

GLO Myanmar Scrap for Food

Community development might be a catchphrase for the many who desire to make a difference to both local and distant communities. For the church, community development is a responsibility that fulfils the command of the Lord Jesus to care for the poor and needy, this can be done in a variety of ways.

One way is found in the experience of Bob. Myanmar is the second largest country in Southeast Asia with a population around 60 million. Prior to 2010 the country had been under a military dictatorship and the World Health Organisation ranked Myanmar as having the worst health care of any country in the world. In 2011 a civil government took control, although the military continue to have enormous influence. This made way for the removal of economic sanctions and opened the way to much needed change. For Myanmar the imprint of a very repressive military regime remained, it is a country that is poor, with little infrastructure for health and education. It is into this context that Bob, a farmer, came from Australia.

Bob had previously been asked to visit a GLO 'partnered' hostel / orphanage caring for 80 children in Myanmar, but had chosen not to go. He'll tell you, my excuse was "It's not my thing" he sadly now adds "I missed some years of blessing." The invitations didn't stop and so hearing that GLO and their partners had raised support to buy farmland with the purpose of supporting the children, he felt he could bring his expertise as a farmer to aid in developing the property. He was able to help, guiding in the use of the land and the materials supplied so the farm began to take shape. However Bob recognised the dry seasons of Myanmar made it difficult for farming and so hindered their ability to provide the needed support for the orphanage. Now the new political freedoms in Myanmar and the accompanying economic boom resulted in increasing food prices and further pressure on the orphanage.



Farm Produce



Kot & Dimsan



Bob with the Myanmar children

Bob had a great time with the children at the orphanage and he was somewhat speechless, moved by their kindness and in particular by their need. Bob came home with a desire to make a difference, a desire to help this community of children, first and foremost, to help them live and also to hear the wonderful gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. But how could he do this? I think that is a question we all, often ask ourselves "How can I help?" But so often, we feel unable to do anything. Bob ultimately came up with the idea of collecting scrap steel donations and giving all of the proceeds to the orphanage. Bob would say the Lord has been good, various organisations and individuals having heard of the need gave freely, and these donors were involved in community development. This Ministry, 'Scrap for Food' has been running now for 3 years and the orphanage is now overflowing with around 150 children. Community development can occur in many ways, what ideas, what groups, could you support and encourage?

If you would like more information about the hostel / orphanage ministry in Myanmar, or would like us to assist you with working out "how you can help", please contact GLO Ministries.

By Allan Driver



Allan Driver



Nu Nu with the children



Bob collecting Scrap metal



Meal time at the hostel