



100 Years of Looking Ahead

Mark Morse

INDESCRIBABLE! That's the most appropriate word I can use when trying to "describe" the 100 Year Christmas Celebration of J. Russell and Gertrude Morse's going to Tibet to share God's love with the people there. Subsequently, millions have been reached with the love of Christ in Southeast Asia as a **result of their decision to stay through trials and persecution, as they looked ahead to what GOD might accomplish in the century ahead.**

The celebration (December 21-27, 2022) took over 3 years of planning by the Lisu leadership. Many hurdles with the government had been crossed to allow the event to occur and allow the Morses' return to their home village of Mulashidi, near Putao, at the foothills of the Himalayas in Northern Myanmar (Burma). Covid, a military coup upending democracy in Myanmar, with growing anti-Christian sentiment and physical attacks were just a few of the potential blockades to holding this event. Over 8,000 people were planning to attend, many of them walking great distances through the jungles to get there; however, the Myanmar government had recently created a rule that no more than 50 people would be allowed in a single gathering throughout Burma. About a month before the event, there was a bombing at a gathering of about 100 people for a concert which killed most. The Morses thought, "There's no way we can endanger the lives of the people by holding this event, despite all the planning." Then, a miracle—God put in place a Burmese leader of the district who, though Buddhist, said, "In nowhere else of all Myanmar would we let such a gathering take place with so many people; but, the Christians of Putao are a peaceful people, and we are going to allow the event and the Morses to come."

With only 3 weeks to go, even with the Morses hesitant, thinking it was not safe, all the Asia Christian leadership decided they still **wanted us to come and to hold the event. We prayed about it, and so we went. Little did we know how this would change all of our lives.**

Everything was planned, and yet, it was the unplanned that really grabbed our hearts and brought us to tears. With no running water or electricity, providing for the physical needs of 8000 people who landed on this small village was going to be a challenge. Bamboo shelters were created for people to sleep in the 40+ degree nights. A huge temporary tabernacle of bamboo was created to house the event and keep out the elements. Generators provided the needed electricity for audio/video, including the huge loudspeakers that



The Gathered Audience

were tied to tall bamboo poles. Far from 5 loaves and 2 fish, there were many huge sows and countless chickens ready to be slaughtered on site to feed daily this Christ-following throng. Bathroom facilities, medical tents, eating areas, meeting areas, electronics and much more were thoughtfully provided by the Lisu leadership team.

The people sat on straw strewn loosely on the dirt floor of the tabernacle—they sat for 9 hours and more each day, glued to the people speaking and singing on the stage in front. They weren't 45 minutes into "church," looking at their watches and wondering when the service was going to be over. They were here for a week or more, dialed into everything that was happening around them. A 100 Village Choir was composed (can you feel what it would be like to be the person chosen to represent that village?). My Mother, Lois Morse, taught the villagers



A Lisu Choir

even how to sing Handel's Hallelujah

Chorus generations ago. A Christian "rock band" called "The Net" from the capital city of Yangon performed throughout the week, including a fabulous Christmas Day evening concert. They were amazing, and they are being used as a net by God to catch young men and women across Myanmar. Lisu from ages 1 to over 110—many who personally knew J. Russell and Gertrude—were celebrating all together.



Cooks in the Kitchen

When Marcia and I spoke, we had translators. When my cousins spoke, they all spoke in the Lisu native tongue. We, ourselves, were treated like "rock stars." Everyone wanted their picture taken with us. We stood for hours near the monument created to celebrate the 100 years (in 3 languages) just hugging and taking pictures with so many people, young and old. The singing, the love, the sharing—it was just fabulous.



Taking Photos with Mark



Marcia and a Lisu girl



The Monument to Celebrate the 100 Year Anniversary



The Morse Family Being Honored by the Lisu People

Everything was so carefully planned, even down to the scissors the Lisu costumed girls would hand to each of us cousins to cut the balloons that flew high into the sky at the Opening Ceremony. All that had been planned—speakers, singing, food, medical, meetings—when it looked like the event might not even happen at all, was more “successful” than anyone could have hoped. And yet it was the UNPLANNED that brought us to tears, to unity, to individual and corporate resolution to march for Christ through trial and persecution for the next 100 years.

