

Myanmar Earthquake Relief Mission — Simon Thaung

“Love your neighbor as yourself.” — Mark 12:31



The earthquake struck Myanmar on March 28, 2025, at 12:50 p.m. with a magnitude of 7.7 killing over 4,000 people and injuring more than 20,000. Sixty percent of buildings were badly damaged or destroyed in Mandalay. Fires swept through many areas and electricity went out across much of the region. Many residents are living in damaged buildings or on the streets with little or nothing left. Roads and railroads have also been severely damaged, making transportation and movement of supplies extremely difficult. The human death toll continues to rise.



Kent Odor

Thank you for setting aside time to read this newsletter. Many of you are highly invested in the encouragement to our brothers and sisters in Christ in Asia. This newsletter highlights recent events. Here is a report from Simon.

Simon, is a key ACS leader in Myanmar and is also the founder of a Burmese NGO — HOPE Foundation — which is registered in the country. Having this role in the HOPE organization gave him immediate free access to the emergency area that was restricted to outsiders. Simon gathered both HOPE staff and associates as well as about 30 ACS church planters and evangelists in southern Myanmar to show God's love in the immediate recovery and medical relief needed following the earthquake. This is his story . . .

(In this article, Ko Jay, a key assistant to Simon in HOPE, and Naomi, Simon's daughter, also contributed.)

The earthquake struck Myanmar on March 28, 2025, at 12:50 p.m. with a magnitude of 7.7 killing over 4,000 people and injuring more than 20,000. Sixty percent of buildings were badly damaged or destroyed in Mandalay. After hearing the devastating news, I spent two days in Yangon preparing supplies and organizing our team. We left for Mandalay on March 31, and reached Mandalay and Sagaing, the epicenter of the disaster. (The travel distance was about 400 miles and a 10-hour drive from Yangon. Sagaing is a suburb of Mandalay.)



Simon Thauung

One of the first places we saw was a scene of heartbreaking destruction in Mandalay. After a devastating earthquake and fire, what was left were shattered buildings and lives in need of prayer and restoration. In this place a devastating fire had erupted from the ground following the powerful earthquake in Maha Aung Myay, outside of Mandalay, engulfing entire neighborhoods in flames. The blaze rapidly spread, destroying over 100 homes and leaving many residents homeless. Tragically, five people lost their lives, and dozens more sustained injuries, some in critical condition. Our medical team provided emergency care, treating burns, fractures and smoke inhalation. Despite challenges like aftershocks and blocked roads, we stabilized patients and coordinated with local volunteers, though ongoing support remains critical for recovery.



HOPE and ACS Relief Team



Rescue and Relief: Love in Action After the Earthquake

Our well-trained disaster response team quickly mobilized emergency relief supplies. Amid Sagaing's earthquake chaos, upon arrival the team assessed the most critical needs and established temporary coordination centers to ensure effective distribution of aid. We delivered emergency medical care to the injured — prioritizing critical cases, arranging referrals, and saving lives through urgent operations. Emergency rescue efforts focused on locating survivors trapped beneath collapsed buildings, utilizing search-and-rescue equipment and collaborating with local volunteers and first responders. Children and adults received treatment regardless of background, as we mirrored God's love through action.

We provided immediate life-saving assistance, including the distribution of emergency food rations, clean drinking water and basic hygiene kits to prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases. Mobile medical units were deployed to treat the injured, offering first aid, trauma care and essential medications. **Special attention was given to vulnerable populations, many of whom had lost access to healthcare services due to the destruction of local clinics and hospitals.** Our medical team gave emergency medical care at a Buddhist monastery and Muslim Rehab camp.

We trusted in God's provision. Collaborating with local and other partners, we targeted hard-hit areas like Sagaing, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw (The Myanmar Capital city). We created a Facebook page, *Myaw Lint Yar-HOPE*, to update friends and potential donors.

