



July 2012



Myanmar is Open

We heard about the Berlin wall falling down and the fall of Communism in Russia and China, but it was still hard to believe that the rule of the **Military Junta in Myanmar** could come to an end. God has heard the prayer of His people in Myanmar and all around the world who responded to His calling to *"Humble themselves, seek His face, pray and turn from their wickedness so that He would heal the land"* (2 Chr 7:14).

He has confirmed His word *'The king's heart is in the hands of the Lord and He can turn it wherever He wishes'* (Pro 21:1). The Military Junta has actually conducted an election for a new Democratic government which has started ruling the country since 2011 August. Many incredible changes have happened. Praise God!

Dear Co-partners of God and brothers and sisters, it is exciting to hear and see what is happening in **Myanmar** right now. The country was ruled by military government from 1962 and became one of the poorest nations in the world from being **one of the richest nations** in South East Asia. **But Democracy has finally come to Myanmar!** We are praying for God to pour out His Spirit on this land!

The **Nobel Prize Winner** and the beloved of the people: **Aung San Suu Kyi** who had been under house arrest for 15 years has been now in the government, with her **NLD Party winning 43 of the 44 seats vacant at the By Election** on the 1st of April, 2012. The **Australian** Government, The UK and European nations have lifted up economic sanctions, while America is intending to do soon.





Buddhism in Myanmar

According to 2011 reports, Myanmar now has a population of over 60 million people. About 90% of the population is practicing Buddhists. It is the most religious Buddhist country in the world (in terms of the proportion of monks (400,000 monks and 75,000 nuns) in the population and proportion of income spent on religion). Everywhere you go from the cities to the country towns and villages, there are Buddhist monasteries, pagodas, temples and alters. **There are over 135 people groups that practice Buddhism** but many of them mix their beliefs with animist and occult beliefs. We have much work to do. But God is able!

Ancient Prophecies about Jesus by Buddha

Under the Junta government itself many Buddhists including notorious monks were converted. Many of them testified that the Buddhists are waiting for the true God whom Buddha himself had prophesied centuries ago to yet appear after him.

Buddha's description of the coming true God whom the Buddhists are expecting to appear, (like the Jews are waiting for the Messiah to appear), applies to Jesus Christ. The ancient prophecies state that the true God would have the following characteristics:

- ***"He would be born of a virgin***
- ***Would be a bachelor (all Buddhist 'gods' that have already appeared were men with families)***
- ***Would have scars in His hands and feet***
- ***Would be able to conquer death and***
- ***Would be ascended to heaven alive"***

I believe that the Buddhists will soon find out the truth and worship the true God who is the Lord Jesus Christ. **They have just not been yet presented with the Truth of who Jesus is and that Jesus has come already!** Please pray that many missionaries and evangelists will reach the many millions of Buddhists in Myanmar. The time is short, the harvest is plentiful and ripe but the harvesters are few. Please pray, sponsor and come to Myanmar!

GTP is God's Vision for Myanmar: To plant gospel-preaching, disciple-making, Spirit- filled church in every unreached town/village/community of Myanmar in cooperation with **ALL** the existing churches so that **ALL** people in Myanmar hear the gospel and be saved.

Amazingly, the **Lord is preparing the way** for His vision to fulfill quickly. In Myanmar, **UNDP** is helping the villages turn the streams into Electrical Power so that even the remotest village has Hydropower to give light to every home and even watch national TV programs in the villages and towns. So, **our church planting ministry can be quickened** by preaching the gospel and conducting trainings through media and technology such as TV, Radio, Video, DVD, CD, etc. **Technology is advancing so quickly that** the gospel can be preached through Hand phones, iPods, etc. which are made available so cheap for everyone to use it. The Lord is fully preparing His way to return at any time. **Let's make haste to bring the gospel** to all men, women and children in Myanmar before Jesus returns.

GTP Mission Stations

We support our **missionaries** for only three years and then release them to stand on their own as self-supporting churches. Currently we are supporting **18 Churches**. If we combined all the congregations there is a total of 156 families we are supporting. In the past 22 years of Ministry, GTP has planted over **200 churches with over 6,000 converts**.

