



KHOPANG NEWSLETTER

NORTH BURMA CHRISTIAN MISSION

Now serving in Thailand

SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear supporters,

Greetings from Thailand and the USA! Both Joel and I (*Marilyn*) are doing well by the grace of God. Four months have passed since Joel left Thailand for the US, and he has one more month left before he returns back here to the mission field and to me. Throughout his travels, God has taken care of him, given him strength and alertness for the lengthy drives he has to make from place to place, state to state. Thank you all for your prayers on his behalf. Even as you pray for us, we also pray everyday for every church that supports us, every family, and every individual that gives. We pray that all are doing well and staying safe within and under the umbrella of God. We pray that there will be an explosion of faith and growth in the Lord by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit! Praise the Lord! Each time we come to the US, we see how broken this great nation has become, compared to the past years, and we pray for our nation that God will restore her and hope that we can be an encouragement to all of you. To strengthen you in any way we can, even in the smallest way. May you be encouraged and strengthened in your faith in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Update on Marilyn

I have also been well most of the time, just the regular and main health problems that prevented me from traveling flare up now and again and need to be treated right away. On Monday, September 25th, I had to go see the bone doctor because starting Sunday afternoon, unexpectedly, there appeared a big lump that developed behind my right knee. It was so painful that I could not walk properly, and I could not bend my knee. It ached all night long and the next day. So by Monday night I went to the clinic. It turned out to be a Baker's cyst (*medical term joint effusion*). The doctor had to use a syringe to drain the fluid and pulled out 15 cc's! I've never had this happen to me in my life! My right knee has caused me a lot of pain for the past year, and the doctor said because of the rheumatoid arthritis all over my joints and the inflammation, it has advanced into degenerative arthritis as I am aging. Please pray for me. I need to be healthy. I need to be able to serve alongside Joel as a strong soldier of the Lord! Pray that I do not become a burden to Joel. I am pretty healthy overall, but there are still some things that hold me back. Because of being diagnosed as ANA positive (*immune deficiency*) with lupus, my body is constantly attacking me from within, which is a struggle. So thank you for your prayers for me. I really appreciate it!

Shan Evangelism

It is the rainy season in Burma, so the roads are very muddy, slippery, and dangerous to drive on. But the evangelism team walks through these muddy roads and crosses rivers to take the Gospel into the villages and share about Jesus. These rivers are high and the



current is strong during the monsoons, but they must ford through it, crossing it to get to their destination. They must

cross this river three times before they finally reach their destination.



Once they arrive, Sarah holds story time for the N-Shan children (*non-Christian children*). She will also have some songs she will teach with action movements which the children really love! Sometimes even the adults will come in and listen to the stories too. So slowly, slowly the Word of God and the way of salvation is being planted in their hearts. We need to pray fervently and without ceasing, that the Holy Spirit will water that seed planted in their hearts and will grow so that one day they will accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. Sarah also **had a surprise** for the children. She showed them a cricket and used it to illustrate God's creation. How amazing is that? The children definitely had food for thought and I'm sure they shared the illustration story with their families!



U-Yohan

Do you remember us writing about our co-worker U-Yohan, who suffered a stroke in the field a few months back? He is now out of the hospital, but he is still very weak, and can barely move or speak. The recovery has been slower than we hoped, and due to his vocal cords being paralyzed, it has been difficult for him to eat or swallow. He has lost a tremendous amount of weight which only makes him weaker. Some herbal doctors came and put some special herbal leaves on different joints of his body, hoping it will help. He is very frustrated that he is unable to communicate. In the meantime, he



has many doctor appointments, which has been a huge financial burden on him. This makes him even more frustrated! Please continue to pray for him and his family too. If you feel led by the Lord to give and help one of God's servants towards his treatments and cover some of his medical costs, we would really be grateful and appreciate it. I know they would be too! Pray for healing!



Applying herbal medicines and binding it. He is so skinny now! U-Yohan before the stroke, on the left.

Evangelism Truck Funds

In our last newsletter we spoke about needing a truck. Actually, we are in need of TWO trucks for evangelism. We need one for use in Thailand and one for the Burma side. We have almost raised enough money for the truck in Burma to use for the Shan evangelism. However, we still need a lot more support for the truck in Thailand. Please pray sincerely that God will provide the necessary funds for us to get these vehicles! We want to say thank you to those who have already given towards the N-Shan truck fund. Thank you so much for your generosity and being involved in the Evangelism work which is so important in God's sight. It is saving souls. You make it possible to get to places quickly and efficiently, which saves time. Time is precious! So please consider making a one time donation, (*even two times if God prompts you!*) towards the truck fund for evangelism work. Thank you and may God bless you abundantly!

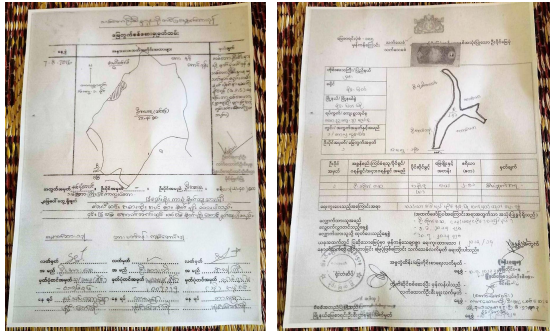
Serving His Kingdom together,

Joel and Marilyn Khopang

Information on the urgent need to purchase land for the Shan/N-Shan Haven of Refuge village.

1.

There is an urgent and limited offer timeline to purchase this piece of land, as there are others who are waiting to get ahold of it too, but the owners would like us to have it. Almost as though he was being



prompted by the Holy Spirit. There are two pieces connected together, the smaller piece being a paddy field for planting rice, and the larger piece which has 22 acres can be used for the refuge. It is a very fertile piece of land, and it has its own source of spring water which we



can harness for supplying the whole village with drinking water. But we can also harness and produce electricity from this source, as the spring has a waterfall of about 20 feet high! The cost of these two pieces of land is about \$28,500 US dollars. There is also another piece next to this of about 5 acres, which the owner said that when the government plots out the borderline, they want us to have it as well. This whole piece of land is the perfect location and the way things are falling into place, looks like it is God's will! Please pray with us about this land and we hope you will also take part in this amazing find and give as the Lord leads you to help make this happen!

2.

This land is full of resources when it comes to vegetation. There are plenty of bamboo trees which we can use for all sorts of building projects. Along with that comes the bamboo shoots, which can be harvested to eat when in season. There are also other trees like wild fruit trees, plenty of banana trees, and edible plants, mushrooms, roots and herbal medicines, etc. It is like a rainforest, full of life and all



kinds of wildlife as well. We had Pastor Saithoon and his wife, along with some of the other team members go and look over and explore this land. It is ideal. It is only about 70 meters from a main road as well, so they would not even have to put out the cost of putting in an access road onto the property. The property is also full of hills and valleys which is ideal for a village. Up on the higher ground, on the hill, we will build the church and training center. In the lower places, we will build homes and gardens. The annexing paddy field will supply the rice for the village. There are video clips that Joel can supply you with so that you can see what the land looks like as they walk through the thick jungle land. We really need to make a decision on this quickly so that we will not lose the opportunity to purchase it first. It is prime, rich, and fertile land that could be a great resource for the whole village and for this project. Please help us do this by giving generously, and set up this haven of refuge village. Thank you and God bless you!

Joel Khopang and the Shan Evangelism Team