



## Mingalaba Newsletter # 27 December 2016



Members of the Zo Synod stand in front of their church which is nearing completion, in Kalaymyo.

### Dear Ricebowl Mission Supporters,

Thank you for your ongoing prayerful and financial support for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Myanmar. In the past few weeks we have received some good feedback from the PCM on projects that we have funded in the past year. Here are some of the highlights:

**Tahan Theological College (TTC)** - We have supported TTC with a grant for the past three years as they have sought to become fully self-funding. This continues to be a challenge for them but we hope they will get there. Principal Lura writes, "With the support of PCANZ, TTC could run her ministry without any problems through these past academic years. The project funds covered salaries for faculty staff, student scholarships and e-library development." During this time TTC has managed to gain increased funding from two synods within the PCM (Chin and Phai) to take effect from 2017. This will help improve their financial viability.

**Projects in the Chin State** - PCM General Secretary Ling Zaw has given reports on some of the projects that we supported in the Chin State - this is a more remote area of Myanmar where access and communication is difficult, and which has long suffered from a lack of development including suitable facilities for accommodation and worship. For this reason, building projects are supported in this area. Two projects we received feedback on are the Victoria Synod Girls hostel, and a tailoring training module in the Chin Hills:

## Victoria Synod Girls Boarding Hostel



Students and staff outside the girls hostel in the remote Victoria Synod area of the Chin State. The girls hostel is nearly completed. The ground floor is used for two classrooms, the first and second floors for accommodation. There are currently 98 students in residence.



**Falam Tailoring** - the tailoring training which has proven so popular in Tahan was taken into the Chin Hills to Falam, thereby offering more women the opportunity to benefit from the training. Twelve women (above) from three synods attended. Sangi, the PCM Womens Secretary said, "It is with your love and support that we could organise this tailoring project. Since the third course was organised in the Chin Hills, PCM women from the remote areas could get this opportunity. They really do benefit by tailoring training. It is our prayer that PCANZ will get many blessings from God through the tailoring ministry."

- **Zo Synod Church Building and Tedim Stall Rooms**

Photographs have also come in showing continuing progress on two other building projects; the church for the Zo Synod in Kalaymyo, and the Tedim Stallrooms. The Zo Synod church in particular has been a long, drawn-out process so they will be feeling especially pleased to see it finally taking shape.

## New Projects Recently Approved

The Myanmar Support Group received a list of new project applications from the PCM in September and after consideration, approved the following:

- Nurse Aid Training scholarships for four students
- Another grant towards the Womens Tailoring Training
- Final instalment of the three year commitment to support Tahan Theological College
- A Grant towards the building of new accommodation for the PCM General Secretary in Tahan. This was seen as a priority due to the damp and unhealthy conditions of the existing house.
- A manse compound for the Zo Synod in the Chin State. The previous manse had been destroyed by a landslide during the recent flooding.

The total for these projects came to \$28,200 US (the currency we send funds to in Myanmar) or just short of \$40,000 NZ. These funds were made up from Ricebowl donations and a grant from Global Mission. There were several other applications for worthy projects that, unfortunately, we simply were not able to fund this time around. Some of these came from Synods in the Chin State, which we hope we may be able to fund if they are repeated in the next round of applications. The Chin State is acknowledged to be the area of greatest need as Myanmar goes through a time of transition politically, socially and economically.

## Going Global Myanmar November 2017



Preparations are underway to lead a young adults "Going Global" programme to Myanmar in November/December 2017. This is a shared programme between Presbyterian youth Ministries and Global Mission. Advertising for this can be found here, <http://pym.org.nz/ministries/going-global/>. A limited number of more "senior" adults are welcome to apply to join this team as leaders and supporting members. If interest is high, there is an option to lead a separate team later next summer, perhaps in February 2018. Contact Phil King, [phil@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:phil@presbyterian.org.nz) for more information.

## Designated Project Support



### **Rev. Ling Zaw in Front of the Partially Completed Cangbong Church**

The PCM project committee sent through many projects that we were unable to fund in this past round of applications. Some of these may be suitable for congregations to adopt as a special mission project. If your congregation would be interested in considering this option – giving you a direct connection with a church and community in Myanmar - please contact Global Mission Coordinator Phil King for more information. These projects would have manageable targets for most PCANZ congregations. Here are some examples:

- Church Buildings, Maturam, Lairam and Victoria Synods - \$US 7,000
- Stall rooms (for income generation), Thantlang Synod – US \$7,000
- Scholarships – post-graduate theological training; as well as nursing qualifications (various amounts).

In closing, I can assure you that the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar values their relationship with the PCANZ very highly; they remain extremely grateful for all the support they receive from us, which is making a very real material difference in their lives. So on behalf of the people of the PCM, thank you to all those who contribute financially to the Ricebowl Mission – your support is a deeply appreciated. Please continue to hold the people of Myanmar and the members of the PCM in your prayers, and consider whether you can make the journey one day to visit and meet them in person – perhaps even joining the team to travel next year. And may God richly bless you this Advent and Christmas season.



Are you able to commit to supporting Rice Bowl with a weekly \$5 donation?

Please consider contributing the cost of a cup of coffee a week to the Rice Bowl Fund and with your help we will be able to support various projects (you can check out our donation form [here](#)).

The Rice Bowl fund focuses on income generating projects, scholarships, aid relief, development projects and mission support, all in partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar. To Invest in future projects please send donations to PCANZ Rice Bowl Fund with the [donation form](#).

Thank you very much for your generous donations and your continued support of our brothers and sisters in Myanmar.

### Exploring Options for Mission service in Myanmar

We are currently working on a potentially exciting new development, looking into the possibility of sending two members of PCANZ as mission partners with the PCM.

Wayne and Helen Harray from Dunedin have expressed interest in serving in Myanmar – Wayne is a Civil Engineer, and Helen is a PCANZ minister – and we are in the early stages of negotiations to see if we can set up suitable positions for them within the PCM, possibly based at Tahan Theological College.

We will take this a step further next year with a visit to assess options. This would be a major step forward in our partnership – but there is a long way to go with a lot of challenges to work through; so keep this in your prayers.

### Contact Us

Get in touch for more information on any of these stories or projects:

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