

News from Burma

May 16th 2008

Dear Friends,

We have been so grateful for the response to the letter we sent out last week. Many individuals and churches have sent gifts and to date we have over £8,000 to take in and more expected. Most of those we have had contact with in the past appear to be safe but many homes have been destroyed and there is now the problem of disease and hunger. As our contacts are in Yangon, we have not heard directly from the Delta region. I will not be able to visit this as foreigners are prohibited from doing so, but we trust that our friends in Burma will be able to direct some of the aid to the most devastated regions. I have included photographs we have received of the destruction and the legacy of many dead bodies (I have not included the most distressing pictures).

It has been agreed with Shwekey (our Burmese brother studying here in the UK) and Dave Skinner (the pastor of Bethel Evangelical Church in Oldham who has also visited the same contacts as myself) that I should go as soon as possible to visit those affected and take them the funds we have raised. I have obtained a visa and my flight is booked for Monday 26th May, returning on Friday 30th. It is not possible to transfer funds through the banking system and hence a visit is required.



In our Lord's providence I have been able to contact an American Christian who has visited Yangon a number of times in the past, each time taking in significant funds. He has told me that he has always stated clearly that they are for humanitarian work and benevolence and he has never been stopped nor had anything confiscated. He will be in Yangon, God willing, at the same time as myself.

The fact that we have been able to tell friends in Burma of the concern and support forthcoming from the UK (as well as of significant gifts from churches in Italy and Ireland) has been such a blessing to them. Here is David and Lun's response:

Praise the Lord and many thanks for the concern you have taken into consideration for us on behalf of many friends in UK. I also personally received an email from A_____ and realize how important it is to have believing friends in Christ Jesus our Lord who stand with us. Thank you so much for praying for us and helping others pray for us. As you have heard a Macedonian call to come over to see us may the good Lord help you and protect you in all that you attempt to do. Our sincere prayers shall be with you until we see again in the near future. Until then God be with you and truly make you a great blessing to the needy in the darkest hour of our country. Thank you and God be with you.

In Christ our Lord, David & Lun, on behalf of MIMR family.

One couple we had not heard from last week were Ling Choi and Angela. They wrote on Friday to say that they were well but now had more mouths to feed:

Greetings from Yangon. Some of our church member houses were destroyed by cyclone Nargis in Yangon. By God's grace we all are safe although the roof of our house [was] totally destroyed.

During these days, we are facing the scarcity of safe food and clean water and most rice fields have been destroyed, which will hinder food supplies and livelihoods for thousands.

All the prices are increasing and out of our affordable [range].

We only pray and hope [for] the Lord's provision for His glory and trust that God will never allow us to perish in this situation. We need to repair the roof of our house and need some funds for emergency repairing.

I really thank for your encouraging message to us. There are 27 children including 5 new-comers in my orphanage home now. Continuously pray for us and share our situation to your friends, so that they will pray for us.





We are looking forward to hearing from you. God bless richly. With Love in Christ Jesus, LingChoi & Angela

Shwekey writes: Please remember my cousin Ningling Hoipang, who is also a missionary to Ngwe Saung Beach Resort. **Lau Kee** and **Ningling** serve as missionaries in the Cyclone Nargis affected (most affected) area. I haven't heard any news from them.

George Lal Nun Tluanga has been Home Missions Director for Evangelical Free Church, Myanmar and is currently studying in Manila. He has written as follows:

Thank you for quick reply and your comments. And thank you so much for you have been praying for Myanmar and deeply concerned them.

Greetings to you in the Lord. Praise His name for His marvellous love and

protection. Though it was a terrifying cyclone which destroyed several buildings, messed up everything and thousands of lives were lost, some were kept safe under His wings. Of course there were some little damages such as roofs of our buildings [which] were opened up and [the] living room became like bathroom with heavy shower rain.

Anyway, Nargis cyclone visited Yangon for a few hours and messed up everything... It was from 2:00 am to 10:00 am on the 3rd of May. That morning was [a] terrifying morning for all of Yangon and some areas.

People are now suffering with [the] consequences of typhoon such as public transportation, communication and trading are stopped. No light, no water in the whole city of Yangon. Yangon looks like war zone at this moment. People are keeping busy with seeking food, water and to repair their damaged houses and buildings. The prices of everything have risen up to two to three times [more] than normal.

Please pray for the recovery which might cause... this people to discover the love and the safety of God in the midst of these circumstances.

News of the damage caused by the cyclone from our people in the churches is now coming increasingly. Two families of our church's member outside Yangon are now homeless. Their houses were totally destroyed by cyclone. Our church leaders and some social volunteers visited to them sooner to find the basic needs. We are still waiting and collecting information from our people.

The Free gospel Outreach Bible College of the EFCM is actively involved in helping in their area of Yangon, rebuilding homes and distributing food.



Yours in our Saviour's love,

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

Gifts for Burma can be sent to Burma Fund at the address at the top of this letter. Please make cheques out to "Hartshill Bible Church" and indicate if your gift is eligible for gift aid.