



感恩与代祷 Praise & Prayer

4th Quarter 2024

**A Peaceful Christmas Amid the Storm -
Dedicated to Our Brethren in War-torn Myanmar**

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Christmas is not merely a romantic holiday; it marks the profound and moving moment when God descended to save humanity in the midst of its deepest darkness and suffering. - Rev. James Lai

In the midst of war, have you ever considered the impact of offering a simple Christmas gift? In times of turmoil and unrest, every smile and act of care becomes incredibly precious. In such a context, a Christmas gift is more than just an object; it is a signal, a reminder to those struggling in war that they have not been forgotten, and that there are still people in the world who remember and care for them. God's love, through this small gift, shines like a beam of light, piercing through the darkness brought by war, reminding them that even in the harshest of worlds, warmth and compassion are still waiting for them. As Pastor Brang Mai wrote, the warmth of this Christmas gift is a reflection of

God's love flowing among us. It tells us that even in the darkest of moments, there is a glimmer of hope and the strength of love sustaining us.



The Warmth of Christmas Gifts

Pastor Brang Mai

Yangon City Light Church Senior Pastor/Myanmar CNEC Director

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'" (Luke 2:11-14)

First, we thank our glorious and loving Heavenly Father, for His love endures forever. We are grateful for the grace and redemption of our Lord Jesus, who constantly accompanies our lives and service. We thank our brothers and sisters for their prayers and support, and may God bless your loving and caring contributions. It is an honor to serve God together in the spiritual family of the Kingdom of Heaven. Looking back at the Christmas gifts received in previous years, we are deeply grateful for God's grace. Coworkers were overjoyed to receive Christmas gifts, and the children receiving educational aid fondly remember the distant sponsors praying for them in the Lord. Christmas gifts bring warmth and encouragement. The good news brought by the angels to the world dispelled fear, for the birth of Jesus brought comfort in despair. Similarly, Christmas gifts can encourage coworkers, reminding them that many spiritual

brothers and sisters are praying for them in their hardships.

Many coworkers have fled in times of chaos, firmly believing that many brothers and sisters are praying for them. In recent years, Myanmar has been plagued by continuous warfare, with gunfire erupting from all directions, bodies lying everywhere, and people living in fear and trembling. Now, unprecedented floods have suddenly occurred, and Myanmar is beset by natural and man-made disasters. The people are suffering immensely, with daily life facing enormous expenses and prices doubling. Some coworkers even have to go out to work to make a living.



When we think of the Christmas month each year, we recall the Christmas gifts sent by sponsors and brothers and sisters. We thank God! We are grateful and praise Him! There are still many brothers and sisters praying for us, supporting and helping us from behind. Your prayers gave us tremendous strength. Please continue to intercede for us. May God remember your hard work and service.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas season!

Myanmar, a country plagued by disasters, is undergoing severe trials. Every day, the local residents hear the roar of bombs, living in fear and uncertainty. In such an environment, we can't help but ask: how can one maintain inner peace and tranquility in such a troubled world?

In this challenging time, Rev Cha Tin Yong wrote to inform us that he and his coworkers have shown extraordinary courage and faith amidst the chaos of war. They have not only forgotten their own safety

but have also actively helped and comforted those suffering.

Due to the impact of the war, many people have to endure the darkness of night with great difficulty. However, Rev Cha and the whole seminary are able to live in the light, thanks to a solar power system installed by a foreign brother just before the war. This wonderful grace from God seems like a light prepared in advance, illuminating everyone's hearts.

Living in Peace Amidst Turmoil

Rev. Cha Tin Yong

Myanmar CNEC Advisor

Dear Family, I believe you are eager to know how we have been doing lately, especially since the situation has been worsening. You may be more informed than we are because you have access to the news and the internet, which we don't have as easily. However, being on the front lines ourselves, we have personally experienced the presence of our faithful and trustworthy God in the midst of everything. Even in the midst of chaos, flying bullets, the sound of artillery, and deafening air raids, our team staying in Lashio continues to serve the Lord joyfully. The Lord has shown mercy, allowing us to keep serving, and here is what we have been able to do:

1. We have intensified our prayers—both in group prayers and individual prayers, which are now more fervent and urgent than ever before.
2. We organized a care visitation team. Whenever we have time, we reach out, care for, and visit one another.
3. We have been nurturing new believers and held a faith life camp for the hill tribes. Over 120 people participated, and the teachers were from the Northern Myanmar Seminary. The camp lasted five days.
4. The Northern Myanmar Seminary has been open for three days now, and everything is running smoothly. While we are short of teachers and students, we are making do with what we have. Currently, there are around 30 students and 11 teachers.