Adults	Youth	Children	Preschoolers	TOTAL	Born Again	Water Baptised	Holy Spirit Baptised	
392	146	191	244	931	682	472	304	

For the **first time in 50 years**, a **Christian Gospel Music Festival** was held in a government's national Indoor Sport Stadium. The festival was officially opened by the Religious Affairs Minister and attended by over **seven thousand** young **Christians freely worshipping** with foreign speakers for three whole days without any security (police or army) present at all and over two thousand young people committed their lives to the Lord Jesus.

Many daily newspapers, weekly journals are issued freely and the new government is heard to open about 60 TV channels. An **opportunity is open for the gospel to be preached through TV program** even right now if we have the resources to undertake it.



Pastor **Aung Kham** and his wife with **Mang Suan** in Lashio, Shan State. The church is located just 30 minutes from the outskirts of the city.



Township Missionary Training

We were in Myanmar in **March and April** during the dry season with temperatures in Yangon ranging from 37° - 40° C every day.

During March, GTP conducted a **Township Missionary Training** for three weeks. Many of the pastors that attended travelled from different parts of the country including the Shan State, Irrawaddy and Kachin States. We were privileged to host speakers from many different countries. The topics covered included:

- Melvin Ang (Melbourne, Australia)
– Cell Churches
- Tim Bunn (North Carolina, USA)
– Church Planting
- Michelle & Jerome Joseph (Brighton, England)
– Apostolic & Prophetic Ministry
- Malcolm Archer (Gold Coast, Australia)
– Five Fold Ministry
- Fred & June Gladman (Melbourne, Australia)
– Business Integrity & Marriage

The ministry and teaching imparted greatly blessed the 40-50 attendees and they all said **it was the best training** they had ever attended. All of them will go about their ministry much more effectively with a greater attitude of spiritual authority.

Some of these ministers (about 25) who are already serving as local pastors in the towns and villages around the country will be selected to be part of **GTP's 10 Year Plan**. Please pray that we will be able to find sponsors for these pastors.



Tachiliek, Shan State

The team from Australia (Malcolm Archer, Fred & June Gladman, Mang Suan and Haunu) and a team from GTP Yangon Office (Kip Nu, Peter, and Kyaw Lin) travelled to the Shan State to visit some of GTP's missionaries and their stations.

The first city was **Tachiliek** where Malcolm, Fred, June and Mang ministered and visited **Pastor Suan No's Church**.

Tachiliek is located very close to the Thailand Border near the Golden Triangle. Here, on 24th March 2011, a magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck the region very close to Tachiliek. It caused some damage as far away as Chiang Mai. But the Pastors there were ok and were not badly affected.



Lashio, Shan State

Both Teams met up in **Lashio**; some of the team travelling for 14 hours by bus from Yangon. GTP conducted a day seminar where about 60 -70 people attended. **Many of the pastors and churches involved are new pastors starting new churches.** Some of our missionaries including **Pastor Aung Kham** and **Pastor Sam** live in Lashio.

Many of the pastors that will be part of the **10 Year Plan** live in and around Lashio Township. Lashio is a big city of about 130,000 people and comprised mostly of the Shan, Burmese, Hindus, Muslim and Chinese people.

Since 2000, Lashio has been very important for border trade between Myanmar and China. China being one of the only and biggest traders with Myanmar to date.



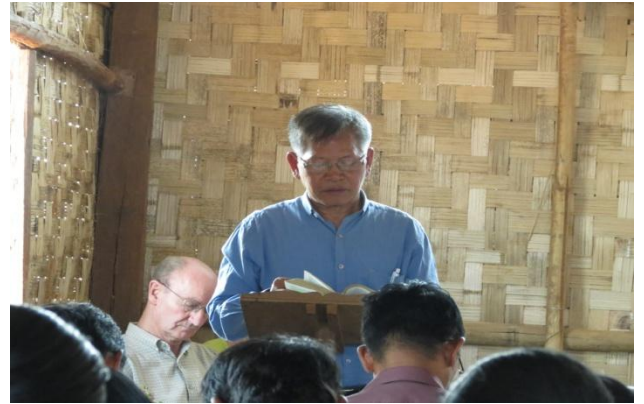
The Team from Australia visit **Lashio** and **Tachiliek** in the Shan State. GTP Missionary/ Pastor Suan No has planted many churches in Tachiliek. We are going to start planting urban churches in Lashio with Pastor / Missionary Aung Kham.



