**Ron and Pat Morse and Justin**