

# Making Disciples in MYANMAR



MYANMAR AT A GLANCE	
52 Million	Population
87.9%	Buddhist
6.2%	Christian (majority evangelical)
4.3%	Muslim
0.8%	Animist
0.5%	Hindu
0.3%	Other

Adoniram Judson and wife Ann, the first evangelical missionaries to Myanmar, arrived in 1813 after an encounter with pirates, and the loss of their first child in transit.

Our first visit to Myanmar was in January 2017. How similar, yet how different in many ways from the Philippines. In the streets and markets of Yangon, the people were gentle, friendly and helpful, but out of town we soon learned that foreigners are viewed with some suspicion. One man asked me where I was from and where I was going, before pointing me back the way I had come. In the street where we stayed, there were Muslims praying out loud early in the morning and Buddhists reciting their mantras at different times of the day and night. Others bowed and



by Bruce Jenyns

paid homage to Buddhist monks who collected money door to door. There is also rapid development, as money flows into the fledgling Democracy.

We stayed with our son John, his wife Jen and our two grandchildren, involved with David Coates and others in establishing the new Promise International School in Yangon.

## GLO HOSTEL

From there, we made two visits to the GLO Hostel ministry where we were able to share and give some encouragement. We also visited the thirty acre farm that now produces rice, corn, eggs, chickens and much more, to provide the more than three hundred and fifty meals per day needed to feed the one hundred plus children and their carers. Seven family members, Lian, Naing, Kot, Nu Nu, Khai Khai, Len Len and Hazel, have now been through the Smithton course.

## THE VISION

GLO's involvement in Myanmar began through a God-appointed 'chance' meeting between Dr. Don Nicholls and Lian (Zan Than Lian) in Malaysia, which led to his attending GLO Smithton for training in 1995. Lian then returned to Myanmar, with a vision for him and other family members to develop a Hostel ministry in Yangon; this involved providing accommodation, care and education for Burmese children and youth, many drawn from the persecuted Chin minority group in the north-west of the country, bordering Bangladesh. Their vision is to educate, disciple and equip hundreds of Burmese young people to be God's instruments in reaching out with the Gospel to Myanmar and beyond.



Kot at the farm where eggplant and corn are growing.



Eggs from the farm.

## 2016 HIGHLIGHTS FOR PRAISE & PRAYER:

- Annual Youth Camp: 13 students gave their lives to Christ.
- Christmas Outreach: About 200 unreached, attended and heard the Gospel.
- Len Len and the big boys' Gospel Tour to ex-students' villages for outreach and encouragement.
- Some students attained Academic Excellence Awards from their respective schools.
- One student qualified to attend University as an honours student and another to start a Master's Degree in Law.
- The Evening Discipleship Class covered learning from all Old Testament books.
- A good harvest of rice, corn and other vegies from the farm.
- The continued growth in chicken and egg production.
- The good health enjoyed throughout the year.
- Many wonderful guests from 'Down Under' including a team from Tasmania.

Buddhists are aware of their sin and inability to keep a fraction of Buddha's 'rules', not dissimilar to the Ten Commandments, which he acknowledged not even he could keep. Reincarnation offers only the vain hope that their bad karma can somehow be erased in some future, better life. **Pray that these gentle people will hear and embrace the Good News that Jesus has atoned for their sin on the cross and will freely pardon all who repent and put their trust in Him.**



Bruce sharing at the English meeting.