

Christmas Gift Response 2019

In previous years, we carefully kept track of each donation and who received it. Thus we could say that so and so received their donation from such and such a person. As the program has grown, it has become more difficult to track. Also some donors received no feedback from the person who gave away their donation which was disappointing to them. So this year we are giving all donors the feedback from all gifts. We hope this is more satisfactory.

From: Christopher Day

Subject: Thanks for Christmas gift

Dear Mr/s Santa Claus,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

May His Joy and Perfection upon you.

This year of Christmas is a wonderful for me as I got the phone call from Saw Sweety who arranging your Santa Claus' gifts to the less opportunity people. I'm also pleased to cooperate with you in this Christmas season.

The \$50, I got from Saw Sweety has changed to Myanmar kyats then with a short pray I started to think who needs the gift. Around us, a lot of people are in need, but finally, I chose a young widow with her two sons called them to a warm-clothing shop and let them to have any things they need and want. After we buy warm clothes I set prayer together for praising God and the giver (Mr/s Santa Claus). I am very happy to see their faces are shining and smiling together with the gifts in their hands. I told them about this is the gift from Santa Claus, I even don't know their name. Instead of hearing their words of thanks to you, only I can hear on your behalf.

Thank you Santa Clause for the Christmas Gifts.

May the Lord shower His blessings upon you always. Amen.

In His Service.

Chris

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From: Nant Christina Frank

Date: December 17, 2019 at 2:31:23 PM
GMT+6:30

Subject: Christmas Gift

Dear Thra,
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year !

Yesterday, we received FOB love gift for our Bible School from Thra Molar Gay. I also gave 75000 kyats to Thramu Naw Eh Htoo for Christmas present as you advised me. She served at Pa Daunk Gone mission field work since 2013. The address for her work is Ayeyarwady Division, Kangyidaunk Township, Pa Daunk Gone village. That mission field work is one of Tha Yet Taw Pwo Karen

Baptist Church branches. Thramu Naw Eh Htoo is a faithful servant. Even though, she faced a lot of things, she never give up. That points, I chose her to give Christmas present in this year. May the Lord continue bless FOB and you for evermore.

In His Service,

Christina

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December 23, 2019

Dear Neil and Diana,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!! Greetings from the committee members of the Agape Orphanage Project and the orphans. We're very happy to inform you that we've received Kyats 75,000 that you sent to help anyone who's in need of help. We gave Kyats 50,000 to an old couple named Mr. and Mrs. Moses who are over 80 and are members of the Loikaw Church. They live on a small pension and are in poor health. We also bought them Ovaltine, Milo, canned milk, sugar, some biscuits and snacks with the rest of the money. They were very happy when we gave them the presents and told them they were from you. They thank you and send you their blessings. I'm sending you some photos of Daw Than Yee, our Project treasurer, presenting your gifts to Mr Moses. We hope you'll be glad to see them.

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Dear Neil and Diana

We just back from giving the Christmas gift of FOB to Su Pone Chit. Five of us, me and my 4 kids, with bicycles, went to her house. When we were there we saw her sitting in front of her house, her elder sister was cooking and her grandmother was washing. Unlike former years she did not cry and show no feeling of embarrassing.

When I asked my kids “who wants to share their snacks?” all of them went to their room and put some packets of snacks to the plastic bags. I was so happy that the kids have learned about sharing. I did many times of distributing the gift of FOB in front of them.

We gave some foods, drinks, 50000 kyats and together with the present from my kids. The grandmother was nearly cried. She may think we are not coming this year. Today is Karen New year and only three of them are home. I wanted to see her yesterday (Christmas day) but I was a little bit busy with visitors from US.

I unsatisfied with myself in one thing. Before we left we shake her hand. When I shake her hand she was shy and smiles a big smile. I could not catch her smile on my camera to share you. Her smiling moment makes me happy and I feel like I receive a precious gift from her. I am sad for I could not return it to you.

She was eight but so small. When other children are happy she is sitting in front of her house. When her sister goes for carol singing with friends she stays at home with her grandmother. When her sister brings some snacks which she got from carol singing in the village she checked it happily.

Her smile makes me happy but not so long. Many thoughts come into my mind. Her future without Mom and irresponsible Dad, unhealthy Grandma and under age sister is quite challenging.

Any how I thank FOB very much for making needy people happy in Christmas time with this Christmas gift program. We are not only wishing Merry Christmas and Happy New year by words to her but with presents from FOB. I am 100% sure; this moment is a big happy moment for all of the family.

Thank you FOB. You are making poor people happy time by time.

Sincerely Russ

Su Pone Chit (a girl sitting under her home made decoration)



On Tue, Dec 31, 2019 at 5:04 AM thuzar mon <thuzar.mbc@gmail.com> wrote:

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Hi Neil

Thank you so much for scholarship fund to support difficult student.

I got \$ 100= 150000 MMK

I gave it to two Theological students.

1. Nang Jan Sheng (L.Th second year_ Kyaing Toung Pan Wai Theological School)

2. Nang Sheng Mart (M.Div First year MICT, Yangon

I gave them each 75000 MMK.

You can see the attached file.

I am sure both of them are needy. They both lost their father and lived in the difficult place. Thank you for supporting them.

God bless,

Both of them are needy one day got fund they are very happy and very thankful to you and Friends of Myanmar.

They wrote to you thank you letter in Myanmar.

In Christ

Nang Thu Zar Mon

Treasurer

Myanmar Baptist Convention

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Christmas Gift 2019 Report

I thank God for having an opportunity to give Christmas present for 2019 Christmas. After I have received \$50 for Christmas gift for this year, I pray that to find a real needy people to give the Christmas gift.

