

Rice Bowl

MISSION



Global Mission's Myanmar Newsletter

February 2019



In November last year Global Mission hosted a successful visit of three members from the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar. General Secretary Rev. Ling Zaw, first female Pastor Rev. Cherry, and youth representative Lal Tlan Lawma spent time in Auckland, Wellington and Dunedin, sharing about the mission of the PCM in our churches, and learning about life and culture in New Zealand. The visit was a big encouragement for them, and a positive step forward in our Ricebowl Mission partnership with the PCM. Each of them gained something special from the visit. Cherry received great encouragement from our female ministers and leaders who met with her and offered her prayer support and shared their experiences with her. Lal Tlan Lawma enjoyed learning about youth ministry in New Zealand and was deeply impacted by his visit to the Te Kakano O Te Aroha marae in Lower Hutt. And Rev. Zaw appreciated learning about the mutual mission context within our two churches. While they were here, further decisions were made about financial support for PCM projects. Read more inside ...

New Projects Supported

While Rev. Zaw was in New Zealand, members of the Myanmar Support Group met with him to discuss Presbyterian Church of Myanmar projects. The Ricebowl Mission continues to focus on supporting projects in the Chin State which still suffers from a lack of development. It was agreed that the following projects would be supported to a total of \$23,800 USD:

Post-Graduate Scholarships - Bawi Zaw (D. Min) and Chueng Siam Liana (M.Div). These were agreed to last year, and this will be the second of a three year commitment. \$2000 USD total per annum

Augcheng Church, Victoria Synod – The community will benefit through having a bigger and better church to cater for the growing population. One aspect of the church's outreach is to students who attend a government high school there. \$5000

Lawica Church, Victoria Synod – Lawica is deep in the Chin State between Matupi and Mindat. Government policy of combining small villages together required three villages to move to a new location. As this is a forced relocation by the Government, Lawica is a new village and had no church. The church is growing as the community migrates. \$6000

Falam Boarding House – this will cater for students who travel to Falam for education and will replace existing facilities that are dangerous and unstable. \$7000

Nurse Aid Training Course - it was agreed to fund students from the Chin State (right) at a nurse aid training course. This will provide them with a vocation and a chance to contribute to the development of health care in the Chin State. \$3,800



Petra Malcolm Returns From Teaching in the Chin State



Petra Malcolm returned to New Zealand in December after teaching at the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar's Victoria Boarding School at Mindat, in the Chin State for several months. Petra's time in the Chin State was groundbreaking because she is the first New Zealander to teach there, and we hope there will be further opportunities for others to follow in her footsteps. Here she is being farewelled by some of her students. As you can see they were reluctant to let her go. She described her time there as both challenging and amazing. She has now begun a new teaching job at Naenae College in Lower Hutt, which coincidentally has a lot of Myanmar students whose families came to New Zealand as refugees. This will allow her to remain in contact with the Chin community here in New Zealand. There was an article about Petra in the summer 2018 issue of SPANZ.

News From Wayne and Helen Harray

Wayne and Helen Harray have now been serving at Tahan Theological College for seven months and are doing an amazing job. They have survived some hot temperatures and are now enjoying a brief respite in the Myanmar winter; mornings and evenings are cooler, although the days are still quite warm. In their latest prayer letter, Helen wrote about their progress. Some of her comments are summarised here:

“It has been nearly 7 months since we came to Myanmar and there have been so many new things to adjust to and accommodate. For the most part it has felt like survival mode. I only speak for myself, Wayne is more able to roll with what happens, although he has lost 10 kilos and many times gets beaten by the heat and simply cannot work. For me there have been many challenges to navigate, not least of all cooking and getting to the market to buy food. Everyday cooking is a basic task with little instant food available and the need to start from scratch and wonder what to cook. Many people here ask what we eat because they eat rice for breakfast, lunch and



dinner. We eat a lot of chicken. I sometimes can make our own bread and there are always a lot of vegetables and fruit.

All of this is to say please keep praying for our health. It may seem basic but it is a critical area for prayer. Also for protection around the farm from insect bites and snakes (rarely seen) and from any kind of accidents on the land and with machinery. We feel very vulnerable when we go out on our motorbike. Wayne is a superb driver but you cannot account for everyone else in the crazy traffic without much regulation.