5. The Ai De Primary School has been back in session for nearly a month now, with over 120 students and 7 teachers.
6. We have several locations for Sunday worship services, and the teachers from the Northern Myanmar Seminary along with the remaining coworkers are responsible for the preaching. Since we hadn't held communion for some time, one Sunday I even had the special opportunity to lead communion services at four different places. Glory be to the Lord!

During this period, my wife and I have been staying in the guest room at Northern Myanmar Seminary. It is very comfortable and was just recently built by alumni, with water and electricity available. Where does the electricity come from? It's solar-powered, something God prepared for us before the outbreak of the conflict. As Isaiah 55:9 says, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." We thank God and the brothers and sisters who care for us.

May the Lord be with you!



"Never have I missed going back to school so much." This is not just a personal sentiment but a shared emotional resonance among countless students and educators amidst the chaos of war. In normal times, some children might long to escape the pressures of school, and teachers might look forward to holidays for a brief respite. But now, in the face of war's devastation, returning to school has become a luxury. Since the outbreak of the war, school gates have remained locked, and the

once bustling traffic and crowds of students have vanished, replaced by desolation and silence.

Rev Li Ming Chang, the principal of Lashio Holy Light High School, has witnessed the tremendous impact this war has had on the school, its students, and its teachers. In this article, Rev Li will use his heartfelt words to tell us about the war-torn northern Myanmar. It is uncertain when schools will reopen, allowing eager students to return to their classrooms.

Northern Myanmar Amidst War

Rev Li Ming Chang

Principal of Lashio Holy Light School

In the early hours of October 27, 2023, the first wave of war erupted in northern Myanmar. Many citizens, with their families in tow, began to flee in all directions. Some teachers and parents of students also came to the school to request leave or transfer certificates, as fear and uncertainty spread. The school faced unprecedented challenges, but with prayer, my colleagues and I made it through the term. By early 2024, the school temporarily suspended its teaching activities.

In March 2024, the war in northern Myanmar eased somewhat, and many who had fled began to return home to rebuild their lives. With faith, we reopened the school, and teachers and students gradually returned. By mid-June, we started preparing for graduation exams and taking graduation photos for our senior students. However, on June 25, 2024, war broke out again in Kyaukme, a town in northern Myanmar. A week later, on the night of July 2, at 10:47 p.m., under a starry sky, the sound of artillery echoed through Lashio, a major town in northern Myanmar with a population of 600,000. The next day, July 3, we were scheduled to take graduation photos for our 124 senior students, but the sound of artillery continued into the morning. The normally bustling Holy Light campus, with over 2,000 students, was forced to close its doors. As the war escalated, more and more citizens fled the homes they had lived in for years. Three days later, my family and I had no choice but to pack a few belongings and, with the help of friends and family, escape the war-torn Lashio amid gunfire and explosions.

We fled to a small town called Tangyan, which usually takes just 3.5 hours to reach by car. However, due to the war, some roads were destroyed, and traffic was rerouted. We had to

take muddy mountain roads, and the rainy season made parts of the road impassable. Some sections had landslides, and others had accidents. It was a treacherous journey. After countless difficulties, a day and a night later, after 23.5 hours, we finally arrived in Tangyan and could rest, relieved to be safe. Though we were in Tangyan, our hearts were still with our loved ones left behind.

