



MATURING IN CHRIST

ACS empowers Asian missionaries to reach the unreached, plant new churches, and disciple believers.

He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. -Colossians 1:28

For 60 years, the Christians in Northern Myanmar have been constantly and consistently developing and sending out evangelists to different parts of the country. Their spiritual maturity and commitment, especially evident in the wake of all the turmoil that has been part of their country, is an inspiration to those on the outside looking in. Jesus' commission to his followers "to obey" all of his commands is quantified through the teaching of the Apostle Paul when he makes it clear the ultimate spiritual goal is being "mature in Christ."

Spiritual Maturity is not a product of age but it usually doesn't happen quickly. A famous Bible teacher said it like this, "Spiritual Maturity is living life 'naturally' as if Jesus was living in your skin." The thoughts you have are the same as Jesus would have. The things your eyes focus on and see are the things Jesus would look at if he were in your skin. The words that are spoken from your mouth are the kind of words Jesus would say if he were

in your skin. All of that would happen without you trying or thinking about it. A spiritually mature person would live 'naturally' as if Jesus were in their skin.

Many of our brothers and sisters in SE Asia live naturally very much like Jesus. It is at least partially the result of generations of

Christian leaders who have practiced what they preached and obeyed the Lord's commands as they understood them and taught them to others. In this newsletter we will pass on stories from several key leaders who are not showing off, but just naturally living and doing what the Lord has guided them to do. Because of that, the expansion of the Kingdom of God continues. It is exciting to see and hear the work that is going on to this day. Be encouraged and challenged to join the work of God in your life in whatever that means. It is the best life and it is for all. Blessings.

— Kent Odor



ACTIVITIES IN MULASHIDI, PUTAO — Simon Thaung

Since 1950, the Morse family set up Mulashidi village as a Christian Mission Center after fleeing from Communist China. This summer 2022, Christian leaders conducted a Leadership Seminar, Christian Convention, Youth Camp, and short-term Bible School. The greatest celebration of all Christian Conventions was in 2000 with over 60,000 Christians joined including LaVerne Morse.

We had a big challenge to gather as Covid-19 outbreak in our country in 2020. The Christians are longing and eager to be together, fellowship, and worship God with friends. These dreams came true in this summer. The government permitted us to gather and



Leadership Seminar

worship freely. The Christian leaders took this opportunity and planned to conduct Youth Camp and Leadership Seminar and Conference. Mulashidi Christian Church was the host and provided rice, cow, pig, chicken and funds from local churches and individuals.

1. Summer Youth Camp

800 Youths attended this summer youth camp. There were many activities such as devotion, worshipping God, bible study, playing games, dance, action songs and singing contest. New music band, led by Lazarus Fish, who played music and taught new Gospel songs and played at night concert. Our team was able to do 'Drug Use Prevention' activities and encourage 'Drug Awareness' and not to try drug. The Christian youths were totally enjoyed and strengthened in Christ. They will be mature and growing in Christ and be leaders in the near future.



Youth Camp at Mulashidi

2. Training of Trainers Seminar for Preschool Teachers

My daughter Anna led this program. She brought many teaching aids from Thailand and was able to share with the teachers.



Left: Teacher and Student
Below: TOT to Preschool Teachers
Right: Anna Thang and Preschool Teachers



3. Christian Leadership Seminar

The Christian Leadership Committee led this leadership seminar, hosted by Mulashidi Christian Church. The local churches contributed funds for three meals a day for a week. 500 Christian leaders, elders, pastors, evangelists, youth leaders, Sunday school teachers attended this seminar.

Professor Joshua Leme, Lazarus Fish, Jeremy Leme, Wayezi and Joseph Gwa taught the Leadership and Bible Study Lessons. Our team taught 'How to do prevention of Drug use' in our churches and drug awareness.

I am glad to share that we have become 100% self-sufficient, self-sustaining, and self-supporting among our local churches in Northern Myanmar. Praise the Lord! God's Kingdom is expanded by these faithful servants. We need your prayer support to continue to serve our King faithfully and accomplish the greatest task He COMMANDED TO GO TO REACH ALL THE NATIONS (TRIBES).

Thank you for your collaboration for God's Kingdom expansion. May God continue bless you. – Simon

UPDATES FROM MIAO, ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

In the early 1960's, the Morses became aware of an enclave of unreached Lisu who had landed in a fertile valley in Northeastern India. They continued their natural animistic religion and ancestor worship. LaVerne Morse sent a missionary team from Mulashidi to move there to preach the gospel to that group. That team was successful, and the entire population accepted the message and became Christians. The group now is just under 10,000.