Wayne is making huge progress on the farm but prayer for wisdom for which tasks to do would be helpful. Also he is now advertising for a second employee and its critical to get the right person because long term we hope they will stay on. Having good English will help also. With more staff including day labour much can be done and this is exciting.

From my work point of view, I am getting involved in trying to improve the BA English programme. There are a few big issues that I see but I have to realise I can't solve them all. Really \$10,000 would help employ 3 fulltime staff and that would create a far better and more consistent programme. But that's a lot of money in this world.



Helen asks, “Can we bring people here to teach for a month? That’s another question. With the guesthouse next to our home this could work well.”

Wayne and Helen write regular blogposts which can be read at <https://helenharray.com/> and they also send a prayer letter which can be subscribed to by emailing helen.harray@gmail.com.

Snapshots from the PCM visit to New Zealand



- 1: Visiting St. Columba at Botany.
- 2: Tlana was impressed with his first experience of a hongi, at Te Kakano o te Aroha Marae in Lower Hutt
- 3: Greyfriars Presbyterian Church in Auckland hosted an evening meeting.
- 4: Rev. Kerry Enright shares some history at Knox Church, Dunedin after hosting an evening meeting.
- 5: Enjoying the youth ministry vibe at Knox Church in Lower Hutt.
- 6: Moderator Rev. Fakaofa Kaio greeted our guests on behalf of the PCANZ
- 7: Outside Knox Church, Dunedin

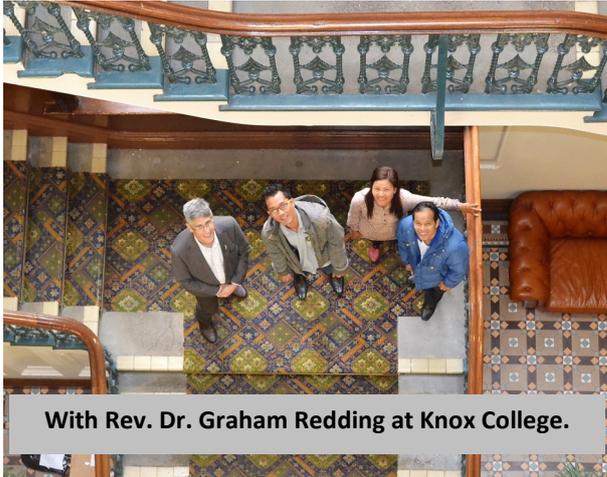




With ministry staff at Knox Church, Lower Hutt



The Chin State has very steep hills—so Cherry felt very much at home in Dunedin!



With Rev. Dr. Graham Redding at Knox College.



With Malcolm Gordon and Kevin Ward during a visit to the Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership



Left: Alan Paterson at Leith Church in Dunedin (wearing a Hakha jacket) greets our three guests.

Bottom Left: Some of PCANZ's female leaders had the chance to meet with Cherry at Knox College

Below Right: Rev. Ling Zaw, Rev. Cherry, and Lal Tlan Lawma enjoyed Dunedin's Botanic Gardens. They enjoyed the rhododendrons which were in full bloom, evoking memories of the Chin State.



Helen Harray is pictured here with staff from Tahan Theological College who teach in the B.A. English programme. Most of them teach part-time as TTC has a reasonably small full-time staff. If you are interested in finding out whether you could offer some volunteer teaching time at TTC, or in a Presbyterian Church of Myanmar school, contact Global Mission Coordinator Phil King .



Partnership Visit to Myanmar: Expressions of Interest

With a growing history of financial support for the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar, Petra Malcolm's short-term teaching position in the Chin State, and now with personnel serving at Tahan Theological College, the PCANZ's partnership with the PCM has been growing solidly. If you are interested in supporting this partnership by visiting Myanmar you are invited to express your interest to Global Mission Coordinator Rev. Phil King. This would include opportunity to contribute to the teaching ministry at TTC. Plans are underway to offer a Going Global programme for young adults early in 2020. More information about this will follow soon.



Sunflowers bloom with the Chin Hills in the background



Family and friends together in a village near Tahan

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, 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*