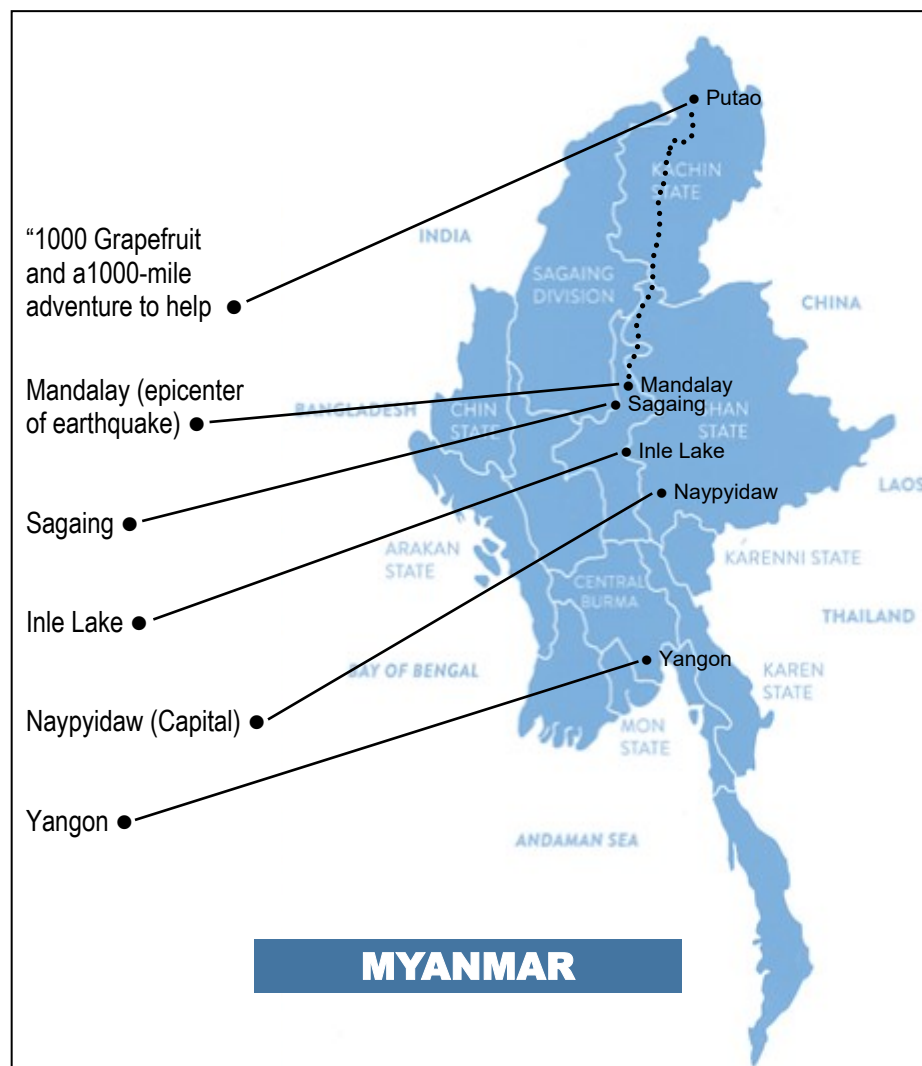
There were many injured patients, and we had challenges to manage and give the best treatment and referral services and helped many emergency operations and save precious lives. Dr. Aung from the HOPE team provided compassionate medical care to earthquake survivors, many suffering from trauma and sleeplessness after losing homes and loved ones. Our support brings healing to both body and mind.



Search and Rescue — Simon and Nelson



Accessing Needs



Sheltering Hope: Laying Foundations for Recovery

To support longer-term relief, temporary shelters were erected for displaced families, offering protection from the elements and a sense of stability amidst the chaos. In addition, our team coordinated with local authorities and international partners to ensure transparent, needs-based aid distribution, and began planning for the next phase of recovery, including mental health support, rebuilding infrastructure and restoring community services.

