



感恩与代祷 Praise & Prayer

福音自傳會

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Foreword: The new government of Myanmar has ushered the country into a new era. While the country begins its democratic transition, CNEC Myanmar has begun its leadership renewal to take on the new challenges. The first Field Director, Reverend Cha Tin Yone, has retired early this year at the age of 65. A new generation of leaders will be taking the helm. Although Reverend Cha is no longer the Field Director, he will coach and guide the new leaders. He will also continue to focus on his pastoral ministry. In this issue, we will introduce the new leaders to you. We hope that you will support and uphold the leadership team in your prayer.

Message from Chairman, CNEC Myanmar Working Committee:

The Outlook of Theological Education

The Northern Shan State Union Christian College was originally known as the Short-term Training School. Founded in 1995, it first offered intensive, three-month Bible courses in Chinese each year. Many were trained and sent to serve in the various mountain villages. By the end of the 90's, most of the ethnic minority groups had heard of the gospel and have many Christians among them. The ministry leaders then turned their attention to the Burmese in the urban area.

The Burmese are the largest ethnic group in Myanmar and there are very few Christians among them. In 2000, the Short-term Training School decided to conduct Bible courses in Burmese, with the objective of training Christian workers to reach the Burmese. Soon the need for more well-trained Christian workers became apparent, especially when there was a large unreached group. After much consideration, the Discipleship Training Center was set up in March 2005 to replace Short-term Training School. It offers full-time, formal three- and four-year theological courses in Chinese and Burmese. As of October 2010, it was accredited by the Myanmar Baptist Association and became one of the Baptist Bible Colleges. Today it is known as the Northern Shan State Union Christian College (UCC).

We are thankful that on 31st January 2014, UCC was accepted by the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Myanmar as a member of the Association for Theological Education. In October of the same year, we started an intensive training program of Bachelor in Pastoral Studies. This is to support the theological needs of pastors who are in serving full time in the church. Currently, there are 35 students in this program and 68 students in the full time program.

UCC has been established for more than 20 years. The college has equipped many Christian leaders to serve as evangelists, pastors and theological educators. God has placed our graduates in these important and mutually dependent ministries. I am awed by God's wondrous work through theological education.

I grew up in poverty. Living in a remote and poor village in Myanmar,

Rev Chen Xin Shou



I lost my mother when I was eleven. I have to stop attending school in order to help my father take care of my younger siblings. Some years later, Rev. Cha came to my village to preach the gospel. I thank God that after my conversion, Rev. Cha tutored me. Later, God called me into full-time ministry. I entered Discipleship Training Center (the precursor of UCC) to receive theological training and graduated in 2008. I thank God that I have the opportunity to serve with CNEC Myanmar. In Psalm 113:7, the psalmist says, "He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap." Each year, there are at least 15 young adults who respond to God's calling to full-time ministry. They enter UCC to receive theological training. To date, there are more than 500 of them who have completed their theological training. These are the children who have grown up in the children home set up by CNEC Myanmar. They are sent to the various parts of Myanmar to preach the gospel.

As we witness Myanmar making its transition and the country appointed its first Christian Vice President, we testify to God's faithfulness. Theological education will continue to play its key role equipping Christian workers to serve in different ministries. We look forward to the day when the 135 different ethnic groups in Myanmar will hear the gospel preached to them.

We thank God that He provided UCC with a 7-acre land in a new location. Besides using the land for our new school buildings, we plan to cultivate crops. This is our first step towards self-sufficiency and self-reliance. The new school buildings will need USD 500,000. We need your prayer and support. We hope that when the timing is right, we can start the construction work and move into the new premises. We pray that God will continue to bless UCC as a sending base for mission workers, to proclaim the gospel to the very end of age. Amen.



The Prospect of Children Ministry

Myanmar became an independent nation in 1948 and was ruled by the military junta for nearly 50 years (1962-2011). For most of its independent years, the country has been engrossed in rampant ethnic strife. The country is also plagued by widespread drug abuse. Families are broken up and children are neglected. It was in response to the hurting families that CNEC Myanmar began its children ministry in September 1969. In May 1982, the Sponsor-A-Child (SAC) program was launched in Myanmar.