Four young men chose to leave that valley and go to Bible College in Central India. Two of them were sons of the pioneer Lisu couple that were the missionaries to the group. All of them excelled at their studies and remained at the college as teachers for several years after graduation. A time came when they all felt a calling to return to the region to begin evangelizing the unreached tribes. After receiving counsel from LaVerne Morse, the four friends relocated themselves to Miao. It is a larger village with some access to the rest of the state and almost at the end of the road before the border of Myanmar.

The Indian State of Arunachal Pradesh is a 'restricted' area of India because the borders are sensitive next to China, Myanmar, and Bhutan. There are 120 unreached tribes in this region. It is a last frontier of evangelism with very little influence for the Gospel because outsiders are not allowed to enter. Only the Lisu tribe is a 'reached' tribe and so they are providing missionary leadership to this state. The team has begun missionary works in five of the tribes and now there are some reproducing churches. -KO

1. Greetings from Nathaney, Stephen, Philip and Barnabas

Through your financial supports and prayers, we are all doing well along with the Lord's Ministry. We hope the same with you all as well. As per the Lord's guidance, we are happy to share some of the works being done in recent months in this part of our State.

1. **New church building:** As the church members grow up in numbers, the old original church could not hold together for worship, hence a new church building was completed and inaugurated on 4th December 2021. In this building project we are blessed to receive funds from the local church members, and families as well as brothers and sisters from abroad especially from Thailand, Australia, and USA for which we are very grateful to them. May our gracious God shower untold blessings upon all who contributed towards this project.



New Miao Christian Church



First Service

2. **Baptism:** On January 2, 2022, Sangita Chakma, a young lady of three kids got baptized. She is from Punyabhumi village. Again, on January 16, 2022, two young boys Ritu Chakma and Bikram Chakma of the same village, accepted Jesus as their Savior, where Pastor Kent Odor visited when he came to Miao. We praise and thank God for these two young boys. Very soon they will be given Bible training in the training center we hope to begin in 2022.

(The Chakma Tribe is a large unreached tribe of low caste Hindus. They have received the gospel with joy but are very generally poor and illiterate. The team has now trained several young men to be preachers and the team is excited because these two young men who are now part of the future of hope for this tribe. -KO)



Two Youths Were Baptized Today

3. **Seminar for all Pastors:** (6-9th December 2021) Right after the inauguration of the new church building, four days seminar was conducted in the same church. Altogether 21 preachers attended from various churches where counseling subject was the main focused of the seminar.



Seminar for Pastors

4. **Shidee Circle Churches of Christ Deacons Training:** Leadership training was hosted by Miao Christian Church from 28-31st March 2022. Deacons & deaconesses from 10 different churches came.

5. **Two Days Seminar in Higi Village:** A six-member team from Miao went to Higi Bagra village among the Adi Christians and conducted two days seminar for preachers, deacons and youths from 19-20th May 2022. Besides we had the opportunity to visit a few villages, encouraging and praying for the sick people. We even prayed for a person who worships sun god.

(The Adi tribe is a large almost totally unreached people group. The team has made significant inroads into this tribe and this training visit is reflective of those efforts. -KO)



Preachers Group Having Bible Study

2. Leadership Training Center (Miao Bible Institute)

We also appreciate very much and express our profound gratitude for the financial support to construct the Leadership Training Center at Miao. With the financial supports from ACS and Center Point Community Church, a training center for leadership is now under way. The ground floor of the building is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The leadership training center will meet the needs of training and equipping young people for various tribal groups and different communities for Christian leadership role. Classes will start from Fall 2022. This training center is set up with the assistance of missionary Bobby Morse who arranged the land for training facility. The training center is 80x50 feet in size. We need your prayers as more funds are needed to accomplish the project in time.

(They want to optimize the building and add a second floor – Cost: \$20,000 -KO)



The Training Center Foundation

3. A New Ambulance Has Been Added to the Medical Mission Ministry Toolbox

Praise God that we got the ambulance vehicle now. Sending some pictures. You may kindly share with FAME and IDES and convey our heartfelt gratitude for their kind support. Some interior medical accessories will be added soon. Brother Stephen will be in-charge of taking care of the vehicle. Thank you so much for your kind support and patience with us.

The eastern part of the State where the team is located is devoid of many basic resources and a Medical Outreach has been a very effective evangelistic tool. It is given the team favor with the Government and the people in the area. Phillip regularly charts a taxi to take extremely sick people to a hospital 6 hours away. IDES and FAME jointly sent funds to purchase a new vehicle to use as an ambulance. The funds were sent almost 24 months ago but they were frozen in the India bank system by the Hindu government. A two year wait to get the funds released has now happened and the vehicle is in the team's hands! -KO

We are very grateful for your continued supports and co-partnering with us for the extension of God's Kingdom. We appreciate for your love and prayer supports for the ministry. We sincerely hope and pray that you would continue to uphold us and the needs for the ministry in your prayers. May Almighty God continue to bless you all!