Our trusted Yangon based partner **FEDWELL**, a company that makes nutrition packs, supported working with us. Other partners like **ACS** and **IDES** also joined in to support our mission of showing God's love to those in need. Just as Moses began with only a staff in his hand, we started with what we had. **I placed my trust in God—who makes all things possible—and He faithfully guided and provided every step of the way.**

As we entered the worst-affected earthquake areas, we noticed a great need for clean water. All wells were damaged. We informed our partners, and they helped by providing water filters. To prevent waterborne diseases like cholera, we formed a Water Distribution Committee in Sagaing. We bought a truck, generator, water pumps and tanks. At one church site, with the help of another donor (WATER TECH), we set up a purification system that produced 500 liters per hour, funded at a cost of US \$10,000. Alongside providing over a million liters of clean water to survivors, we sent three evangelists to oversee distribution, share the Good News, and plant a house church. ***"Whoever gives even a cup of water... will not lose their reward." - Matthew 10:42*** This initiative not only met urgent physical needs but also brought spiritual hope, demonstrating the power of resilient faith and practical compassion in crisis. We distributed over 4,000 household filters and taught people how to use them.

We worked closely with local Burmese national evangelists and Burmese missionaries already serving in areas like Sagaing, Mandalay, Inle and Nay Pyi Taw. They knew the situation and who needed help the most. They provided key information and helped guide our efforts. Some Asian missionaries from Thailand also joined us, expanding our ability to help more people.



Makeshift Shelter



FEDWELL Nutrition Packs



Water Filtration System



Filtered Water



Clean Water

Samaritan's Purse: Medical Relief and Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw

Samaritan's Purse joined the rescue, relief and healthcare efforts in response to the devastating Myanmar earthquake. Demonstrating compassion and urgency, they quickly set up their medical tents and operational headquarters at Nay Pyi Taw Football Stadium (The Capital city about 175 miles south of Mandalay). Their skilled medical teams began providing critical care to injured victims, including emergency treatments and life-saving surgeries. They transformed this central location into a hub for surgeries and trauma care. Their swift, loving response reflected Christ's heart for the hurting—proving compassion knows no border.

Their presence brought not only practical assistance but also emotional and spiritual support to the suffering communities. By serving tirelessly and sacrificially, Samaritan's Purse truly embodied the love and compassion of Christ, offering hope in the midst of heartbreak. Their commitment and care were a powerful testimony of love in action—bringing healing, dignity, and encouragement to the people of Myanmar during one of the darkest times in their recent history.

We helped the Samaritan's Purse assessment team collect water samples from three locations in Sagaing. The government let them serve for 40 days. Unfortunately, as foreigners, they were restricted by the authorities to work only in Nay Pyi Taw so we couldn't collaborate much further.



Simon and Dr. Aung with Samaritan's Purse



Samaritan's Purse Hospital

Multi-Partner Emergency Effort

In collaboration with several trusted partners—including **IDES, FAME, ACS, the Myanmar Red Cross, Water Mission, Samaritan's Purse and local communities**, we together provided emergency healthcare services to approximately 10,000 individuals, ensuring that the injured and vulnerable received timely and compassionate medical care. Food supplies were distributed to countless families facing shortages, and clean water became a top priority in our relief efforts. Over 8,000 water filters were delivered to communities in crisis, and clean water was supplied to more than 30,000 households. In addition, we installed water purification systems in key locations to provide ongoing access to safe drinking water and to prevent the spread of disease in the aftermath of the disaster. This coordinated effort demonstrated the power of unity and compassion in action—multiple organizations and local volunteers working side by side to bring HOPE, HEALING AND RESTORATION to the people of Myanmar.