I am a Kachin. (Kachin was one of Myanmar's 8 dominant tribes in the early days of nation building.) I was one of those who benefited from the SAC program. My parents were separated when I was very young. My brother and I were looked after by my paternal grandparents. I thank God that we were later reunited with our mother. However my mother could not afford to raise us. In 1993, I entered Lashio Grace Haven Children Home and received help through the SAC program. I was given a chance to attend school.

When I lived in Lashio Grace Haven, Rev. Cha was like a father to me. He taught us the Scripture, taught us how to pray, and mentored us when we faced life's challenges. Mrs. Cha would often bring us out for visitations and evangelism, and showed us how we can pray for Grace Haven. She taught us propriety, virtues, duty and respect. She even taught the girls home economics. In Grace Haven, I picked up many skills such as farming, rearing livestock, building huts, digging wells, cementing and carpentry skills. On Sundays, we will attend worship service without fail.

The SAC program has brought about multiple positive social impacts. It has provided needy children with the opportunity to receive formal education. It has improved the living condition of those from the rural areas. It has also indirectly alleviated the social welfare burden of the government. More importantly, it has catapulted mission and evangelism in Myanmar to the forefront. The SAC program has brought several thousands of children to Christ. It is one of the most effective evangelism models in Myanmar. Since 1982, CNEC Myanmar has been employing a three-prong approach (children homes, mission schools and student centers) to evangelism. The children ministry has extended from Lashio to Yangon, Mandalay, Maymyo, Tachilek, Myitkyina and Putao. There are currently 2,000 students benefitting from the special sponsorship program (children homes and student centers) and the general sponsorship program (mission schools).

Children Homes

We thank our gracious Father that children in Grace Haven Children Home are blessed by caring teachers and pastoral staff. Their selfless acts of service manifested Christ's love for little children. These children are given a nurturing and secured environment to grow. They are always reminded to bless the faith community that nurtured them and give back to the society.

Mission Schools

The mission schools are targeted toward poverty stricken areas. We partner with churches to set up mission schools and use this ministry as a platform for evangelism. We thank God that through this ministry, many youths have the chance to know the Creator, hear the gospel and experience conversion. Some received calling to serve full time. They went on to pursue theological training. At the same time, there are others who have rejected the gospel. We pray for them that someday the seed we sown may take root and blossom in their hearts. We pray too that they may become ambassadors of the gospel. Currently, the student population of one school alone can reach as high as 1,400 students.

Student Centers

To date, CNEC has set up 25 student centers in various parts of Myanmar. Due to the limitations in some mountainous areas, the highest education provided by the schools in these areas is at middle school level. Students who wish to further their studies will need to move to the cities. Student centers are set up to cater to students who live far from home. Accommodation in cities is usually

Pastor Cao Zhong Hua

more expensive. The student centers provide lodging for students at a low cost. For students who cannot afford to live in student centers, we will help them apply for subsidies. We need sponsors to support us in this ministry. While students live in the student centers, we require them to participate in all Christian activities. The student centers enable us to share the gospel with our students. Each year there are many conversions and some decide to enter full time ministry. They move on to Northern Shan State Union Christian Collage to pursue theological training.

To date, 14 children homes, 16 mission schools and 25 student centers have been established over 71 locations in Myanmar.

Education Enrichment Program

In 2015, we gained access to Rakhine State Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships and had the opportunity to come into contact with some Rohingya people. This is one of the most challenging mission fields. Given the political situation in Rakhine State, to set up a preaching point or a mission school within a short time is extremely difficult. Therefore we decided to set up an Education Enrichment Program for children who are left behind in the education system. The program can be run regardless of location. A committed Christian teacher will provide two to three hours of tuition to a group of 5 to 10 year-old children. This serves as a point of contact for us to connect with children from non-Christian homes. In Myanmar, the program began in 2006. It is currently held at 16 locations, targeting 400 children. In Rakhine State, the program is held at 3 different locations.

The Prospect of Children Ministry

Myanmar was plagued by natural disasters, civil wars and political unrest in the past. The country has fallen behind its neighboring countries in terms of economic development, education and political stability. Although the nation has made progress on its road to democracy and the economy will improve under reform, the income disparity between the rich and the poor will remain. Myanmar will need time to see its economic reform bear fruit and benefit the population at large. In the next five to ten years, there will still be many orphans remain displaced by civil wars and widespread drug abuse. Therefore there is an urgency to set up more children homes. Moreover, after years of military rule by the junta, the education system desperately needs reforms but this will not happen overnight under the new government. Therefore the SAC program is still greatly needed. In other words, in Myanmar, there is a lot of room for children ministry to grow.

