

Tel: 01782 746879  
Email: phil@tentmaker.org.uk  
[www.hartshill-bible-church.org.uk](http://www.hartshill-bible-church.org.uk)  
[www.tentmaker.org.uk](http://www.tentmaker.org.uk)

121 Hartshill Road  
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs.  
ST4 7LU

## News from Burma

May 8th 2008

Dear Friends,

You will all be aware of the terrible Cyclone that has hit Burma (Myanmar) in the past week. Initial reports spoke of absolute devastation:

*"I have never seen such devastation in my life"*

*"I think all the TV satellite receivers have been destroyed. Zinc roofs are scattered on the streets"*

*"No one is on the streets. Even no dog"*

*"Rains were pouring horizontally and it was like steam coming off the hot boiling water pot"*

*"Since roofs were ripped off, people have to stay inside their houses with doors locked and chained"*

*"We did not expect this much bad. So, we did not store food and now we are having problems with food"*



Typical houses  
in the poor areas

The aftermath, however, may be even more grim as there is no electricity, so no pumps, no phones, little petrol; many vehicles have been destroyed by falling trees; concrete and brick buildings have been severely damaged, whilst the bamboo and wood homes of the poor have completely disappeared; food is scarce and drinking water hard to obtain; prices are sky-rocketing.



We have had messages from some brethren in Yangon. Here are some of their letters:

Hung Ling and his wife run an orphanage (Victory Lighthouse Orphanage) as well as pastoring a church. On Tuesday he got this message through:

*"As you know about our situation, the cyclone hit Yangon. By the grace of God and your help in your prayer we, all our family, orphans children are safe till today. But I am sorry for to inform you is our home, church and Victory lighthouse Orphanage are destroy by cyclone. And some of our co-workers outside Yangon and especial for Irrawady Division, Pegu Division, Puding area are face difficulties.*

*Pray for to rebuild all of our home cost, for food, clothes, medicine those who are lost their home and all things their materials. Please do consider for our problem. We need for your helping with in your prayer and financially for all of us who are face problem. Thank you.*

*Looking forward to hearing from you as soon as possible, Hung Ling"*

Aungling Dattui is a young man from the Dai tribe. Yangon. He holds BEd degree and there are thoughts that he will go on to further linguistic studies so as to help in the translation of the Bible into Dai. His letter shows the deep spirituality of the believers and indicates their trust in the Lord and the way many of them will see this as an unprecedented opportunity to show the love of Christ.

*Thank you very for your concern and prayer. We all are sound and safe because of your prayer and God's care. I do my best to contact any Dais and I am still trying to*

*contact others. Through means of this we know that God is with us and he cares of us.*

*Still we need your prayer for those whom we cannot contact and some who are of foods, water and financial shortage. Praise the Lord! May the Lord be with us forever and ever.*

*Yours, Aungling Dattui*



Lecturers at FGOBC (Chhuana is 2nd on the left next to my son Alastair)

On Wednesday we received a brief report from the Free Gospel Outreach Bible College: Rev. Ngeng Chhuana stated that the college needs a roof, which was removed by the cyclone. Chhuana says they (the college buildings) will need 100 sheets of zinc. Please pray for the College which is due to re-open at the end of May. It is probable that the college compound may be the only building in the area still standing.

Finally, this morning Pastor Dave Skinner in Oldham received this email from our dear friends David & Lun:

Dear Uncle & Auntie,

By His amazing grace we all at MIMR family are safe in His hands. Praise the Lord and Halleluiah!! Ps 91:14-16 and Ps 125 are our witnesses and shelters in the Lord these days. But all three houses are badly damaged and no one is there to extend for help except our God who is our very help in times of need. Our children's home's roof is completely taken off along with timbers and the house is temporarily vacated for safety. Except our DTE home all the neighboring houses are completely fallen flat and destroyed. The floods have covered the whole area and there is no water for drinking and power supply. All children have been temporarily transferred to MIMR School building since May 5 until today. Half of the MIMR school building's roof is taken off and we have no facilities or resources to repair so far.



MIMR family



David & Lun

Since the whole city is completely devastated there is no way to do anything at the moment. Since there is no rain at the moment we all are safe to sleep and get dry ourselves. We immediately faced communication and transportation problems which in turn cause domestic goods and foods. No buses, no power supply, no drinking water supply. All trees have fallen on the roads, all electric posts have fallen and nothing that we can really do now. The whole city is like a thick and confused forest right now. To clear off all these problems it will take at least 2-6 months from now, they said. Because of fear all domestic goods' prices have climbed up to five times higher than ever before.

As human beings my wife and I are fearful and worried about the near future. Since our MIMR family members are more than 40 at the moment the demand is very high and we don't have anything at all in our hands. One bag of rice costs Ks.45000\* from Ks.17500 before the cyclone. The inflation of prices is the same for all goods and means. We surrender everything to God

and look for His timely and gracious help for needs.

If God speaks to you to help us in this very hour of need you are welcomed. He knows we need help and you know we need you. You are our immediate brothers and sisters for help in this hour of need. Only today this email service is available, but not in all internet centers. Thank God that I have this access to send you the information.

Please pray with us and help us. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. We are safe in His hands!

Yours in His amazing shelter,

David Nawl Tling

On behalf of MIMR family, North Dagon-Yangon

We still await news of others such as Ling Choi and Angela who run an orphanage in Yangon.

In response to these pleas we are forming plans to send money over, possibly one of those who has been in the past acting as a courier. Obviously we cannot meet their immediate needs and must take that to the throne of grace

in prayer, but the longer term needs we can help with. Hartshill Bible Church has a fund established for Burma and all the money received goes directly into the hands of believers in the country. If you would like to give to this then please make cheques out to "Hartshill Bible Church" and indicate that they are for the Burma Fund. If you wish to give in a currency other than UK£ then please contact me first for details of how to do so.

Please let us know if you want further updates.

Yours in our Saviour's love,

Phil Roberts

Pastor, Hartshill Bible Church [FIEC], Stoke-on-Trent



Ling Choi & Angela

\* Last year US\$1=Ks.1200  
Monthly wage = US\$25  
1 bag of rice feeds an adult for 3-4 months

**P.S. Since writing this I have been requested to go to Burma as soon as possible..I hope therefore to travel iwithin the month.**