Faithful on the Frontlines: Physical Help, Eternal Hope

By God's provision and the generous support of our partners, we were able to sustain relief efforts for two full months following the earthquake. This work was not only a response to physical need—it was also a continuation of our mission to combine practical aid with gospel outreach. In a bold step of faith, we sent evangelists into traditionally closed Buddhist and Muslim communities, identifying ourselves as Christians motivated by the love of Christ. **As we distributed food, clean water and medical supplies, we took time to build relationships, listen to people's stories and pray with them. These simple but powerful moments opened hearts, creating opportunities for ongoing evangelism and the planting of house churches.**



Praying for a Child with a Burn



Encouraging a Family in Need



Dr. Aung



Sharing Needed Rice



Sharing Hope and Encouragement with the People

Story #1 - A Father's Loss and Hope Amid the Rubble

When the earthquake struck Sagaing, Nay Lin stood helpless outside his collapsing home. Inside, his world crumbled—the ceiling fell, claiming his young son's life and leaving his wife with severe leg injuries. As rescuers pulled her from the wreckage, Nay Lin faced every parent's worst nightmare: "Why did I survive when my child didn't?" For days, he wandered the ruins, haunted by grief and unable to sleep—until our relief team reached him.

A Turning Point:

- Emergency surgery for his wife at our mobile hospital
- Food supplies and clean water for surviving family members
- Trauma counseling from our trained volunteers

"Your team was the first light in my darkness," Nay Lin told us, holding the relief kit. Though his son cannot be brought back, the practical support and compassion helped him take his first steps toward healing. ***"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted" Psalm 34:18***



Dr. Aung is giving Healthcare to Nay Lin

Story #2 - My Family's Loss

My husband was a hardworking construction worker—our sole provider, a loving father, and the foundation of our family. On that terrible day, the earth shook violently, and the building he was working on collapsed. Just like that, he was gone, taken by the earthquake that stole not only his life but also our future.

Now, I am left alone with our children, drowning in grief and fear. How will I feed them? Send them to school? The weight of his absence is unbearable. He was our strength, our hope. Without him, the days are dark, and the future feels hopeless. I pray for the courage to go on, but some days, even breathing feels impossible.

We have lost everything. And yet, for the sake of my children, I must find a way forward—even when every step feels like walking through fire.



Grateful Widow Expresses Heartfelt Thanks For Compassionate Help

Praying For Healing Their Traumas

We lift up in prayer the victims of the earthquake who are burdened with trauma, hopelessness and despair, asking the Lord to bring divine healing to their wounded hearts and minds.

Psalm 34:18 – "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit."

May the peace of Christ, which surpasses all understanding, surround them and restore their hope, reminding them that they are not alone. Let God's comforting presence fill their lives with shalom—wholeness, restoration, and perfect peace—as they find strength and refuge in Him. May they experience His unfailing love and grace, knowing that He is their healer and redeemer in every circumstance. Amen.

Isaiah 41:10 – "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

May this promise bring courage to those who are broken, assuring them that God is near in their suffering and will never abandon them. We pray that every traumatized heart feels God's closeness, receiving His comfort and healing as He binds up their wounds and renews their hope in Christ. Amen.

Building Relationships and Sharing the Gospel

In Myanmar, building relationships is key to sharing the gospel. Many people now know about us and our message. We're forming new networks and sending more evangelists to these areas. We believe this will lead to more open hearts and churches planted in the future. We are grateful for the support that helps us to meet both physical and spiritual needs. We ask for continued prayers as we expand our networks and share the gospel in Myanmar's hardest-hit regions. Please continue to pray for protection, wisdom and boldness as we expand our network and bring the hope of the gospel to some of Myanmar's most unreached and devastated areas.



Sharing God's Love

Today, we have commissioned 10 evangelists to return to the hardest-hit regions, where they are continuing both relief efforts and spiritual ministry. Already, new house churches are beginning to form—small communities of faith rising out of the rubble, offering light and hope in the midst of loss. We are deeply grateful for the support that makes this work possible.

To ACS and IDES

To all of our generous donors we say, in the wake of the devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck Myanmar, we have seen the hands and feet of Jesus moving through your prayers, your giving and your acts of service! From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you. Your faithful support—both financial and physical—has enabled us to respond quickly and compassionately. The funds from **IDES** and **ACS** have been used to meet the urgent needs of food, water, medicine and, most importantly, hope — and also to support strategic gospel outreach. Through practical help and prayer, doors opened even in restricted areas like never before. We expect more stories soon, and we thank **IDES** and **ACS** donors for your generous support that is helping grow God's kingdom in Myanmar. Amid pain and loss, your involvement has brought light into the darkest places.