The opening up of Myanmar has aroused the interest of many churches and mission organizations overseas, with some making a beeline for the country. We pray that God will give us wisdom and spiritual foresight, help us know how to manage and adapt to the changes. CNEC Myanmar has been at the forefront pioneering mission work in the country. The increasing contacts with overseas short-term mission teams have given rise to the need to ameliorate our working relationship and partnership with overseas churches and mission organizations. May God help us serve with honesty and integrity and may He find us faithful. With the new constitutions formulated by the new government, may God help us adapt.

As Myanmar begins its democratic transition, as the nation increasingly allows greater religious freedom and as we enjoy more legal protection under the laws, may God grant us the courage and boldness to engage in cross-culture and cross-ethnic missions. Myanmar's living standard may progressively improve over the years but in many mountainous areas, the development may still be slow. These are the areas where many are still struggling with poverty and where help is most needed. We pray that God will grant us grace, strength and spiritual discernment to move in tandem with His will. May His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.



Message from Chinese Secretary, CNEC Myanmar Working Committee: **The Prospect of Church and School in Myanmar**



Rev Bao Kong Dao

I belong to an ethnic minority group known as the Lang Er in Myanmar. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to attend Chinese schools while I was young. When I was twenty-four, I became a Christian and was baptized. Following my conversion, I responded to God's calling by entering a theological seminary to receive my training. Upon graduation in 2005, I was sent to serve in Lashio Shu Guang Church and Shu Guang School. They are located in Gong Ka. Both were set up by CNEC Myanmar. I have been serving in this ministry for the past eleven years.

Recounting the Blessings

I remember when I just arrived in Gong Ka, Shu Guang School has been operating for around 7 to 8 years. At that time, the school enrolment was only slightly more than 200 students. The highest level was grade six. Villagers who lived in Gong Ka were mostly poor and without land to cultivate crops. Many students who finished their elementary education could not continue their education in the city because they could not afford the transportation. They started working at a very young age.

Those who were less spiritually matured backslid when they began working. It was for this reason that Shu Guan School extended its level to a middle school in 2006. God has been faithful to us. By His grace and provision, we have seen 8 batches of students graduated from the school. The school enrolment grew from 200 to 420 in recent years. We thank God that many students came to know Jesus as their Savior through the school. Their lives were transformed and they became the channels of blessing to their families and the society. Some of the students are serving full time in ministry while others are undergoing theological training.

God also richly blessed Shu Guang Church. In 2011, we encouraged the church to tithe on every last Sunday of the month. Through tithing, we hope to exercise our total dependence on God's faithful provision. Indeed when we are obedient to the teachings in the Scripture, I truly see the church and myself blessed by the Lord.

In Shu Guang School, we have always upheld the principle that in order for our students to have a holistic education (which encompasses the physical, mental and spiritual aspects of a person), they should be taught with God's Word. Since the school was founded, we only employ spiritually matured Christians to teach in the school. This is to ensure that teachers will inspire our students with the right values. However it has been a challenge for the school to keep our teachers. The school only collects a minimal amount of school fees from the students. The pay of our teachers is often insufficient for them to meet the basic cost of living. Every year we have teachers leaving the school. It is a challenge to hire new teachers and uphold the quality standards of our teachers.

Besides the lack of manpower, there is also a lack of funding for the school facilities. We hope the school will be able to form its alumni association and its governing board to help improve its administration. To improve our teaching facilities, we plan to raise sufficient fund in the next 5 to 10 years for a two-level multiple purpose building. We hope this will help create a more conducive

teaching environment. Please pray for our needs.

We pray that God will raise Christian teachers who have a passionate commitment in education to join the school. We hope that our brothers and sisters in Christ will prayerfully consider to support this ministry. It is our prayer that many will hear and respond to the gospel. In the past 20 years, 320 students became Christians when they were in Gong Ka Shu Guang School. However, there were also students who left the church after they have left the school. We felt that more could be done for the students. Since the beginning of this year, the school has placed a lot of emphasis on the spiritual aspects of our students. We have incorporated more spiritual formation lessons into our curriculum. We also organize discipleship training camps and evangelistic outreach camps for our students. We hope that the new emphasis will help our students remain steadfast in their Christian faith.

