



Kent Odor with New Evangelist

## The Gospel is Advancing AND Crucial Needs are Expanding

— Kent Odor

*ACS empowers Asian missionaries to pioneer new works to reach the unreached, plant new churches, and disciple believers to fulfill the Great Commission.*

*In this Edition of UPDATE, important new ACS financial needs will be presented. Please pray about assisting with one of these needs as you can. One-time gifts or regular monthly support will all be carefully managed. Our cooperative resources are making a tremendous difference on the other side of the world!*

**THAILAND-LAOS** - The Legacy of LaVerne Morse is continuing to multiply through the faithful leadership of those who have been empowered through the years. **Yothin Yotkiri** has been a lifelong co-worker with LaVerne in southeast Asia. The Lincolnway Christian Church in Joliet (New Lenox) IL, has been his faithful primary support for many years. Yothin pioneered new churches first in Burma and then accepted a call to pioneer new works in Cambodia after the Pol Pot era. After beginning many new churches, Yothin passed on leadership in those churches to the National Cambodian Leaders. In the year 2000 he moved his family north and began a work in **Northern Thailand among the Lahu people**. He has faithfully planted 15 new churches in Thailand and has recently been traveling across the National border and preparing for an expansion into Laos using children's ministries as a bridge. Laos is still a communist nation on the southern border of China next to Vietnam, but people in the western tribal areas seem very receptive to the Gospel. Yothin has five newly vetted and trained evangelists ready to go into Laos needing only some additional outside support. At this time, new support of \$100 per month each would empower those five workers to begin churches among new

unreached people in the Golden Triangle and Laos. That kind of ROI investment cannot be matched but ACS cannot help without new additional support.



Yothin and new Evangelists

**NORTHEAST INDIA** - Stephen Fish, Nathaney and Phillip Ngwazah and Barnabus Daflo are an incredible team that represent the second generation of empowered missionary leaders working in **Arunachal Pradesh, Northeast India**. This team's area is the most northeastern edge of India. It is bordered by Bhutan and Myanmar, with China on the north. Nathaney and Phillip's father Tito was empowered by LaVerne to begin this mission work in the 1950's. This region is just a portion of the northeast peninsula of India surrounding Bangladesh. The total greater region has 116 unreached tribes. This area was of special interest to LaVerne in his later years. Besides work with Lisu people in the area, this team has pioneered work and planted many churches into the **Tongsa Naga and the Chakma peoples**. Prior to this team's message, these peoples had never heard about Jesus and the gospel.



Yothin Yotkiri and Lahu Children



Phillip, a local Pastor, and Steven

This great report recently came to us. Read between the lines and try to understand how significant this is for the kingdom.

"Attached you will find some pictures taken last Sunday where we appointed three new deacons for Punyabhum Coc among the Chackma Christians. Earlier we had only one deacon for this church. With these four deacons along with the local pastor, they will serve the



Three New Deacons



Punyabhum Coc—Chackma

Lord with great enthusiasm. Last Sunday the church was almost full with all their children coming for the first time. Now we are considering to make benches to accommodate. Punyabhum village is located six miles away from Miao town. This church is the sister church of Community Coc Miao. Pray for them as well so that they may mature and be good Christians. Now Community Coc Miao also considering for three more new deacons making a total of seven. Thank you all for your prayers and supports for all these years."

Recently Nathaney on behalf of the team requested additional financial help from ACS. Their support has been the same for 20 years with no financial increase but they have had ever increasing spiritual fruit for the kingdom. Nathaney wrote to us, "We do hereby would like to highlight a few points for your consideration and prayers: 1. All our children have grown up and are doing higher studies in different states of which our burdens have become extremely heavier than ever before. 2. The cost of living expenses have gone up multiple times than as ever before. 3. Sometimes we are bound to go empty handed while visiting sick people to pray. Due to lack of funds we are unable to do the ministry as we ought to do. Sometimes we are confused whether the support is to be used for family's survival or for the work. Many a times we had to do manual works for others just to earn some amount to support our families besides our personal works. **Therefore, dear brothers treat and consider this request of us very seriously and urgently for the work we involved.** God bless you all. In His wonderful services."