Sharing Rice

Just as our Lord Jesus came **"not to be served, but to serve"** - **Matthew 20:28** - you have followed His example by pouring yourselves out for those in need. Through your kindness, many have not only experienced practical help but also the love of Christ in action. Hearts are opening. Relationships are forming. House churches are beginning to grow—even in places once closed to the gospel.



Hope Brings Smiles

In every place where we gave aid, we introduced ourselves as Christians from northern Myanmar, here to share God's love. We explained that our God teaches us to love others, even if we've never met them before. We introduced our evangelists to the communities so people could learn more, and we prayed with them while distributing aid. Please pray for our relief efforts. Thank you, **IDES** and **ACS**, for your generous support that is helping grow God's kingdom in Myanmar.

We give glory to God for what He has done and continues to do through your partnership. Please continue to pray as we press on in both relief and ministry work. May we keep serving with humility, courage and love—until every life has heard of the One who came to serve and save. With gratitude and love in Christ, Simon

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble.

***But take heart! I have overcome the world."* - John 16:33**

Words of Thanks and Challenge

We are deeply grateful for your unwavering prayers and generous support in the wake of the earthquake disaster. Together, we have saved precious lives, provided urgent medical care, and brought hope to those shattered by loss. Your compassion has helped heal not only physical wounds but also the deeper scars of trauma and despair. Through prayer, counseling and practical aid, we have witnessed moments of light breaking through the darkness. ***“When I was hungry, you fed me” - Matthew 25:34.*** Yet, the road to recovery remains long. The needs are overwhelming -- families have lost homes, livelihoods and loved ones. Children go to sleep hungry, survivors battle fear of aftershocks, and communities struggle to rebuild. But we press on, trusting that every act of love matters. With your continued partnership, we will keep offering shelter, food and the promise that no one is forgotten.

1000 Grapefruit and a 1,000 Miles Adventure Trip to Help

Four evangelists from the far north in Putao made a trip to assist with the Earthquake Relief project. They also transported a truckload of grapefruits to Mandalay, enduring a grueling four-day journey. Due to ongoing conflicts along the way, they had to take muddy, rugged backroads. At one point, many vehicles got stuck in the mud and had to be pulled out by a tractor and elephant.

The truck was filled with 1000 Putao grapefruit. As our trucks rolled into the earthquake-stricken areas, we carried more than just fruit—we brought a 70-year legacy of compassion. This was a gift of love collected from some of the very poor Lisu farmers in the Putao area. This crop represents their harvest of a very precious product in Myanmar. These grapefruits trace their roots to 1950, when Father J Russell Morse brought seeds from the USA and Israel to Putao, nestled under the Himalayas. He was like a ‘Johnny Appleseed’ of citrus to Burma. He taught local farmers planting and grafting techniques into a native lemon root found in the jungle. They created orchards of grapefruit trees, transforming the region’s agriculture. **Today, these vitamin C and B-rich fruits —once a foreign**

seed—became a lifeline for survivors, nourishing bodies and symbolizing how faith and perseverance bear fruit across generations. This fruit is the product of that project many years ago and grapefruit are now a treasure to people in Myanmar. It was delightfully received, and it added nutrition and vitamins to the diets of the victims of the earthquake. This was a very meaningful outpouring of love.