In northern Myanmar, churches and schools function like conjoined twins. Churches reach out to the community by setting up schools or student centers. Through such setups, churches are able to connect with parents and evangelize to them. Meanwhile students are nurtured spiritually by the church. Therefore the school is the church's harvest field while the church is the 'spiritual fuel station' of the school.

Gong Ka Shu Guang School and Shu Guang Church have been using this partnership model for the past decade.

Look Forward to the Future

In April this year, after the new administration took office, there is a new outlook on Burmese democracy. We are able to sense that this is an opportune time for Myanmar churches. The government has relaxed its policy, giving more freedom to religious groups. Churches in northern Myanmar should therefore capitalize on the current resources and opportunity to become self-reliant. I hope that CNEC Myanmar will transform from one which receives blessing to one which blesses other nations and mission fields. However, while Myanmar opens up to the world, churches are also opening up to the influence of heresy. Therefore churches need to earnestly teach their congregation the biblical truth and ground them in their Christian faith.

To my fellow leaders in CNEC Myanmar, let us ride on the pioneering train of Burmese democracy. By God's grace and help, let us be a channel of blessing to Myanmar. May the words, "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13, NIV) be our motto as we serve. May God strengthen you and me to glorify Him with our lives!



Message from Burmese Secretary, CNEC Myanmar Working Committee:

Grace Haven

I am a Lisu. When I was a teen, my parents passed away one after another. I became an orphan. I moved to Grace Haven and I was one of the early generations of children living in the children home. In Grace Haven I found God, whose love is greater than our earthly parents. Knowing Jesus has made a difference in my life. I am no longer lonely. I am filled with joy and peace. I remember when I came to Grace Haven, each day the teachers would teach us how to read the Bible and how to pray. They encouraged us to memorize the Scripture daily, practicing it with our older brothers and sisters. I cherished my days living in Grace Haven. The teachers in Grace Haven played a significant role in my spiritual formation, shaping my character, instilling leadership skills and nurturing my growth. Later, I received my calling to enter full time ministry and became a pastor.

Grace Haven is a family filled with lots of love. Many children here lost their parents at a young age. Some of these children come from single parent homes. Regardless of where they come from, they share the same grace, hope and faith in the Lord Jesus. It is in Grace Haven that their lives are being transformed. To date, there are at least 70 Lashio Grace Haven alumni who went on for theological training. They are currently serving in Myanmar, Thailand and China Yunnan. God's grace is abound in Grace Haven. Since the opening of the first Grace Haven 25 years ago, we have now 14 children homes in Myanmar. I hope Grace Haven will also be a channel of blessing to other parts of the world.

With the changes in national policies, greater religious freedom and increasing education opportunities, Myanmar people from all walks of life will have to adapt to the new challenges. Grace Haven too need to

progress with the changing times. In the past when children are not exposed to internet, they are less susceptible to secular influence. However with the accessibility of internet and social media, they now have more access to information which will require discernment. Apart from the internet, the lure of drugs is another temptation to the children. We need exemplary teachers who can mentor and guide the young minds. The Scripture says, "How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word." (Psalm 119:9, NIV) It is therefore our task to educate these children with the Word while giving them a sense of belonging to the Grace Haven family.

We hope more qualified Christian teachers with trainings in English, Mathematics, Science, Information Technology, Music will be able to serve in Grace Haven.

Apart from imparting skills to the children, they can influence life too. We hope that children who leave Grace Haven will contribute to the society, give back to churches and Grace Haven, the home which nurtures them. May God continue to show His grace and goodness to Grace Haven.



Pastor Xiong En Hua



Children at Nanbaqi Deang Student Center



SAC children



SAC Children Camp



Education Enrichment Program



SAC Children Camp

MINISTRIES: INDIGENOUS CHURCH, BIBLE SCHOOL, TRIBAL WORKS, SPONSOR-A-CHILD MINISTRY, CREATIVE ACCESS MINISTRY, HOLISTIC MISSIONS

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All funds received in support of CNEC ministries, not more than 20% is used to sustain the office for ministries' purposes