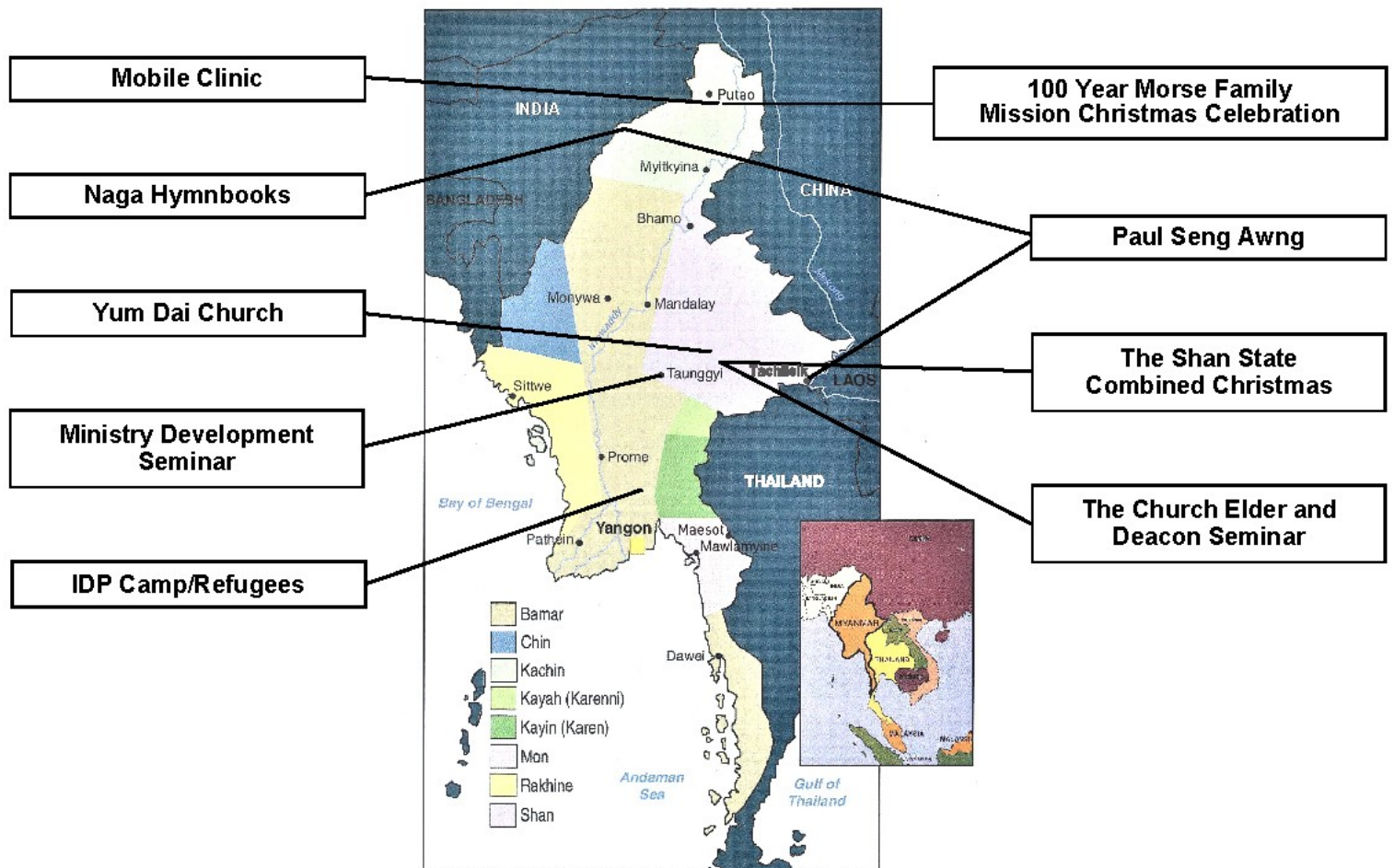
Much of the unplanned—the things that only God could have brought about—I can’t share in this small space. One of those things, though, was that Marcia (who spent years 1-on-1 each with our father, Russell LaVerne Morse, before he went to heaven) brought some of his pictures (which she had digitized) to the event. Cousin Angela and Pat Morse had also been gathering heritage photos by the family. These in the last week of preparation were given to a Lisu Leader, Lazarus, who masterfully put it all into a 20-minute video. The pictures spanned over 60 years and included so many of the RELATIVES of the people who had come to the celebration. They played moving music (When we’ve been there 10,000 years) in the background as the pictures rolled. Our cousin Ronnie picked up the microphone and began describing the pictures to the people in their native language (Lisu), who might not know the significance of each of the people shown in the pictures. People were just crying as they saw their own grandparents, parents, brothers, sisters—many of whom had been tortured or killed for spreading the message of God’s love through Christ—on that screen.



The Lisu Historical Slide Show

We were all looking BACK at people who are in HEAVEN now. We were looking BACK at a people who were looking FORWARD—forward to that day when the trumpet will sound, Christ will come, and we will all get to be together with them. We looked back at J. Russell and Gertrude—they were looking forward. We looked back at all the people with whom they shared the gospel and began to look forward. We all resolved to look forward—to the NEXT 100 years.

The Lisu are already planning for the NEXT 100 churches, the next 100 evangelists, the next 100 years. Indescribable? Thanks be to God, for HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT!!!



