

June 2, 2008

Dear Friends who have contributed to the Myanmar (Burma) Relief effort,

Thank you for your donations and your prayers for the ongoing relief. The need is enormous, but hope is communicated to each person reached by those distributing aid and setting up shelters.

The total raised (and promised) so far is over £80,000 [including £10,000 from South Asian Development Partnership supporters]. To date £47,000 has reached Myanmar and is meeting real emergency needs of the people.

Following is a short update from our key contacts in Myanmar who have received funds and are doing the direct relief. (Proper names are withheld for security reasons.)

**'Aung'** – a well respected Myanmar church leader and co-chair of a coalition of Myanmar churches and aid agencies engaged in the relief effort.

*"We greatly appreciate you and your friends' deep concern, fervent prayer and generous contribution for our people and our country, Myanmar.*

*Our staff and volunteers are in 6 different townships: South Dagon, North Dagon, Shwe Pyi Thar, Hlaing Tharyar, Patheingyi and Myaung Mya to help the victims. We have been making thousands of food kits and women's kits to distribute to the victims through churches and individuals. [People] have never thought for women kit and so appreciate for that. Food kits are also very useful. People have nothing to cook. This already made 'food kit' fills their starving stomach. 37 shelters were built by our team within 2 weeks (25 in Yangon division, 12 in Bogalay). No one can take a day off as the situation is so desperate. Actually, those who engage in the relief projects are exhausted physically and emotionally. The restrictions and disturbance from the authorities, bad transportation, poor communication, heavy rain, etc., really slow down the relief work. Refugee camps in churches and monasteries were checked by the authorities.*

*Thank God that Myanmar citizens from different religions have been doing their very best for the victims with limited resources in spite of restrictions and disturbance. The churches have mobilized to work together for the victims. International aids are now being distributed to the victims, but we are waiting for the authorities to follow through on their promise to open doors for experienced disaster relief foreign volunteers."*



**'Timothy'** – a young Burmese leader currently living across the border in Mizoram (India), from where he coordinates work throughout Myanmar.

*"We have already started to reconstruct the children's home (destroyed in the storm), and to help those who lost their homes in the areas where our national workers are stationed with the help of your donations. THANK YOU for your help sent for the children's home, so they are now out of the rain and have some food."*



**'David'** – a Burmese leader of an organisation on the outskirts of Yangon (Rangoon). All their buildings were destroyed, including a children's home. The first installment of funds for immediate needs of the children's home has been sent, and confirmation just received. But communications are still very difficult and erratic with those inside the country who have no phone and only very occasional internet access.

*"We are more than grateful to you for your concern and timely help extended to us.... Things have improved a bit, but the basic demands remain the same: no electric power supply, no water supply, no communication system in our area. Block leaders are not doing anything regarding these problems. If we have power supply, we have water supply. So long as electric power supply is not available we have to buy water from outside. There is not any government supplies of water in our block.*

*We hear news every day that there will be inflation of the costs of domestic goods which are immediate needs of livelihood. We don't really know what our near future holds, but we believe in Him Who holds our future. You all are there and we don't feel forsaken. On behalf of MMR Family-Yangon please allow me to convey a special note of thanks to those donors who, without knowing and seeing us, love us so much and send us the needed funds for our immediate survival."*

My heartfelt thanks to each of you for your partnership in this relief effort,

**Dr Cindy Perry**, Senior Consultant  
Development Associates Int'l, Himalayan Region