

Tis the Season . . .

to reach out to the last 50 tribes . . . and finish the task in Myanmar

Kent Odor

The word "season" is a great word. In this "season" we celebrate Jesus' coming to earth. He declared that he came to earth "to seek and to save that which is lost." – Luke 19:10NASB. In the natural world, in South East Asia, the "season" after Monsoon is when things across the country really begin to happen. The flood waters and the rains subside in September and life becomes new again in October. But in the spiritual world, this October brought a new "season" of activity in Asia that we anticipate may bear fruit in a great harvest for future seasons to come. It happened concerning the 50 tribes In Myanmar that are completely "lost." They are called "unreached" tribes. This season, new thoughts within leaders were launched to begin searching for them so that they can be found!

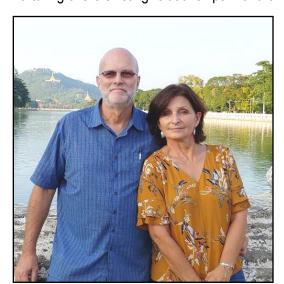
Marcia and I experienced a two-country trip in October and November that began in Myanmar and ended in Thailand. As in all trips, the first priority began with the

nurturing of the existing relationships with the

key workers we know and financially support. The work in Asia is first of

all the work of Asians. We in America get sometimes to be teachers and strategists, but always cheerleaders and resource providers for the great work they are doing. It is always important that we let them "show and tell" all that is going on, and that we see it and encourage them. We started there. It is especially important because of the immense fruit of their labors. But, it is also good to shine light on things we see that are new in their view. On this trip we went determined to shine light on the last 50 unreached tribes in the country.

Since 1974 and the Lausanne Conference on World Evangelism (LaVerne Morse and VJ Lall attended that historic event), a group of world focused missiologists have been researching and collecting data on every "tribe" and people group on the planet. They have been building and maintaining



Kent and Marcia Odor at the Mandalay Palace



Unreached Burmese Worshipers at the Shwedagon Temple

an ethnological database. It is now the standard that is being used both for prayer for those peoples and for strategic planning for missionary activities. That database is accessible to all through the Joshua Project. https://joshuaproject.net/
It has helped our ACS Board focus on the tribes we need to reach to touch all of Myanmar with the Gospel. Evangelists that were trained through ACS have previously established churches in 42 of the 147 known tribes in Myanmar. On this trip we discovered that on the list of the Last 50 Unreached tribes in Myanmar ACS has evangelists currently planting a new church with 11 of these tribes.

This trip began in Yangon with the Yangon Area Lisu Evangelism Committee. This committee represents the over 20 churches that have been planted in Yangon alone over the last 25 years primarily through the Lisu tribe. LaVerne Morse sent the first direct Lisu evangelist to Yangon from the North: and Joshua Leme established EBI (Emmaus Bible Institute). There are also other churches in Yangon that have been started through the Rawang and the Chin tribes. Within a few hours after landing at the airport, I was able to both encourage and present a themed conversation that would be repeated throughout our multi-city visit. I shared with them the current research on the last 50 unreached tribes of Myanmar. As they looked over the list and the information, they acknowledged that some of these tribes were near to them. Raising those tribes to their focus was the goal of the presentation. We traveled north and on to Taunggyi, Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay and Myitkyina. In each place, visits with the Evangelism Committees and the Bible College faculties allowed for this signature conversation to be held. There were "aha's" as comments were made about villages of tribes that were near but not yet evangelized.

This "**season**" is **a great season** to expand the growth of Christianity across Myanmar. Major changes are in the air.



The Berea Bible College Faculty and the Myitkyina Evangelism Committee

The partial democracy of the government is having some cultural and economic effect on the everyday lives of the Christians in the country. Many Christians are very strong in their love of God and trust in the Lord. They are daily trusting God to lead them through the challenges that are ever present in the changing of the times. The Bible Colleges are teaming with good new students to enter the ministry. The colleges could use some additional funding but, the resolve and determination along with the faith and trust in the provision of the Lord was the prevailing sentiment. We have amazing brothers and sisters in Christ on the other side of the world.