For over a month in Tangyan, we saw a continuous stream of refugees arriving each day. We heard many tragic stories—people not only lost their homes, but some also lost their lives in the war. Among the casualties was one of our Holy Light alumni, who was also a pastor. He died in the war zone, leaving behind a child. Another Holy Light alumnus who served at a student center lost a young man who was dismembered by an explosion. The war has brought countless tales of suffering! We took refuge on a farm where about 100 people crammed together. Seeing our relatives, brothers, and sisters in Christ feeling downcast, my wife and I led them in prayer. Every evening, as the sun was about to set, was the time when homesickness hit the hardest. We gathered nearby friends and refugees to encourage one another with God's Word. At the same time, we visited and cared for refugees in the local church, which had been started by one of our Holy Light alumni. We became refugees ministering to other refugees.

During that time, I could better understand how, when the Israelites sinned, God disciplined them, and they faced His wrath like a consuming fire. When the Israelites were in captivity with no hope, they cried out for God to redeem them. In their hopelessness, God's words of comfort came through the prophet Isaiah:

"This is what the Lord says—He who created you, Jacob, He who



formed you, Israel: 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.'" (Isaiah 43:1-2).

We were deeply touched and comforted by God's Word. Now, we have personally experienced the truth of God's promises to His people, and in the midst of despair, we have clung to the hope of Christ. Through daily prayer, we have drawn closer to God and experienced His presence as Emmanuel, God with us. Although there have been many hardships along the way, we have also seen God's guidance through it all.

During this time, we witnessed the innocent people living through immense suffering. Many children were forced to drop out of school, and inflation worsened. People were



left with uncertainty, not knowing what the future holds. In these circumstances, we can only wait and pray that God will intervene and bring stability to Myanmar so that its people can return to their homes and our ministry can continue forward.

Chairman message

Dear Beloved Friends, Supporters and Fellow Labourers in CNEC,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

As we approach the joyous season of Christmas, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Board of Directors and all our fellow workers of CNEC, to extend my heartfelt appreciation for your unwavering support, partnership, and prayers throughout the year. Your generosity and commitment has enabled us to continue the work God has entrusted to us in mission fields across the globe. Praise God!

This year marks a new chapter for me as I step into the role of Chairman. I stand on the shoulders of giants who have served faithfully in the history of CNEC—such as Richard Lim, Lee Sing Kong, and Chan Ban Leong. I am humbled by the weight of this responsibility. However, the Holy Spirit constantly reminds me of our Lord's words in Matthew 11:28-30. I covet your prayer for a spirit of humility and always keep Jesus before me in all I do. May the Lord find me faithful in this assignment.

I am also deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside a dedicated team that shares a passion for advancing God's Kingdom. I often wonder how our lean team under the previous leadership of Rev. Paul Chang and now led by Rev. James Lai, has managed to carry out the programs throughout these years. Surely, the Lord has been with them! May the Lord grant wisdom, resourcefulness and unity as we continue to build on the rich legacy of CNEC. May He grant us resourcefulness and a creative spirit as we seek fresh ways to meet the ever-growing spiritual and physical needs of the communities we serve focusing on Christ always. Unless the

Lord build the house, its builders labour in vain. Please keep all our directors and labourers in the field in your prayers.

From the remote villages in Southeast Asia to the challenging mission fields in Central Asia, your contributions (whether in money or in kind) have made a significant impact in many lives. Lives are being transformed, souls are being won for Christ, and hope is being restored. Praise God! We are reminded during this season that the birth of our Savior brings light to the darkest places, and it is this light that we will continue to share with the world, even in the midst of natural disasters buffeting many in our fields and the persecution experienced by our Lord's disciples as they live out their faith in their countries.

So, as we celebrate the gift of Jesus this Christmas, let us also look ahead with renewed faith, hope and joy. For surely the joy of the Lord is our strength!!

With your continued partnership and support in love and relying on Him who is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask and who is in work within us, we will step boldly into 2025, ready to answer our Lord's call to the Great Commission. May our Lord grant us the joy to see lives changed for eternity.

May the joy and peace of Christ fill your hearts and homes this Christmas season. Thank you once again for your steadfast support and for walking this journey of faith with us.

God bless you abundantly.

In His Service,
Lee Soo Chye
Chairman, CNEC



Christmas Cheers Year 2024

Let them feel the Great Love of God through your Generous Contribution this Christmas!