Nathaney's brother Phillip has focused on medical work as the pathway to evangelism and new church planting. This service to the poorest peoples has been noticed positively by the government



Phillip and his Team

leaders and has won their favor. On several occasions, Phillip has hosted foreign doctors and medical teams including our partners mPower and recently the Morses from Thailand. A government helicopter flew the team for no charge to its furthest destination and dropped them off. They proceeded to provide medical help to each village on the hike back to Miao from where they started.

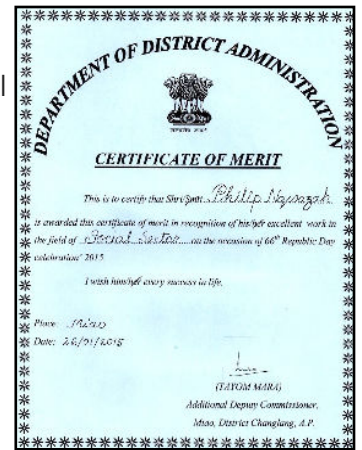
Several years ago, Phillip borrowed money and purchased a pickup truck to use for ministry purposes. Through the week, he has a driver rent out the truck all day long to raise the money to make the payments. He then uses the truck on Sundays and occasionally for emergencies. He recently wrote to us of the need to expand. "Since January till date, we

were able to evacuate and transport more than 17 patients with acute ailments to the various hospitals in Assam State by hiring taxi vehicle.... But one of the main problems was lack of our own vehicle to evacuate and transport the sick people **in this Summer heat.**

Therefore, we would like to humbly request the ACS that kindly **pray for our vehicle need and please kindly find some sponsors for our vehicle need. Once we have a vehicle of our own, it will definitely enhance our mobility during ministry tour.** It will be useful for evacuating and transporting the sick people to hospitals which are located far away from Miao town for further treatment. Arunachal State road condition is most of the time in bad condition. Especially in the harsh Summer when various forms of diseases become apparent and active, **we desperately needed a good size vehicle of our own to help others who are dying.** Moreover, having a good size vehicle of our own, it will be very much helpful in our outreach ministry programs. So, please kindly consider our humble request and pray for our desperate but useful needs. Thank you so much and may God always continue to bless you in abundance. Looking forward to hear soon from you."

This mission is expanding with increasing influence, but lacking the resources hinder its further work. Please prayerfully join us in discovering where the resources can be found to help this amazing work expand.

**CENTRAL MYANMAR - Manasseh Fish** has been another outstanding pioneer in Central Myanmar. Growing up in a northern Lisu Christian village, he pursued Burmese education and became a Burmese University Professor before joining the staff of Emmaus Bible Institute (EBI) in Yangon. He married Ruth who was Pao from the Central region of Myanmar. After several years as a professor at EBI, **Manasseh and Ruth** moved back to Taunggyi to pioneer new works to an area with 25 tribes that had almost zero opportunity from



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Giving new glasses in NE India

anyone of any Christian denomination working in Burma to hear the gospel previously. This area was wide open to the Gospel.



Peter, Aung Moe, Manasseh, John, Phileman

Ruth was herself an excellent teacher and began a gospel radio broadcast to Pao people through Gospel Broadcasting Mission (GBM). She also launched the first Burmese Christian Women's Magazine in history of Myanmar. Those projects are funded through ACS. This exposure has



Cherry and Ruth



Ruth is Teaching at Lehe

helped her become an advocate for the further development of women and women's ministries. Her daughter Cherry and she have become regular teachers at women's seminars, discipling women and empowering them to greater works as "Christian women" in a culture where women are at the bottom of the food chain and the power structure. They recently returned from a trip to Naga Land.