This trip was so encouraging! The workers in Asia are outstanding! They are competent, diligent, thoughtful, wise, determined, energetic and brave. The work of the great commission that they follow and obey is bearing a great harvest - in this season! And now they are seeing many "lost" unreached tribes with new eyes. We must diligently pray as we give to further the work and bring in the harvest! Tis the "Season"....

A timely letter from Jereme Leme . . .

Dear Kent and Marcia,

It had been a wonderful time to be with you in Mandalay vicinity. Each time we meet, it was an impactful time to me. Your last visit put on me a responsible feeling to the unreached tribes of Myanmar.



As a result of your eye-open brainstorming on new tribe evangelism, now we are opened door to mission in Salon people i.e. a sea gypsy or sea tribe. They are living in Mergui Archiepalo close to Thai and Malaysia in the sea. Some anthropologist thought that they are the left-behind Malaysians but some thought that they are descendent of Thet of Myanmar. Anyhow, a friend of mine visited to an island with the gospel and he had preached the gospel to them and on that occasion 17 were baptized! Now I am excited to start a church!

... I would like to call upon you for your prayer and consideration to support this newly door opened mission in the sea!

Love, Jeremy







Salon Tribe to be Baptized

One Unreached People in Myanmar . . . The Salon - From the Joshua Project database . . .

The Moken people (or Salon) are to be found in Southern Burma or Myanmar and in Southern Thailand. They are nomadic on the sea which could make it difficult for the gospel message to be given to them.

The Moken have their own language which is Austronesian, a language used in South East Asia and Oceania. But, the Moken in Burma can speak Burmese.

In Thailand the Moken are known as Chao Ley and can be called Selung but are Salon in Burma. Some of the Moken are Buddhists while others follow traditional religions.

They live off plant life from the sea as they are familiar with the sea. That which they do not eat they exchange for other things at markets. Some Burmese Moken have small wooden boats with a living room, bedroom and kitchen and they move about on the sea in these. Some of their traditional life is lessening though.

The Moken live in the Surin Islands and the Phi Phi Islands. With the 2004 tsunami, many of the Moken died but in some regions knowledge of the sea helped the Moken to know the tsunami was arriving and to stay alive.

A New ACS Adventure Opportunity — An Asian Mission Trip — Kent Odor

Previously the work of Mission Trips has been handled through ACS partners. FAME and mPower have successfully led small group trips with the help of ACS "on the ground leaders." In late October, ACS hosted our first self-led "church mission trip." The Sun City Center Christian Church in Ruskin, Florida brought a team to Thailand to dedicate a church building that their church had sacrificially funded through our new partnership with STADIA. Marcia and I, along with an ACS team in Asia, hosted and together encouraged workers on the field. It was a "mutually beneficial experience" and one that we enthusiastically embrace for the future. Be encouraged by Mike's Article and consider a church mission to Asia for your church. ACS would love to explore it with you. Thanks for asking!

From Seed to Fruition. A Mission Trip to Thailand – 2018 By Mike Grant (The Preacher of the Sun City Center Christian Church)

The seed for this mission project started with a tiny seed placed in my heart by God above. I was preaching a series on doing something **BIG for God!** I had heard what God was doing in Central America with STADIA and Compassion International and dreamed of our little church of senior citizens doing something far beyond our abilities that would only happen if God were a part of it. If God can do this through our Church family, He can do it with your church family.

When I saw that Asia Christian Services and STADIA Church Planters had teamed up to do church plants in Myanmar and Thailand for \$30,000.00, I knew this was the project



Mike Grant

I wanted to challenge our people with. I shared this vision with my elders in the summer after finishing my series on doing something BIG for God. It lay dormant for a few months and began to take root again when one of my elders reminded me of the vision I had shared for us to build a church in Thailand to reach Buddhists. I asked the elders and the mission team to pray about this and in late fall of 2017, when everyone was on board with this project, I challenged our people to raise \$30,000.00 by Easter of 2018, in our January revival meeting.

What happened next can only be described as God's hand leading this venture and blessing it. During our revival that went from Sunday through Wednesday, \$15,000 was given and by the first of April we mailed a check to Stadia for \$34,000, to start building the building in Mae Sot, Thailand that was on 10 acres of land owned by Rapha House. Their mission is working to save children from human trafficking. By June the building was finished, and they had an evangelist and his family on site working to reach Buddhist refugees from Myanmar. The seed that was planted had now sprouted. This seed had burst forth from the fertile soil in which it was planted.