Looking forward for your visit and teaching in this training center in future. Co-workers in Christ, Nathaney, Stephen, Phillip and Barnabus Miao.



New Ambulance in the Showroom



Thank You IDES and FAME

***CHALLENGE FOR PRAYER AND GENEROSITY = \$20,000 for the 2nd floor of the Training Center**

ROHINGYA UPDATE — Mike Gerber (ACS Board Member)

Reported via conversations with Evangelists. *(Please do not post or share openly this article guarding the safety of the team. Thank you.)*



Refugee Camp



Baptism in the Bay of Bengal

God continues to bless the efforts of the evangelists working among the displaced Rohingya in Bangladesh. A few months ago, we celebrated with these evangelists as they traveled to the Bay of Bengal to baptize a family who turned their life over to Jesus. But that was just the beginning.

The rules for the Rohingya camps do not allow nontribal members to live inside the camps. The team, therefore, lives in a nearby town and travels into the camp each day to share and meet people. They have made many contacts and the reception to the Gospel has been amazing. Over the past year or so they have been able to make many contacts and establish many relationships. These efforts have led to many conversations about Jesus. And L*** reported that a recent worship service that he was able to attend inside the camp included 49 new believers and S*** reports recently that the number has grown to nearly 200 people who have made initial decisions for Jesus!!!!

Of course, Satan has taken notice. Resistance inside the camp has grown quite strong. While worship is allowed inside the camp, outsiders are not allowed to participate (including our evangelists). One of the evangelists is reportedly being investigated by the authorities for illegal evangelism. Islamic extremists have begun leading a more organized persecution against new converts. 'Accidental fires', incidents of violence and general hostility have become regular occurrences. In addition, the team's request to establish an elementary school in the camp has been denied as they suspect that it is a Christian project.

One of the challenges facing these church planters is that baptism is illegal and so the only opportunity for baptism is in secret but, with very little water and Islamic officials watching continuously, this is a very dangerous step. The other option is to go to a remote location as they have done in the past but police at the urging of Muslim officials have established new check points and many of those requesting baptism have no papers to travel.

With the higher levels of persecution, the team has embarked on a new strategy to use DMM-Disciple making training to teach and train these new Christians to disciple other seekers and lead the movement inside the boundaries of the camps. This teaching and training strategy is creating new leaders and multiplying the church in exciting ways inside the camp!

The team is most thankful for your financial support of their work and your continued prayers as God moves in this difficult and dangerous place. Most of all they are thankful for your continued prayers for them and the many new believers that are facing such difficult circumstances.

- Prayer requests:**
- For the continued movement of God among the Rohingya
 - For the protection of Christians and workers and their families in the region.
 - For an easing of the push by extremists to ban Christianity in the camps and to force newly converted Christians to renounce Jesus and return to Islam.
 - For peace and solutions to the financial burden that results from being forced to live outside the camps and pay bus fair and support the new house churches.
 - For the process of Disciple making that would increase the number of workers inside the camp.

We at ACS are so thankful for your generosity and especially STADIA for the support of the efforts of our team among this displaced tribe. Difficulties for these families are beyond our imagination but to God they are precious children. It is exciting to see the harvest beginning. You all have been part of the sowing of seeds, and we are humbled by that generosity. -MG

REPORT FROM MYANMAR BIBLE INSTITUTE (MBI)

— Robinson Mana (MBI President)

Graduation at MBI: In my country, there are two crises: political and Covid. Amidst these, all the other Bible colleges stopped teaching and closed their campuses, but not MBI. We run our classes through online (*Webinar classes supported by some of you*) at first. For the second semester, we ran it back to normal. 40 students came back to their respective classes and (12) students graduated. Praise God!



Myanmar Bible Institute 2022 Graduates

Summer Christian Youth Camps: We held two Summer Camps for Rawang Youth in the North of Myanmar. Attendances were totally (535). Our theme for this year was "Be Courageous – Joshua 1:6." This Youth Camp is the center of these young ones because they normally receive good messages they need. On the final day, (20) of them made decision to be baptized. Thanks for your prayers.



