



Banfe Family Newsletter February/March 2021



“Yea, so have I strived to preach the Gospel, not where Christ was named.” (Romans 15:20)

PRAY FOR MYANMAR: BLOODY COUP, MANY KILLED IN CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

Myanmar is witnessing the nightmare, a bloody military coup against the lawfully elected democratic regime. The Burmese people are staging a largely non-violent protest against the illegitimate junta and hundreds have been killed, including dozens of innocent children, slaughtered by their own leaders. Added to this is a severe economic meltdown bringing increased misery to one of Asia’s poorest countries. The civil disobedience movement has been just nominated for the Nobel Prize, which said that *“The CDM members are risking arrests, torture and death, yet have chosen to fight for their freedom through labor strikes, peaceful assembly and non-violent resistance”*. My heart is broken for these the special people God has put in our hearts. This is not the first time though for this country with one of the longest civil wars in history. It is a repeat of 1961, 1972 and the Saffron revolution of 2007. In all of these, their own government turned their weapons on the people they were meant to protect. *But, in all this we believe God will and is opening a great door and effectual for the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Corinthians 16:9) in Burma and among the Burmese people worldwide. Our God is sovereign and can and does overrule evil.*

EVANGELICAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

We spoke to you last time about our Christmas program that went on even in the face of Covid, which reached over 100 families with the Gospel.

Now, with tears of joy, we can tell you of some of the fruit. The lady in the picture to the right, reached by the Christmas program, is an older Buddhist lady who began attending the Mae Sot church. The other picture is of a Buddhist family, reached by the program, which has professed faith in Christ and will be baptized in April. We are looking forward to showing you more fruit that will abound to the glory of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ as visits and discipling continues.



BURMESE ESL/THROUGH THE BIBLE

We have had over 100 graduates from the school so far. Our students are made up of young college age professionals and villagers, about half of whom are Buddhist and Muslim, and the rest made up of largely unsaved cultural Christians with no relationship with Christ. What is phenomenal is that all during Covid they were at home diligently working on their Bible and English assignments. And to our surprise many kept working on their coursework even as the violence raged in the streets of Burma. I like to think that the teaching of the Gospel gave them a hope to hold on to, when all else was failing. I know of one of our students who was detained by the military and others in dire need of help during this crisis. We are already helping this young Buddhist graduate through our “Myanmar Lifeline” project. *Blessing:* God put it on the heart of a godly Christian man to help fund the development of our intermediate course through the Gospel of John. He is providing financing for all the conversation videos to be professionally shot with actors by a Christian film-maker. Many Buddhist graduates of our beginning course are waiting to start this new course. We have already finished the Christian portion of the course and look forward to broadening the understanding of, and discipling, scores of Buddhist graduates from our basic course.

MYANMAR LIFELINE!

We are excited to announce “Myanmar Lifeline”/aka. “Save Myanmar”, our program to evangelize within Burma during the political crisis. *1st Phase:* We are setting up our underground network in Yangon to bring the love of God with rice/food to sustain their bodies and the Gospel to bring them the Bread of Life. We have three Christian leaders who will risk their lives to visit, assess needs, and teach the Gospel to these families in Yangon. We need to print Gospel booklets, Deity of Christ books (they are contraband) and to send these Christians out on bicycles to deliver on a weekly basis bringing a Gospel message each visit for these needy families. But the price for paper has skyrocketed. And we need to purchase 3 bicycles for \$135-140 each, with baskets to carry food and Gospel material. And we need funds for food and other necessities. In the *2nd phase*, as refugees hit the borders, we are ready to begin visits to the camps on both sides of the border with Bibles, Gospel material, preaching, food, clothing, encouragement - with the love of Christ. Eventually we want to establish churches in the camps. The Thai government has already set up a camp in Mae Sot in the central region for 46,000, and 3 in the south. Sherrie and I plan to reach the southern camp in Chumpon and we have a team ready at the Thai border in Mae Sot. We currently need around \$5,000-10,000 to fully fund this project. Above is a picture of our partner pastors and wives in Mae Sot.



MTB BURMESE RADIO

For 2020 we have 709 listeners in 49 countries who listened for 16,500 minutes. Since January 1st of this year our radio station Burmese language sermons have had 649 downloads from 18 countries. And in the just the last 14 days the station has reached 45 listeners for 641 minutes. And they are all listeners to programs which exalt God and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

We are so thankful to partner with you in the work of God and for your love and support. We love and pray for you all.

Mission Agency: Macedonia World Baptist Missions

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