

*For the Lord your God is living
among you. . . . With his love, he
will calm all your fears. He will
rejoice over you with joyful
songs.” Zephaniah 3:17 NLT*

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New Christians in Myanmar

After graduating from Shiloh Bible College in Myanmar in 2018, John moved the following year to a Hmong village in eastern Myanmar where only two Christian families lived. John’s desire was to plant a church there in Phu Na Khu.

The Hmong people are thought to have moved from the Yellow River basin in China in centuries past; today, the Hmong can be found in Laos, Thailand, Vietnam, and eastern Myanmar.

Their beliefs and practices are as textured as the intricate embroidery long practiced by Hmong women. Traditions include hand-sewn clothing for their new year, love songs marking the various stages of their weddings, and a funeral song designed to guide the soul of the deceased back to its ancestors so it can be reborn.

The Hmong are animists, believing in evil spirits and the authority of a shaman to bring healing from illness. A shaman has at times also served as a leader in uprisings against political authorities. They have taken advantage of a messianic fervor, a belief among the Hmong that some day a prophet will come and restore their traditional form of writing, lost at the dawn of time.



A lady in traditional Hmong dress

(continued)

Shiloh Bible College Graduates



In February, six students graduated from Shiloh Bible College in Mandalay, Myanmar. On the 16th, all six were commissioned into ministry.

Of the graduates, three in particular are making plans to move out and plant a church. This makes a total of 10 church planters that we help support. Please pray as they work to share Christ’s love.



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COVID-19 and Missions

Does a national pandemic affect the work of World Missions? The answer, of course, is yes.

While we rest in the knowledge that God is in control of all things, we ask you to pray for the following:

- Pray for a family who had to return from their work in Asia because the spring semester at their school was postponed indefinitely.
- Pray for a family in Europe who began their summer furlough early and is uncertain how this illness will affect their ministry.
- Pray for trips and events planned by the World Mission Board. A trip to Ghana is being postponed, and the Board is considering whether to proceed with plans for the October Global Conference in Bolivia.

As John has lived and worked with the Hmong people over the last year, seven more families have chosen to follow Christ. The one true God of the Bible answers the deep longings of the Hmong culture:

- In His sovereign will, all the events of their lives, whether good or bad, can be woven into a beautiful tapestry just like their embroidered garments (Romans 8:28).
- He is the Lover, pursuing His bride, the Church, and singing over her (Ephesians 5:25 and Zephaniah 3:17).
- He brings freedom from the bondage of fear and the promise of life everlasting (2 Timothy 2:17 and John 3:16).
- And all messianic hopes have their fulfillment in Jesus, the Word of God who restores us and gives us the right to become children of God (John 1:12).

In February, Andrew Bawi Ceu, director of Shiloh Ministries, visited John's church and baptized 18 converts and led the new church in communion.

Please pray for John (one of the church planters we help support) and the Hmong village of Phu Na Khu. The people do not speak Burmese, but John is working to see that they are trained in the Bible.



Left: Communion service with the new church

Below: Andrew Bawi Ceu (5th from left) conducted a baptismal service.



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