

October 2017



Greetings to You All!

... from the wet tropics! This year has been particularly wet. Maybe that is true for many places of the world. By October, it usually slows considerably, but I guess not this year. This morning I poured out 3 inches of water from a bucket, filled just from last night. Sure makes for a green, beautiful time of year, though.

In this letter, we will focus on one ministry in particular, for which we need your prayers.

A Health Ministry in Kengtung, Eastern Shan State, Myanmar

Early Protestant missionary efforts in this part of the world, starting in the 1800s, included establishing Christian schools and hospitals to go along with their evangelistic church planting work. The Presbyterians from America used that strategy in Thailand while the American Baptists in Burma did the same. Today, many of those Christian schools and hospitals in Thailand are still in operation. In fact, the Overbrook Hospital in Chiang Rai, started over 100 years ago, is not only still open, but has become a very large and profitable operation with dozens of specialist doctors and modern equipment.

Unfortunately, in Burma, when the military took over the country in the 1960s the Christian schools and hospitals were either closed



or taken over by the government. Kengtung's Christian Hospital closed in the early 1960s when the missionary doctor, Dr. Keith Dahlberg, was barred from returning after their furlough. Other ministries stayed open a few more years, but in the end all were closed. The people of Burma (Myanmar) have suffered greatly as a result.

Last year a unique opportunity appears to have come up. I think I mentioned in an earlier letter that Overbrook Hospital has been exploring the possibility of establishing a clinic, and possibly later, a hospital, in Kengtung. This ministry would be a joint ministry between the Church of Christ in Thailand (with Presbyterian USA roots) and the Myanmar Baptist Convention (with American Baptist USA roots). So we need your prayers to make this a reality.

Specific Prayer Requests for this Ministry:

- Please pray for courage and strength for the Overbrook Hospital leadership; and for all of us involved, to persevere and forge ahead to make this come true.
- Please pray for favor amongst the Myanmar authorities to allow a Christian health ministry to be re-established after over 50 years.
- Please Pray for Dr. Jo Hsaw, a good friend living in Kengtung who desires to see this ministry go forward and is key to bringing the vision about.



I read in my devotions that the Lord will give us the strength to do the things He has called us to do. Please pray, too that His people will hear the call and respond to that Call.

One other important matter: please remember the Thai people this month. It has been one year since our beloved monarch, Rama the IXth, passed away. The cremation will take place this month and the nation will complete their one-year period of mourning. It will be final sad farewell to a great king.

Thanks for your ongoing prayers for our family. We are only here and serving because of you all. With your prayers and support all these years we continue to be blessed and seek to bless others.

God bless you!

Scott and Tan