Rawang Summer Youth Camp



Baptism at Youth Camp

REPORT FROM TAUNGGYI — Manasseh Fish

Taunggyi Bible College (TBC) and Taunggyi Christian Center (TCC)

Dear Friends, We send you good news that today, we held the fresher's welcome service successfully. This year, there are 69 students and of them, 51 are freshers from different tribes, Lisu, Rawang, Mro, Burmese, and Naga. Thank you very much for your support and the prayers for TBC ministry. God bless you. Your Brother and Sister in Christ, Manasseh and Ruth Fish



Manasseh and Aaron with the 2022 TBC Students and Faculty

REPORT FROM NORTHERN MYANMAR



Bethany Theological College Students

Bethany Theological College (BTC) - Manasseh Fish

BTC is located in Mularsheedi village where the Morse family settled and shared the gospel among the native Lisu and Rawang people. Therefore, at first, it was named "Mularsheedi Bible School." Only later its name was changed into Bethany Theological College. It is also one of the Bible Schools founded by LaVerne Morse's encouragement.



Bethany Faculty



Entrance to Bethany Theological College



Land Adjacent to Bethany

Even though it is a college, it has only a campus of half acre. So, the campus is too narrow, comparing the number of the students. Last year, they had 90 students. Fortunately, there is a piece of land adjacent to them. The owner is selling it for about \$3500. It is about half acre wide. Therefore, if they can buy that land, the campus will become wider, and the students can study in a healthier and better environment. A small donation will make a big difference for them. Therefore, we really would like you to consider this need and find a donor or a church who will contribute to it. - Manasseh Fish

***CHALLENGE FOR PRAYER AND GENEROSITY = \$3,500 for Land adjacent to the BTC**

1. Word of Thanks – Manasseh

1. Firstly, we would like to thank the donors who generously donated for the constructions of two churches, Keng Tawng Church and Yum Dai Church. Now, the construction of Yum Dai church in progress.
2. Secondly, we would like to thank the donors who donated for three motorcycles for one Naga evangelist and two Naga children's teachers. Now, the motorcycles are a huge help for their ministry.
3. Thirdly, we would like to thank Mr. Steve and Lisa for their contribution for the relief for Silas's house church members.
4. Lastly but not least, we would like to say our appreciation to all who are faithfully contributing for our TCC ministry through prayer and support.

CLOSING THOUGHT...

So, Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. - Ephesians 4:11-13

ACS is extremely grateful for all who regularly support the mission in SE Asia

We want to give special thanks to the churches who have continued to keep ACS in their Missions Budget. The following churches have supported ACS in 2021/2022.

Anchor Christian Church.....	Rochester, NY
Bangor Church of Christ	Bangor, MI
Bloomfield First Christian Church	Bloomfield, IN
Blountville Christian Church.....	Blountville, TN
Buena Vista Christian Church.....	Laurel, IN
Calvary Christian Church.....	Edinburgh, IN
Center Point Community Church	Naples, FL
Central Church of Christ	Findley, OH
Community Church of Columbus.....	Columbus, IN
Echo Church.....	Cincinnati, OH
Fairview Christian Church.....	Falmouth, KY
First Christian Church	Columbus, IN
First Christian Church	Water Valley, MS
First Christian Church Sun City Ctr.....	Ruskin, FL
First Church of Christ.....	Bryan, OH
Hanna's Creek Christian Church	Liberty, IN
Hi Point Church of Christ	Bellefontaine, OH
Lincolnway Christian Church	New Lennox, IL
Meadowbrook Christian Church	Rochester, MI
New Hope Christian Church	Creston, OH
Oak Forest Church of Christ.....	Brookville, IN
Parkview Christian Church	Findley, OH
Perryton Church of Christ	Frazesburg, OH
Salem Church of Christ.....	Salem, VA
Shalom Grove Church	Hacienda Heights, CA
Sheldon Church of Christ.....	Sheldon, WI
Sherwood Oak Christian Church	Bloomington, IN
South Baton Rouge Church of Christ.....	Baton Rouge, LA
Thai Christian Missionary Church	North Las Vegas, NV
Union Christian Church.....	Hodgenville, KY
Venture Christian Church	Carmel, IN
West Walnut St Church of Christ	Portland, IN
White Oak Christian Church	Cincinnati, OH
Worthington Christian Church.....	Columbus, OH

We also appreciate the following small groups that are regular supporters.

3's Class	Columbus, IN
Ambassadors for Christ	Paradise, PA
Koinonia Class	White Oak Christian Church, Cincinnati, OH
Seekers Class	Christ's Church at Mason, Mason, OH
Willing Workers Class.....	Oak Grove Church of Christ, Lake Lynn, PA

Memorials

In Memory of
LaVerne Morse

Given by
Ruth Johnson

In Memory of
Barb Thacker

Given by
JW & EL Stock Insurance Co.

ACS Board members would gladly accept an invitation to share the latest work of ACS with your Church Mission Committee. To explore this contact Kent Odor.

Be sure to check out our website:
asiachristianservices.com

Contributions may be sent to:

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