Well there is more to the story. Five us from First Christian volunteered to go to Thailand in October to dedicate the building and to see the work first hand. Our congregation was not done giving. Many commented they could not physically go but wanted to help those who were going. So, we held 3 special offerings on the 2nd Sunday of August, September and October. Each one was designated for specific projects, so people could give as their hearts and the Lord led directed them. One was for group travel expense, the 2nd was to buy gifts for the refugee children to use in their schools and for the National Christians working with the churches and schools, and the 3rd was for special projects that we found once we arrived in Thailand. In these special offerings another \$8,243.00 was given for the work in Asia. Our total offering for Thailand came to \$42,243.00.

We arrived on Wednesday night, October 24, in Bangkok where we met Kent and Marcia Odor and Simon and Anna, his daughter, from Asia Christian Services. The next morning, we hopped on another plane for Mae Sot where we would begin serving. On Friday some of us taught a leadership seminar for Thai and Burmese church leaders while the rest of the group headed to the Trash Camp to teach and share with the children. On Saturday we held a dedication service for the building and participated in a Thanksgiving service for all God had done. Four hundred or more of us sang, danced, prayed, listened to God's Word, ate together and then spent time playing with the new gifts for the children. When I say over 400, the majority were refugee children and their families living in the trash dump area that Rapha House



Cutting the Ribbon at the Dedication



Dedicating the Inside of the New Building



The dedication of the Trash Camp Church of Christ

Ministries had invited for this special occasion. What a day of rejoicing and sharing in the Lord. I can only imagine what God is going to do on this site through His people who are so committed to reaching these children and adults for Christ. I am sure that God will turn this little seed into a mighty harvest in the years to come.

Sunday found us at Bethany Village where over 70 Buddhist refugees have been baptized into Christ over the past few years. What a special work Moses and his family are leading in Bethany. The church, school and families' homes all share the same site. We worshiped with our brothers and sisters. I preached, and our ladies taught the children and the women. We then sat down to a fabulous meal prepared by Moses' wife and afterwards shared our gifts for the school and played with the children. Even though there was a language barrier, there was the one universal language that all could understand -LOVE. The love of Christ and for Christ was felt and understood by all. We were also able to bless the church and the school with money from our special offerings.

Sunday evening, we made our way across the border into Myanmar to see Grace Christian Church (the first church planted by ACS and Stadia).

We met the evangelist and the pre-school teachers working with the refugees in this community and were again amazed and humbled by the love they have for Christ and their dedication to reach their people. Our group laid hands on them and prayed for them and their work.

Monday found us on our way to Immanuel Church and school where the children gathered on their day off so we could share with them. We sang, did a drama and told the story of David and Goliath. They laughed with



Worshiping at Bethany Village



Bethany Christian Church Children Singing



The Burmese refugee Children at Bethany Village



Sunday School at Bethany Village



The team at Grace Village with San Sar and Nwe Ni Oo



Immanuel School

us and at us. We then shared money with the pastor and staff to be used in their work with the children and adults, and closed out by playing with soccer balls, jump ropes and marbles that we had brought to share with them.

Our service time had come to an end. We then traveled to Chiang Mai to visit Rapha House Campus to see and hear about the wonderful work they are doing. We then traveled on to Chiang Mai Printing Ministry led by David Morse (Marcia's cousin). We listened intently as David shared many of the items the ministry had printed to help reach lost souls as well as strengthen and encourage the Church body. He also shared the needs and the challenges the ministry faces.

As our group left Thailand to fly back to Florida, we were are so grateful for the week we had experienced with our brothers and sisters from Thailand and Myanmar. Blown away by their love and devotion to reach their people for Christ. We were humbled by their sacrifices and commitment to do whatever it takes to help the refugees with their personal needs as well as their spiritual needs. We were also amazed to see what God was doing through 4 adults who had gone to Bible College together as disciples of Laverne Morse. Simon, Moses, Tasanee and Tutu have BIG hearts for Christ and are truly being obedient to do their part in fulfilling the Great Commission given by our Lord and Savior.