Cherry is Teaching at Lehe

Manasseh established Taunggyi Christian Center and later launched Taunggyi Bible College. The graduates are now reaching nine previously unreached tribes with new church planting.



TBC Faculty and Students—2018

Manasseh's son Aaron after receiving a Master's degree from Cincinnati Christian University has become the new TBC President and is himself leading forward in the further development of future evangelists for more unreached peoples. Manasseh's role has now changed and he is nurturing the evangelists and strategically guiding the evangelistic endeavors from Taunggyi as the center of a movement for the gospel in Shan state and beyond.

Recently Manasseh published this appeal...

(1) Taunggyi Christian Center have sent 10 TBC graduates, 7 Naga students to Lehe and 3 Lisu students to the Southern Shan State since 2015. Last month, one of our Naga students named Timothy got 15 baptisms of new Naga converts. So, TCC is now in need of an evangelism fund to help those students. **Each student will need at least \$100 per month to serve the Lord in full time....**

(2) Khamti is located at the junction of high way of Lehe and the water ways of upper and lower Chinn Dwin River and also the airway from Central Myanmar. Therefore, it is very important to have a Biblical Training Center for outreach, leadership training and for other ministry purpose. As the first step, we need to buy a piece land for the Center. **The price of the land is a little bit cheaper there. It will cost only \$4000 for a land (120 ft x 180ft).**

Manasseh, Ruth, Aaron and Cherry are in the frontier of evangelism and in need of further resources. The First Christian Church of Columbus, IN has evolved to be the center of many churches and supporters who have empowered this great work. The tribal groups these workers are reaching are remote and generally extremely poor. It will take some extended time to develop the churches and the people so that they will be able to generate the resources needed to expand powerfully on their own. Please consider these opportunities in your prayers.

**URBAN MYANMAR** - Finally, Simon **Thaung** is the ACS "boots on the ground" representative based in Yangon. Simon is from the Putao area of the Christian north. He graduated from Bible College in Chiang Mai, Thailand. He has planted churches, been a full-time professor at EBI and now assists ACS and **ALL** of our partners with many different projects throughout the country.



Simon Thaung

The latest new endeavor is to find a way to penetrate the wall of the Bamar Buddhist tribe which represents at least 75% of the population of Myanmar. The cities of the country are densely populated with 90% Bamar. The discovery of using children's ministry as the bridge has led to a new partnership with STADIA in the USA. STADIA has as its motto, "Every Child Needs a Church." STADIA is now joining ACS with two new strategies to reach this distinct people group. First, STADIA is helping find new sponsors beyond our ACS support base to fund the building of nice structures in the center of Bamar communities to establish preschools during the week and then on weekends establish a new church. Two of this model are now functioning wonderfully with regular new Buddhist converts. The first project is Grace Village. (Its donor chose to remain unknown.) The second project, Hope Village, was sponsored by the Suncrest Christian Church in St. John, IN. They will be sending representatives to visit in August. Both churches are growing. A similar but slightly different approach is being launched in Thailand among Buddhist refugees who have crossed the border. Because of their illegal status, the children receive NO public education. A different kind of child focused approach is being developed. That building will be dedicated in October and the evangelist is on location. The Sun City Center Christian Church in Florida is sponsoring that project and will have five members participate in the Dedication. More will be reported in the future.



New Stadia Church at the MaeSot Trash Dump



New Evangelist

A second strategy (#2) Stadia has suggested is that STADIA/ACS request one-time gifts of \$9200 for Urban Church planters. This money would fund a new plant for 4 years in a decreasing amount each year. These funds would pay rent and living expenses for a church planter and his family and allow them to start a new church in their home. It would also allow them to begin a child friendly ministry in their urban "neighborhood." The thoughts through this strategy are that in four years, the new church will be established, be self-supporting and may be able to send out a new church planter to continue the multiplication process. STADIA's counsel is that single significant gifts are sometimes better for some generous donors. ACS will hold those funds and distribute them carefully as it now does over those four years.