Seeing the beauty of Christ in the faces and lives of these people is **ABSOLUTELY AMAZING — BEYOND**



lives of 1000s in Myanmar amid hardships was
WHAT WORDS COULD DESCRIBE!



Taunggyi Christian Center News — Manasseh Fish

YUM DAI CHURCH DEDICATION

The construction of new Yum Dai Church was done successfully, and its dedication service was held last October 28.



The Yum Dai Church

THE SHAN STATE COMBINED CHRISTMAS

The 2nd combined Christmas celebrations was held at May Zele Christian Church on last December 25. There were about 1000 people coming to the celebration.

Among them, some were Lisu

ancestor worshippers and some from other tribes like Yinnet, Kayah and Shan. The combined Christmas had a great impact on them.



Christmas Worship Service

told us that some ancestor worshippers also came to the seminar because they would like to know the Christian God more. Praise the Lord! We also learned that along with Peter and his wife's dedication, the medical program, helping their children with schooling a helping them with the relief really touch the hearts of the ancestor worshippers with the love of Christ and so, more and more ancestor worshippers are coming to Christ. So, the present May Zele church building becomes smaller for the whole congregation. So, in the near future they will need to build a sister church.



Elders and Deacons Seminar

THE TAUNGGYI MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

The training and development Seminar for about 40 graduates and evangelists from Taunggyi Bible College was held the last two weeks of February. This seminar was to strengthen and encourage workers, pastors and evangelists to continue strong in their ministry. It was a great success.



Ministry Development Seminar



Class in Session

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PRINTING NAGA HYMN BOOK

NAGA people lives in northwest Myanmar and Northeast India. They were reached by our evangelists and planted many churches. It was a great blessing to be partner with LATM for many decades.



One Box of new Hymnbooks

LATM always raising funds for printing

Christian Literature, such as Bible, Hymnal books, commentaries, etc. Even we cannot go everywhere to share the Good News, and teach, but the Literature message can reach everywhere. **THANK YOU LATM!**



One Box of new Hymnbooks

PAUL SENG AWNG – AN EFFECTIVE NAGA EVANGELIST

Paul is a passionate Naga evangelist for Northwest Myanmar in the region near the India border who is also a Bible professor at Tachileik Bible Institute on the opposite side of the country near the Thailand/Laos Border. The Naga Tribe has many dialects of the Naga language and the people of each dialect remain isolated from other dialects. Some groups have growing churches but some have not yet been reached. Paul makes several month-long trips to Nagaland each year to try to break into new dialects and groups. Paul traveled extensively over the Christmas holiday preaching, training leaders and delivering new Hymnbook's. He baptized many new believers.



Fourteen Youth were Baptized on New Year's Day

BAPTISM

"GO" "BAPTIZE" AND "TEACH" are the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our team use the small group strategy to share the Good News, house to house evangelism, personal evangelism and it is great impact in the ministry. We baptized them in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Matt 28:19-20). 38 people were baptized by our team in this quarter. The Burma golden land become ripe for harvest. Jesus said; "Open your eyes and looking the fields! They are ripe for harvest. John 4:35



Obedying the Great Commission

WORDS OF THANKS AND CHALLENGES

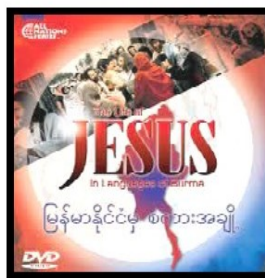


Simon and True Thuang

Dear friends, I am deeply appreciated your prayer support, encouragement, and cooperation in expanding God's Kingdom. 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. You are invited to come Mission Trip to the Lord's harvest fields. You have opportunities to teach, encourage, share the Good News, encouraging the hopeless brothers, and equip disciples. May God continue to bless you, strengthen you. Your fellow Laborer in Christ, - Simon & True family

JESUS FILM PROJECT – UPDATE

Thank you for your generous response to our request for matching funds to use the Jesus Film and ACS Support for evangelism. The goal has been reached and we are grateful! We sent our first funds to be used in a Leadership Training seminar at the MaeSot border of Thailand and Myanmar for the first week in April. 20 evangelists who are working in that area on both sides of the border will receive tablets and be trained how to use the film in house-to-house evangelism. The Jesus film will be loaded on those tablets in several different languages. Some of those at the training will receive projectors for showing the Jesus Film to larger audiences. As the year goes on, there will be many more training opportunities across Myanmar. Thank you for your generosity.



The Jesus Film in 39 Burmese Languages

In Memory Of

**LaVerne Morse..... Fred H. Daniel
David & Margaret Eubanks**

Be sure to check out our website:

asiachristianservices.com

Contributions may be sent to:

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