

Rice Bowl

MISSION



Global Mission's Myanmar Newsletter

August 2018



Breaking New Ground in Myanmar



It is exciting to report that we have now made a major step forward in our Ricebowl Mission partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM). Wayne and Helen Harry from Dunedin arrived in Myanmar in July and have started to settle in to their roles at Tahan Theological College (TTC). Wayne is working as a farm manager and trainer, and Helen is teaching English and pastoral counselling. These are their core functions, but they will be doing much more than this as they become established and respond to the many mission and ministry opportunities in their midst. Things have begun well, although it is daunting for them in the heat and humidity. It's very encouraging to be at this new stage of our partnership with the PCM. Please pray for Wayne and Helen as they adjust to their new surroundings. Some of the TTC students Wayne will be working with are on the campus grounds in the photo above. Helen is teaching a class in the B.A Programme the photo on the right. If you would like to keep up to date with Wayne and Helen's news you can follow their blog at <https://helenharry.com/>.



A lot of things happened quickly in July. Not long after Wayne and Helen arrived in Myanmar, Petra Malcolm, a PCANZ member and teacher from Auckland took up an invitation to teach at the Victoria Boarding School in Mindat, Chin State. This school was highlighted in the previous edition of Mingalaba. The students (below right) asked us to send them an English teacher. It is fantastic that Petra has responded to this request. She visited Myanmar a few years ago on a short-term Ricebowl Mission partnership programme. She is the first member of the PCANZ to reside or teach in the Chin State and is quite possibly the first New Zealander to do this. The Chin State has previously been closed to foreigners and has only opened up in the past few years. The staff and students are thrilled to welcome Petra, who will initially be there for three months. So now we have three PCANZ members working in the ministries of our partner church in Myanmar—very exciting. Invitations are open to anyone who would like to explore options for themselves.



Project Grants

We continue to fund projects of the PCM. Earlier this year grants were made for the following projects (in USD):

TTC Guest House (this will be the accommodation for Wayne and Helen Harray, and other visiting staff in the future) -\$7,000

The Tailoring Training project (see more information below) - \$2,500

Canbong Church, Matupi, Chin State—\$5,000 (a further grant to help complete the project)

Scholarships for a Doctor of Ministry and a Master of Divinity programme, and four students at TTC—\$6,600



Left: Students worship at Victoria Boarding School

Right: Tailoring Training class



PCANZ members Andrew and Karen and Murch saw the benefits of the Tailoring Training Programme first-hand when they visited Myanmar in March this year.

Tailoring Training Feedback

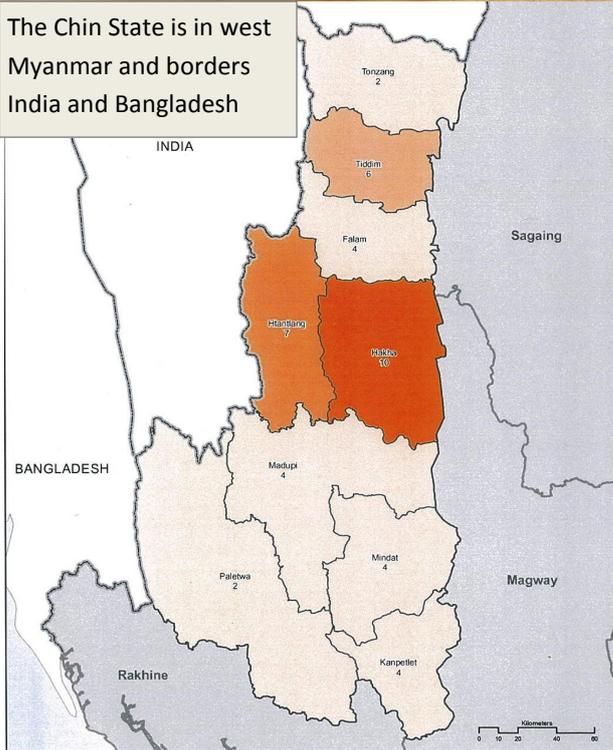
The PCM's Womens Secretary Hming Sangi sent a report on the most recent tailoring training programme, and her comments are summarised here: "The sixth Women's Tailoring Course finished successfully and we had the closing programme on April 11th. There were nine trainees and seven finished with excellent results. Three of the trainees came from far away in the Chin State and made the commitment to leave their families behind and attend the training because they were so eager to learn. They were enthusiastic learners and achieved a lot over the duration of the course. We have enough current funds to run one more training course and we are very thankful to all the PCANZ members and leaders who support women's development in the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar."

Projects in the Chin State



For years the Chin State suffered from oppression under the Burmese Military Junta and consequently lacks development. We have committed to supporting several projects of the PCM in the Chin State to develop education and help build capacity, and improve their livelihoods. The group of men on the left are from Far Tlang village in the Tedim Synod, close to the Indian border. The Ricebowl Fund has contributed to the building of the pastor's house which you can see behind them to the left. Prior to this the pastor was living in sub-standard conditions.

The Chin State is in west Myanmar and borders India and Bangladesh



Right—a pastor's house in Rih Lake, Chin State, also close to India.

Below Right—Rev. Bawi Zaw is boarding master at Victoria Boarding School where Petra Malcom is teaching. He is a recipient of a D.Min. Scholarship.

Below—Children take an interest in the construction of the Canbong Church in Matupi, southern Chin State. The building of churches is an important step in giving the Christians a greater sense of identity after years of neglect.





Left: Wayne Harray works on an exercise with the students at TTC. This involved putting down some gardens using cardboard as a base to keep down weeds followed by a layer of mulch. Wayne will be developing the land at the College and this will involve some teaching with the students who are interested in learning about agriculture. Wayne is making contact with NGO's and others involved in the agricultural sector to learn about local techniques and share skills. and awareness.

Right: Wayne and Helen with some of the staff at TTC. Two members of staff from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland have also been there on a short-term basis. Below, the kitchen at TTC that services 160 students three times a day.



Proposed Visit of PCM Members in November

Global Mission is making plans to host three members of the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar in New Zealand in November. A programme will be arranged which will enable them to share the stories of the life and mission of their church, and give feedback on the benefits of their partnership with the PCANZ. General Secretary Rev. Ling Zaw will be accompanied by the PCM's first female minister, and a youth representative. Information about the proposed visit will be forthcoming once visas have been approved. Global Mission previously hosted members of the PCM in 2012.

Thank you to everyone who financially supports our partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar. Donations are always welcome and allow us to achieve more. Donations to the farm development project that Wayne is managing, or personal support for Wayne and Helen, or Petra Malcolm are also invited. Online donations can be made to 02 0500 0086963 10, or cheques to Global Mission, P.O. Box 9049, Wellington 6141. (Please send an email or add a note confirming which project you would like to support).

If you would like more information please contact Global Mission Coordinator Rev. Phil King, phil@presbyterian.org.nz