Simon is wearing many different hats for ACS at this time. He is the "General Contractor" for each of the new buildings in Strategy #1. He is also managing the recruitment and vetting process for each of the new church planters for Strategy #1 and #2, and children's workers for those projects. He is able to do this because the pool of qualified workers for these projects is adequate.

These workers are graduates of the Bible Colleges that LaVerne urged and established. While studying they were being trained through "learning by doing." They became missionaries their freshmen year and basically studied 6 months and served in the field six months for four years. Upon graduation they are ready to go! In their current economic system, when they graduate, they expect to go to work to feed their family and then evangelize and plant new churches as they work. As churches grow, those that stay to pastor those churches begin to be compensated by those churches. This STADIA funding strategy would send those chosen to plant these new works to begin full time work immediately or gather experienced workers and put them to immediate work in a new location.

The colleges provide the pipeline of new evangelists. They are "missionary factories." Their only limitation is the collection of potentially excellent students. All of the Bible Colleges suffer from a shortage of a limited quantity of quality students for the same reason. **They have only limited resources for scholarships.** As Myanmar is becoming more western, the cost of everything is rising quickly. A student can be trained now for \$40 per month for four years. That covers Tuition, Books, Room, Board and Food. Sadly that is double what it was just 10 years ago. The total cost per student is now \$1920 for the four years. That means every new scholarship will provide another church planter and hundreds more in the population of Heaven! This is an incredible value, but it does require new funding.

**In Summary** – New Resources are needed to do new work! **Each new gift of regular monthly support of \$100 will send out a new church planter. Five are ready to go to the Golden Triangle in Northern Thailand and into Laos. Seven are ready to go to Naga land in Northwestern Myanmar and three are ready to go into unreached Shan State. And four experienced workers in NE India will have adequate compensation for their continued work. \$40 a month will scholarship a future church planter through one of the Bible Colleges. A \$4000 piece of land needs**

**to be purchased** to establish a new Training Center at the edge of Naga Land in NW Myanmar. **Five church planters are ready to go into action in Burmese Urban areas for each \$9,200** that will cover 4 years. And, **an Ambulance is needed** in NE India. Perhaps someone in our support system knows of an NGO or a Philanthropic Organization that specializes in this kind of medical work. **Let us know what you know and we will pursue it.**

**These are large needs, but not overwhelming. Please pray for ACS and share the needs with your small groups, Bible Classes, Mission Committees and generous friends. Together we all can help the Kingdom of God come to South East Asia!**

***FYI - In June, George Drake and I had the privilege to represent ACS and participate in the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Faith Promise Rally at Anchor Christian Church in Rochester, New York. They have been loyal ACS supporters for 42 years. We had a splendid experience! If any church that is connected to an ACS supporter would invite us to any Mission Emphasis or Mission Committee Meeting, one of our Board Members would love to accept and participate. Please spread the word into your circles of influence.***

***Also - Marcia and I will be going to Myanmar and Thailand October 14 – November 2. We will be in Myanmar the first half and Thailand the second half of the trip. If you would like to go and see for yourself what God is doing, consider coming with us. We could take several more guests along. You could travel all the trip or just half of the trip. Contact us and let's begin a conversation.***

## In Honor of...

Diane Adams ..... M. Doylene Grimm  
Vyron Fender..... Vivian L. Fender  
Jacob Grimm ..... M. Doylene Grimm  
Dr. Steve Newton ..... John S. & Meredith N. Walker  
(For Taunggyi Bible College)

## In Memory of...

Ruth A. Boyd ..... John T. Boyd  
Kaleb Grimm..... M. Doylene Grimm  
R. LaVerne Morse..... Ross N. Lange  
Erwin & Wilma Stock ..... Michael W. Stock, JW & EL  
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Bernice Roberts & Dorothy Breuer ... Elaine and George Breuer  
(In Memory of our Mothers)

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