Missionary's Training (Yangon)

We were privileged to have Pastor **Ted Fabyianic** from **Faith Life Church** (Melbourne, Australia) teach for a few days in **April**, to spend time with our current missionaries. Ted was able to teach and equip them better for the Ministry. This time we also invited the wives of the missionaries.

They were all very blessed and were very hungry for more of the presence and anointing of God on their lives and on their ministries. There were about 40 attendees and they were all able to stay at GTP headquarters.



Ted Fabyiaic teaching and ministering to our current Missionaries/ Pastors at GTP HQ in Yangon. We were able to include the Pastor's wives for the first time and they were greatly encouraged.



Myanmar's Future

With political reform, there is also more openness to **foreign trade and foreign visitors to Myanmar**. When we were there in March -April, we saw so many foreigners then we had ever seen in history with all the hotels in Yangon booked out. During our stay in Yangon in April, **Aung San Suu Kyi** was officially elected into Parliament. Since then, she has been given permission to leave the country and was on a European Tour.

The nation of Myanmar is entering into a new and uncharted period of economic and political change.

We also believe that it is also a time for a **spiritual wave of change** coming to Myanmar. We are praying that we can take this opportunity **to bring God's light to the people** there. We pray that there will be freedom for the people in the natural but also **freedom for the people spiritual** and many will come into the Kingdom of God in the coming years. We are excited about the future and what God wants to do through GTP during this time. Please keep us in prayer so we are making the best use of our time and resources to reach the people of Myanmar. We pray that **God will open many doors in Myanmar** but also sponsors and supporters as you to come and invest not just economically but for the eternal spiritual lives of the people there. Myanmar will also be hosting **2013's South East Asian Games**. The country is going to be very much in the international stage and we pray God's favour to come on this country.

CTC School: We had 7 students who graduated from our **CTC School** in March for the last academic year (2011-2012). All of the students came from many different parts of the country and completed the nine month training.

LBB: We are currently supporting 50 children through **LBB Child Sponsorship**. The last school year finished in March and the new school year has just begun in June. All our children are doing well. We'd love to find **more sponsors** to sponsor many more children!



Current and Future Events

Business Training (July 2012)

Mang & Ciin will be going to Myanmar from **July 8th to 13th August**. One of our sponsoring partners **Faith Life Church's** Missions Director Penny and the business partners involved conducted a few days training in early July to conduct a **Business Training Seminar** for Christian Businessmen.

This is a great endeavor that we are excited about as it will help the many business people in Myanmar at this opportune time.

Please also keep us in your prayers that GTP will also be able to take this chance to benefit so that we can have more resources, have **integrity and wisdom** in businesses dealings to fund the many church planting projects GTP is starting in the **GTP 10 Year Plan**.



10 Year Plan The year 2012 is significant for GTP. Since our thanksgiving ceremony of God's faithfulness to His Partners for 20 years of His Ministry in 2009, the Lord has been leading us to a level which is more comprehensive but more specific and focused **strategy to reach all the 400 (would be) townships of Myanmar within ten years**. For the last 22 years, over 200 missionaries have been sent out to the mission field and **thousands of souls have been saved, nurtured and made disciples** through the local churches established. However, the churches planted were mostly in the villages and in the poor outskirts of towns and cities because the support level of our missionaries had not been strong enough to start new churches in the towns or cities. We now are focused on **Urban Church Planting** using the townships as **Regional Mission Centers (RMC)**. We will partner with existing vibrant churches and pastors who can train and equip church planters in their congregations, who will then then go and reach the neighboring smaller towns and rural village. To support a pastor at our RMC will be **AU \$ 250/ month** as the cost of living in townships is higher than in villages. As part of the strategy, we will conduct yearly (month-long) **Mission Awareness Seminars** (250 Pastors to cost \$5,000 conducted in the major cities) and **Township Missionary Trainings** in Yangon (60 Pastors to cost \$6,000).

In **October**, we are hoping to conduct Township Missionary Trainings in **Yangon** and Missionary Awareness Trainings in **Yangon, Myitkyina, and Lashio**. Please pray the Lord will provide all the resources. There will also be Short-Term Missions Teams coming in October/ November.

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