J Russell Morse, LaVerne and Evangelist with Grapefruit in 1955



Elephants pulling stuck cars and trucks at muddy highway road



Grapefruits of Hope: A Legacy of Love for Earthquake Victims



Sharing Grapefruit



Grateful Recipients

Continuing the Mission: From Rescue to Rehabilitation

By God's grace, we have faithfully carried out rescue and relief efforts, bringing hope to many in crisis. Yet the work continues—our team is now focused on long-term rehabilitation, helping communities rebuild their lives with dignity. Your prayers and support are vital as we address these urgent needs:

1. **Medicines for Mobile Medical Team** – (\$4,000/month) – Many still suffer from illness and lack access to healthcare. This fund will provide life-saving medicines and treatments through our mobile clinics.
2. **Restrooms** – (\$50 each) – Proper sanitation prevents disease and restores dignity to families in need.
3. **Stoves for Cooking** – (\$25 each) – Efficient stoves reduce health risks from smoke and provide a reliable way to prepare meals.
4. **Kitchenware for Families** – (\$15 per family) – Basic pots, utensils and supplies help households cook nutritious food and regain stability.
5. **Preschool Building at Inle** – (\$7,000) – After an earthquake destroyed their school, this project will rebuild a safe learning space for children, giving them a foundation for education and a brighter future, as requested by teachers and community leaders. Your support can restore hope and opportunity. Preschool teachers and community leaders requested to rebuild preschool at Myit Pauk, Inle.
6. **Zinc Roofs for Families** – (\$200 per family) – A sturdy roof provides shelter from extreme weather and gives vulnerable families security and protection.
7. **Dignity Kits for Women** – (\$60 per woman) – These essential hygiene kits (including shampoo, sanitary pads, towels, underwear, and toiletries) help women maintain health, confidence and comfort during difficult times.
8. **Safe Drinking Water Solutions** – (\$2 per 20-liter bottle) – Access to clean water is a fundamental need for health and survival. Each \$2 provides a durable 20-liter water bottle, allowing families to safely store and refill drinking water from our water purification center—preventing waterborne diseases and ensuring children stay hydrated. In areas where clean water sources are scarce, these bottles become lifelines.
9. **Floating Homes** – (\$2,000 per family) After the devastating earthquake destroyed houses along Inle Lake, many families have been left without shelter, living in temporary tents or overcrowded shelters. This project will provide safe, stable floating homes for displaced families, protecting them from harsh weather and restoring dignity.
10. **Emergency Shelter Tarps** – (\$12 per family) With monsoon rains bringing flooding and displacement, these heavy-duty tarps provide critical emergency shelter—keeping families dry, protected, and together during storms. Just \$12 shields a household from wind, rain and exposure while they rebuild.
11. **School Supplies for Students** – (\$20 per student) As the new academic year begins in June, many children in Inle lack basic school essentials. Your donation of just \$20 will provide a student with: A sturdy school bag, Notebooks, pens, pencils, erasers, Coloring supplies and a ruler. These supplies remove barriers to education, helping students attend class prepared and motivated to learn. A small gift can make a big difference in a child's future!



Damaged Home at Inle Lake

12. Umbrellas & Raincoats – (\$7 each) – With monsoon season approaching, these simple items will protect children and adults from illness as they travel to work, school or medical care.

13. Earthquake Reinforcement for Homes – (\$150 per family) Many families live in fragile bamboo and wooden homes that have been dangerously tilted or weakened by recent earthquakes. Your \$100 gift provides sturdy cables, anchors and construction materials to pull structures upright and secure them against future quakes—literally saving homes from collapse.

Every gift—big or small—makes a tangible difference. "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord" (Proverbs 19:17). Will you help us bring hope, health, and restoration to those still struggling? Together, we can be the hands and feet of Christ to the most vulnerable. Your partnership—through prayer or giving—will transform lives and demonstrate God's love in practical ways. ***"And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).***

Will you stand with us in this mission? ***"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people" (Galatians 6:9-10).***

Your fellow Laborer for the Hurting world,

Simon Thaung

Executive Director,

Myaw Lint Yar (HOPE)

Late Breaking News from Simon as this UPDATE is on the way to the Printer:

There have been 35 Baptisms since the earthquake! God is working in the hearts of the earthquake's victims drawing men and women to His heart, and they are receiving forgiveness and Hope!



In Memory Of

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Contributions may be sent to:

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