



The Harvest Times

A Publication of World Missions

Choosing Christ in Myanmar

For 80% of people living in Myanmar, to be a citizen of that country means they are Buddhist—Theravada Buddhist, to be exact. Local monks, with their shaved heads and saffron-colored robes, are respected. Elaborate pagodas, or Buddhist shrines, point golden fingers into the clouds. Holidays as unavoidable as New Year's are filled with Buddhist nuances.

If you had been born in Myanmar, it is likely your household would have had a small shrine—a shelf with a statue of Buddha, perhaps accompanied by pictures, flowers, and candles. Your family would have left gifts of water or food at the shrine daily. Strictly speaking, the Theravada Buddhist religion encourages followers to rely on their own actions (or karma) to get what they want out of life, and these shrines are meant to merely act as a reminder of these teachings. But you might have known many people who prayed to the statues of Buddha, regardless.

To be Burmese means to be Buddhist for many, but it can also become a much more personal question. For some, stepping outside their religion of birth also means leaving their family and friends.

Than Zaw Oo, a Burmese man from Phawngpin Town, heard about Jesus from a graduate of Shiloh Bible College, and became a Christian two years ago. This wasn't an easy decision, as all of his family are Buddhist. And they weren't happy. They forced him to leave home and told him not to return as long as he was a Christian.

This year, Than Zaw Oo is a second-year student at Shiloh Bible College. College president and founder, Andrew Bawi Ceu, wrote, "He loves the Lord very much; he is a dedicated man, good in character. He is willing to share the gospel to his parents and all of his relatives."



Shiloh Bible College students

As God brings the country of Myanmar to your mind, and specifically the various ministries that Andrew Bawi Ceu is leading, pray for:

- Students at Shiloh Bible College such as Than Zaw Oo who have sacrificed much to follow Christ.
- The ministry of Shiloh Bible College. Seven students are preparing to graduate next February and minister in non-Christian (Buddhist or animist) villages.
- The specific efforts of Christians in Myanmar to share the light of Jesus with their Buddhist brothers and sisters. Two outreach crusades designed to reach Buddhists are planned this month.

God's heart beats with love for people from all over the world, from a variety of backgrounds. Psalm 67:3 and 5 reminds us of His love through the repetition of this prayer: "May the nations praise you, O God. Yes, may all the nations praise you."

Through your prayers for the Buddhists in Myanmar, you are joining with Andrew to see the Light of the World shine in their darkness. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

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The Bainet church building with a new roof



Larry and Christy Doyle, Lawrance, Amariah, and Jacob



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AROUND THE WORLD

HAITI

The view from the new church building at Bainet (Pilon) is beautiful: green palms and the Caribbean Sea in the distance. But the four walls stood bare, with no doors or roof.

Seeing the need for a new structure, the Christians at Bainet had worked hard to erect the block walls. Metal trusses were even donated for the building, but there was no way to get the large pieces up the mountain trail.

The World Mission Board stepped in to help correct the problem. The assembled trusses were used at a nearby church also needing a roof and not so remote. Funds were sent to purchase new metal to be taken up the mountain and assembled into trusses on site. The Rockbridge church in Columbia, Missouri, purchased a welder for the project.

Today, a sturdy roof is in place for the church at Bainet!

We are grateful to the people at Bainet, led by local pastor John Baptiste. We are also grateful to Pastor Samson who saw to the completion of the project, and to American Director, Mark Surbrook, who continually serves as an important contact between Haiti and the U.S. Thank God for this important step forward!

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The Doyle family continues to travel and share about their work with Bible translation in Papua New Guinea. The Solos team has completed their second training course and continues translating the Bible into their language!

Currently, the Doyles have received pledges for about 1/3 of the total amount they need for their next term. Will you ask God to provide the necessary financial and prayer support for this ministry?