

MYANMAR CYCLONE RELIEF & REBUILDING MISSION 14 July 2008

Dear Friends & Supporters,

It's 9 weeks since Cyclone Nargis first hit Myanmar on 2 May 08. Reports on its devastation are fading from the news media and yet the challenges ahead for those affected by the cyclone are enormous. The pain of losing loved ones and the means to rebuild their lives looks insurmountable. International aid agencies such as UN World Food Program (WFP), UNICEF, International Red Cross are reporting some improved access to the Delta region and are coordinating efforts to provide relief efforts. The Red Cross has launched a Revised Emergency Appeal fund of about USD72m for 100,000 households for 36 months; a fraction of the estimated 2.4 million people affected by the cyclone. High inflation on basic food is reported to be severely affecting the efforts of the local communities to rebuild their lives; for example, the price of rice has doubled to USD50 cents per kilo and salt increased four folds to USD1 per kilo.

What's been accomplished so far ...

Thank you for your prayers and contributions to our initial phase of relief work. So far, our partners on the ground have visited the towns, delta jungles and villages in the hardest hit districts of Bogaley and Laputta. They have distributed food, tarpaulins, medicine, books and stationery, fuel, cash and tracts to desperate victims to meet some of their immediate needs. They have prayed with and comforted the grieving and broken hearted. The team has completed their investigations and has put forth their vision for the next phase. We are now moving into the next stage of rebuilding and transforming lives.

What's Next ...

Asian Outreach's approach to mission work has always been to help and to empower the local church to reach out to the local community. We work alongside our partners, progressing beyond the immediate relief; sensitively building the relationship and groundwork for transforming the community; always remembering the Great Commandment ministry and the Great Commission mandate. Our strategy for the relief and rebuilding programs for Myanmar is therefore 2-pronged;

Project A : establishing mission stations in the Delta region which will serve as the bases for training and launching of local Burmese missionaries, providing community aid and church planting.



Project B : providing resources for the church workers to reach out to the communities; showing Christian love in action

Project A – Mission Centres for Rebuilding lives

To set up 10 new mission stations in the Delta region over the next six months; starting with the first in Bogaley which is about 2 hours drive from Yangon. A wooden house has been rented for 6 months to facilitate the work of reaching out to the communities in the surrounding areas; including the 3 villages of Nagaunglay Chaung Ywua, Sein Pan Ywa and Nagaungkyi Chaung Yua mentioned in our earlier reports. The other 9 towns identified are Laputta, Ngapydaw, Pismo, Dedaje, Kuan-chain-gone, Twenty, Pyiapone, Kawhmu and Maulmein Kyawm. There are more than 6000 villages around these ten towns.

The set up cost per station is estimated at USD2900; for the rental of premises for 6 months, its basic furnishing and the support of workers.

Project B – Relief Resources - provision for evangelists and church planters to help villagers to start their rebuilding process.

Two components are identified below :



Help a Village – Farming

The planting season ends with the approach of August. If the villagers miss planting this season, there will be no food supply for them during the next year. The threat of starvation as an aftermath of the cyclone is very real. 2 areas of need are identified: **tractors for ploughing & seeds for sowing.**

A tractor can plough 50 acres of land within the month, equivalent to ploughing 10 plots of family-size 5-acre farm. The tractors will be managed by the mission station and loaned to the farmers during this critical period. **The cost of a tractor is USD1800.** 15 bags of seeds are needed for a family-size 5-acre farm. **The cost of a bag of seed is USD8.**

Help a Family – house, food & basics

The monsoon season is approaching. Most of the villagers have lost all they have in the storm and need shelter and food.

The set-up cost of providing shelter and basic essentials for a family of 5 is about USD558; USD428 to build a 12ft by 15ft (17 sq m) bamboo house with wooden floor and corrugated iron roof, and USD130 for basic household furnishing items, clothing, utensils, blankets, mosquito nets etc.

The cost of feeding a family of 5 is USD45 per month.



Please continue to pray for our Lord's work in Myanmar and that we will be worthy laborers during this season of harvest time for souls .That the love of Christ can be manifested through us, touching and transforming the needy Burmese lives in an effective and sustainable way.

If you are moved to support the above projects, please indicate your choice of project on the attached response forms.

Alternatively, if you have any questions, do feel free to contact our team-members:

Bruce Taylor at brucet@asianoutreach.org or Audrey Tung at audrey.tung@asianoutreach.org

Thank you again. We so appreciate your partnership in making a difference in Myanmar.

**Yours-in-Christ
Francis Tsui
President**

CHANGING LIVES, TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES, INFLUENCING NATIONS