My Love Offering for gifts (Response Slip)

Church Building	
Qty	Gift Items
	Cement S\$1,570 (RM 5,120)
	Floor tiles(1pc) S\$8 (RM 25)
	Metal roof(1pc) S\$8 (RM 25)
	Woods(1pc) S\$9 (RM 28)
	Solar Panel S\$1,196 (RM 3,900)

Co-workers	
Qty	Gift Items
	Winter Jacket S\$22 (RM 72)
	Backpack S\$21 (RM 68)
	Lawn mower S\$392 (RM 1,277)
	LCD S\$979 (RM 3,191)
	Motor boat Machine S\$1,528 (RM 4,981)
	Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) S\$56 (RM 180)
	Printer S\$693 (RM 2,258)

Ministry	
Qty	Gift Items
	Blanket S\$12 (RM 40)
	Motorbike S\$1,811 (RM 5,904)
	Laptop S\$787 (RM 2,565)
	Desktop S\$690 (RM 2,250)
	Guitar S\$179 (RM 582)
	Keyboard S\$1,100 (RM 3,590)
	Amplifier S\$150 (RM 487)
	Violin S\$78 (RM 255)

Children	
Qty	Gift Items
	School Bag S\$8 (RM 26)
	Dental Kit S\$4 (RM 14)
	Slippers S\$5 (RM 16)
	Children's Bible S\$9 (RM 29)
	Bible Stories S\$7 (RM 22)
	Stationery Set S\$8 (RM 25)
	Raincoat/Umbrella S\$15 (RM 47)
	Mosquito net S\$7 (RM 22)
	Blanket S\$13 (RM 41)
	Jacket S\$16 (RM 52)
	Table for kids S\$73 (RM 240)
	Chair for kids S\$8 (RM 24)

Community	
Qty	Gift Items
	1 st Aid Kit S\$126 (RM 410)
	Drilled Well S\$1,500 (RM 4,880)
	Toilet S\$1,367 (RM 4,458)
	Rice S\$39 (RM 128)
	Multi-vitamin S\$10 (RM 31)
	Cold medicine S\$60 (RM 195)
	Burnt Relief Cream S\$6 (RM 18)
	Piglet S\$30 (RM 94)
	Dewormer S\$5 (RM 16)
	Chicks S\$3 (RM 10)
	Cow S\$235 (RM 765)

My Offering for Gifts: S\$/RM _____

One time Offering for gifts: S\$/RM _____

Name: _____

(Rev / Pastor / Dr / Mr / Mdm / Ms)

Address : _____

Contact: _____

Email: _____

1. Payment in SGD:

Please make your cheque payable to “**CNEC**” and mail it together with your response slip to:
CNEC
134, 136 Braddell Road, Singapore 359919

2. By Scanning this QR code or accessing PayNow

(UEN: S62SS0068H)

(Remark: Christmas Cheers)



3. By PayPal (www.cnecintl.org)

4. Payment in MYR:

Please make your cheque payable to: “**Christian Nationals' Evangelism Commission**” and mail it together with your response slip to:
CNEC
P O Box 79, 81300 Skudai, Johor,
Malaysia



Your gift will be directed where most needed, at the discretion of CNEC.

Announcement

Our PO Box will no longer be in use from December 2024. Kindly direct all your mails to our office address at 134 Braddell Road, Singapore 359919. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Thank you for your understanding.



We invite you to support and involve in our ministries

Children Ministry | **University Student Ministry** | **Training Ministry** |
Unreached People Groups | **Community Transformation Ministry**

1. You can donate to our ministries generously through the following methods:
 - Please make your cheque payable to "CNEC"
 - By Credit Card / PayPal (www.cnecintl.org)
 - By Scanning this QR code or accessing PayNow (UEN: S62SS0068H)
2. You are welcome to bring in missions teams to visit and involve in our field ministries.



CNEC PayNow
QR Code

Welcome to our New Website

www.cnecintl.org



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

CNEC / PI Affiliates

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CNEC wishing you a

Blessed Christmas & Happy New Year