As I close out – I want to say that the foundation the Morse family laid in Myanmar and Thailand is the best I have ever witnessed in my 38 years of ministry. The leadership--the education and the zeal to win lost souls for Christ--started with the Morse family, and today millions have come to know Christ because of the expert foundation they built. Now hundreds of Nationals lead the work, and this is the way it should be. They have the knowledge, the language, the love and the zeal to reach their nations for Christ. They just need some financial assistance to help them go, and I am so thankful that we could be and can be a part of this work in Asia. The harvest is white, so I pray and ask the Lord of the harvest to supply prayer warriors, workers and the resources to reap a mighty harvest before He returns.

In His Service, Mike Grant



The Mission Team from Sun City Center

Prayer requests for key people who make ACS work so well...

- 1. Simon Thaung He is a key "Boots on the Ground" leader in Myanmar and Thailand. He was our host/ interpreter for the three weeks of travel Marcia and I experienced. He made the arrangements for our mission team from Florida and executed all the logistics flawlessly. He has just completed another three weeks of hosting Mike Gerber AND he led the national leaders that produced the Southern Myanmar Christmas Convention. We love Simon and request your prayer for him and his family. His two youngest daughters were recently baptized.
- 2. Lois Morse is now 85, in pretty good health, and is finishing a labor of love a 365-day devotional book. It is full of insight, mission illustrations and deep scriptural applications to every day life. For over a year she has been including a daily devotion as her gift to our donors that is included in the monthly appreciation statement. The text is now ready to be published and we are praying for a way to now get the book to press. Please pray with us for that solution to become available.
- 3. Maureen Schauck has served ACS for over 10 years and Gospel Broadcasting Mission for over 30 years. She keeps our database, mailing lists and sends out our donor records. She is retired and has served us faithfully. She is irreplaceable. Please pray for the Lord to sustain her.
- 4. Cheryl Elliott does the layout of the newsletters and other things we publish. She is retired from Mission Services and is an extremely valuable member of our team. Please pray for her and the health of her aging mother. This is a great concern.
- **5. Norman Stanley** is a long-time board member. He has for several years been our liaison with I.D.E.S. and

- processes the numerous requests from our workers in the field for assistance from that mission partner. He is greatly appreciated, and his work keeps many of our workers going on the other side of the world. Please pray that his health and strength will continue.
- 6. George Breuer is our ACS treasurer. He is a retired chemist and through the recruitment of LaVerne Morse he changed directions and accepted this critical role. George handles all the donations and the wire disbursements to our workers in the field. I would suggest that he is our most necessary worker and we cannot thank him and his wife enough for the many hours of service given to the Lord's work every week. Please Pray for he and Elaine. They are truly faithful servants!
- 7. Please pray for the rest of the ACS Board. Please pray for Marcia and me- Kent Odor - as we continue our work with ACS. George Drake is our foundational prayer warrior. Verne Bissell just returned from Thailand arranging the printing of a scholarly book on Genesis for Asia. Mike Gerber just returned from a month of teaching, encouraging and business development in the north and the south in Myanmar. Chuck and Mary McDaniel are in Myitkyina training as this copy goes to press. Bill McClure and David Brackemyer will be teaching at the Golden Triangle Leadership Seminar at Tachileik on the northern border of Thailand on the Myanmar side in January. And, Mark Morse just returned from a strategic mission conference in California called "Finishing the Task," where every known tribe in the world was finally "adopted" (commitments were made by groups and individuals to reach the final 348 tribes in the world never before adopted). This is the season for great progress for the Kingdom of Christ. Pray for that end!

Prayer requests for the 4 Bible Colleges we visited on our Trip

Please pray as these key resources for new church planters are in need of our prayers.

- a. EBI Emmaus Bible Institute. This school is in Yangon. It was started 25 years ago by Joshua Leme who has most recently become the Dean of the Graduate School. LaVerne Morse sponsored him to study at CBS in Cincinnati and then sent him to Yangon. David Fish is President. EBI has had hundreds of graduates who have planted many, many churches. Their donations from the USA that have kept the administration and training going
- has been cut recently. A long time supporting church stopped support and most recently a long-time donor is aging and cannot continue. They are in need of steady support at \$4000 per month to pay for the administration and teaching of all the 120 students.
- b. TBC Taunggyi Bible College. This school was founded by Manasseh Fish who was sponsored by

LaVerne Morse and studied at CBS in Cincinnati. It is located strategically in Shan state which has 25 tribes that are unreached. The student body currently has 9 different tribes that are represented. Manasseh's son Aaron Fish is the President and he also



Manasseh and Ruth Fish

studied at CBS. Aaron took us on a tour of the campus. In our visit, Aaron noted that four of his students are from the list of 50 tribes. The campus is becoming well developed, but they are in need of funds to complete building new housing for the professors. They have about 75 students. Please pray for the school and for Manasseh and Ruth as they continue to send out and mentor the evangelists who are reaching new villages.



Aaron and the Students at Taunggyi Bible College

c. MBI – Myanmar Bible Institute. This school was the first school LaVerne Morse began south of Putao. Robinson Mana is now the President. He recently took the leadership from his brother who had been president for 20 years. This school has sent many missionaries to new tribes. It has been an evangelistic powerhouse. They were recently informed that a 20-year supporting church is cutting their support of \$4000 per month on January 1st. That is the operating budget for the school. This is a cause of anxiety, so they truly request your prayer. They currently have about 100 students.



Our Welcome to the Myanmar Bible Institute

d. BBC - Berea Bible College. This school is in Myitkyina in Kachin State. This is the most Christian city of significant population in the country. The Gospel has taken root here and the school is solid and supported by the surrounding churches. It is steadily producing graduates and its President, Timothy Fish, just returned to Myitkyina after being the president for 20 years at PCBS – Putao Christian Bible School in Putao, Northern Burma. Marcia holds this city dear to her heart as this is where she had her first birthday as her parents had to flee from fighting in the north and escape a possible invasion. They currently have about 100 students.

Memorials . . .

In memory of Ruth A. Boyd by John T. Boyd

In memory of Willa Sims by John T. Boyd

In memory of R. Paul Grimm by M. Doylene Grimm

Be sure to check out our website:

asiachristianservices.com

For the latest news and updates from Asia Christian Services

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These are the Last 50 Unreached Tribes — Joshua Project

This is the list we took with us and shared with Asian leaders in many conversations.

This information is currently accurate within the margin of error of the ever-changing population increases going on everywhere. The population figures are from multiple government and other censuses.

These are the current populations of that tribe in Myanmar. Some of the largest tribes have a world population from as many as 35 countries which explains the differences in numbers. When the two numbers are the same, that means the tribe is only in Myanmar.

The percent of evangelicals is applied just to the tribe in the country of Myanmar. That would reflect multiple denominations that follow a conservative Biblical world view.

The Christian Adherents would include all "Christian views" other than evangelical. It would include Christian cults.

The urbanization of the country is the biggest explanation

of the few (less than 1.0%) evangelical converts in a tribe and it could mean that not even one church has been started within that tribal group. For instance, a family went to the city for work and was converted to Christ by a neighbor and joined a local church of another tribe and then participated in a census. Their decisions to follow Christ are now reflected in the census.

The Joshua Project Team has determined that until a tribe has a population of evangelicals that is 2.00%, that tribe is still "unreached". That much collective gathering of believers is needed for the churches that are established to be able to further reproduce more of a movement within the tribe naturally without "outside missionary work" assistance.

In this list, those that are underlined and italicized have at least one church planted by an ACS connected evangelist. The pictures on the side represent those tribes. Please make this a matter of prayer!

Tribal Name	Population	World Popl	Evangelicals	<u>Adherents</u>
1. Han Chinese, Cantonese in My	74,000	79,031,500	1.30%	2.00%
2. Han Chinese, Hakka in Myan	22,000	43,735,000	1.40%	3.00%
3. Han Chinese, Mandarin in My	977,000	871,448,700	1.40%	2.00%
4. Hindi in Myanmar	131,000	1,458,000	0.25%	0.70%
5. Hmong Njua in Myanmar	12,000	751,700	1.00%	2.00%
6. Hui in Myanmar	8,900	13,949,000	0.00%	0.00%
7. Intha in Myanmar	102,000	102,000	0.07%	0.10%
8. Karen, Yintale in Myanmar	11,000	11,000	0.00%	0.01%
9. Bulang in Myanmar	15,000	121,400	0.80%	1.90%
10. <u>Burmese in Myanmar</u>	31,273,000	32,047,900	0.07%	0.35%
11. Chak in Myanmar	1,900	5,300	0.20%	0.40%
12. Chakma in Myanmar	29,000	689,000	0.00%	0.00%
13. Chaungtha in Myanmar	183,000	183,000	0.07%	0.10%
14. Danau in Myanmar	127,000	127,000	0.40%	0.50%
15. Danu in Myanmar	115,000	115,000	0.50%	2.00%
16. Gujarati in Myanmar	35,000	2,356,600	0.41%	0.80%
17. Khampti, Khamti Shan	8,900	25,900	0.04%	0.10%
18. Lao in Myanmar	25,000	3,603,400	0.90%	3.00%
19. Malay, Salon in Myanmar	27,000	11,787,200	0.02%	0.03%



#10 - Burmese in Myanmar



#17 - Khampti, Khamti Shan in Myanmar



#24—Mon in Myanmar



#27—Nepali general in Myanmar

Tribal Name	<u>Population</u>	World Popl	Evangelicals	Adherents
20. Manipuri, Ponna in Myanmar	12,000	1,338,000	1.50%	1.70%
21. Manyuki in Myanmar	20,000	20,000	0.05%	0.05%
22. Mok in Myanmar	4,000	4,700	0.00%	0.00%
23. Moken (Salon) in Myanmar	4,600	6,700	0.04%	0.05%
24. <u>Mon in Myanmar</u>	1,140,000	1,260,000	0.70%	0.80%
25. Mru in Myanmar	25,000	58,400	0.40%	4.01%
26. Muak Sa-aak in Myanmar	4,500	4,500	2.00%	5.00%
27. <u>Nepali, general in Myanmar</u>	294,000	776,200	0.70%	1.00%
28. <u>Pa-O in Myanmar</u>	843,000	843,000	0.30%	1.70%
29. Palaung, Pale in Myanmar	292,000	309,200	0.06%	0.10%
30. Palaung, Rumai in Myanmar	155,000	155,000	0.20%	0.40%
31. <u>Paulang, Shwe in Myanmar</u>	227,000	234,900	0.12%	0.20%
32. Phun, Hpon in Myanmar	1,600	1,600	0.40%	1.00%
33. Punjabi in Myanmar	11,000	2,057,200	0.63%	1.20%
34. <u>Rakhine, Arakanese in Myan</u>	2,691,000	2,936,000	0.04%	0.10%
35. Riang in Myanmar	14,000	14,000	1.00%	3.00%
36. <u>Rohingya in Myanmar</u>	475,000	1,213,100	0.00%	0.00%
37. Sino-Burmese in Myanmar	17,000	17,000	0.70%	1.00%
38. South Asian, Bengali-Speaking	281,000	1,463,500	0.13%	0.40%
39. South Asian, Odia Speaking	120,000	120,000	0.20%	1.00%
40. Tai Doi in Myanmar	5,100	5,400	1.00%	5.00%
41. Tai Khun in Myanmar	130,000	137,800	1.90%	2.30%
42. <u>Tai Laing in Myanmar</u>	114,000	114,000	0.30%	1.00%
43. Tai Lue in Myanmar	62,000	1,090,600	0.06%	0.20%
44. Tai Man, Shan in Myanmar	4,511,000	4,616,600	0.70%	0.90%
45. Tai Nua, Chinese Shan in My	100,000	710,000	0.35%	0.60%
46. Taman, Htawandi in Myanmar	33,000	33,000	0.00%	0.00%
47. Taungyo, Dawe in Myanmar	45,000	45,000	0.40%	0.60%
48. Tavoyan in Myanmar	456,000	456,500	0.04%	0.10%
49. Thai, Central in Myanmar	43,000	20,739,800	0.40%	0.60%
50. Yaw in Myanmar	22,000	22,000	0.00%	0.00%



#28 - Pa-O in Myanmar



#31 - Paulang, Shwe in Myanmar



#34 - Rakhine, Arakanes in Myanmar



#36 - Rohingya in Myanmar



#42 - ThaiLaing in Myanmar



#49 - Thai, Central in Myanmar