By the grace of God I was invited to a village called Kone Galay village for communion service in the last week of November. This village takes 5 hours by car and 1 hour by boat to reach that village. While I was walking around the village I saw 2 boys were playing on the ground. The pastor introduced them by sharing about their lives. The life of these kids touched my heart and I had realized that this widow family would be the most needy one. So I



shared about the purpose of Christmas gift to pastor and she also agreed with me. Their mother was a widow named Naw Mi Cho who lost her husband two years ago. She has 2 sons and the third one was a girl.

This youngest one had suffered a kind of heart disease since she was born. Her mother had to go to hospital regularly once in a month. To hospital took 1 hour by boat and sometimes she had to go to Pathein hospital where could provide her daughter for better treatment. After her husband passed away, she had to struggle a lot for 3 children. She left her daughter with 2 elderly brothers and went to house to house for washing clothes or some of the works which she could help for others. She made income by this way and from this income she used for her daughter's healthcare expenses and also for family daily food. As Christmas season had getting near and her two sons were very exciting and happy even they knew that their mother could not buy anything for them. We realized that they wanted to wear new clothes and also wanted to eat like other children.

In evening, after worship service, we went to their house and told them about Christmas present from donors of Friends of Burma ,USA and gave them 80000kyats as Christmas gift. Then we prayed for them and we saw that she looked very happy and thankful to those senders for Christmas gift. She was very excited and said that she wanted to buy rice, other foods, medicine for her daughter and new clothes for each 3 child. I saw that she looked so weak and encouraged her to take care of her health. She would be experienced that the real sense of Christmas joy and it also reflected me to same joyfulness.

Then after 2 weeks, I was informed by her pastor that her daughter had passed away. Then I heard that she had used some money for her daughter's funeral affairs. It also very helpful for her because during the time her daughter was in serious health condition, she could not work and no income but this Christmas gift becomes to be survival for them. She thanked the donor again for the gift.

I do believe that you would be happy for the very helpful and meaningful Christmas gift for the needy people.

Thank you so much,

Naw Paw Gaw Donor on behalf of Friends of Burma, Inc.

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Report from Magnolia

Dear Friends of Myanmar,

Thank you for the Christmas gift to the needy person. The woman who received it is a helper at KBTS dining room. Her name is Naw Cho Aye. Her parents were old age and sick. Her father was pass away in last week of November. When she received Christmas gift from you,



she can buy the food and medicine for her mother. She could buy warm clothes. She was happy and thanks to God through your kind support & love. God bless.

Magnolia

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Dear Friends of Myanmar,

Greetings from Yangon!

Thank you for the Christmas gift to the needy people.

The family received the Christmas gift from you were so happy in the Christmas season. The family gave thanks to God and remember you and your family in their prayer.

Thra Arda's family were able to buy warm clothes, rice and food through your love gift.

Magnolia.

Money is always given in an envelope like the one the child is holding.



This is Thra Arda family

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Dear FOB,

I took responsibility of 50\$ for the Christmas gifts requested by Diana. Before I gave the gift, I searched carefully for the person who needed it the most.

On the 22nd of December 2019, when I went to Pyaw Bwe Gone Village Church, I found out that their pastor is ill due to the stroke he received a year ago. His name is Rev. Thara Joe, he is 78 years old, he cannot walk and talk but he's attending the church every week in every devotion. He greets everyone who comes to the church "God Bless You". He's



been serving to the church for more than 25 years. The medical expenses of the pastor are about 100,000 kyats per month. The church members take care of his medical expenses but since they all are villagers and farmers, they do not earn much. Therefore, the 50\$ of our Christmas gift meant a lot to him and to the church. The following attached photo is the pastor at his house after the Sunday noon service.

Reported By,

Saw Frits Fredrick Kyaw, Dr. Chit Maung Library (DCML)

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Naw Tin Htoo

Her family is one of the families from our mission field. Her husband is a daily wage worker in that areas. They don't have their own land to work. They had 8 children and the elders 3 were married since they were in teenagers. They also were still in poverty condition and could not support their parents with young brothers and sister. Presently, there are 3 children with them but

the two of them are working in factory but with low pay. So they could not support regularly to their parents.



Moreover Naw Tin Htoo has suffered TB and they say that it has already recovered but she still has heart disease. Thus she looks so weak and now she has a pregnant in her age of 38.

When we celebrated Christmas there I got a chance to give her family a Christmas gift. This gift was from FOMGB. She looked very week but she tried to attend the worship service as much as she could. She was very upset because her husband was away from home and she really needed money for her children and also wanted to participate by giving a small amount of money for Christmas activities. So she was happy and she said that it was the very first time for receiving Christmas gift like this. She thanked God and also those who has generous heart to her family.

Reported by Naw Paw Gaw.

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1.Naw Chaw Hsu

She lives in Kone Galay village,Aye Yar Waddy Division as same village as Naw Mi Cho. She is also a widow with a son. Since she was in young age, known her as very quiet lady and rarely spoke in public. Her life style is pure ,simple and obedient.

She married a man who was her same villager for 7 years ago. At the beginning of their marriage life her husband worked in the village as a farmer. But after they got a son he tried to seek a



job from other places. Then he got a job as a fishery boat worker. So he could come back to his house only once in 6 months. After 2 years later he got HIV positive and came back to home without telling anyone about his health situation. His wife stayed with him and she tried to take care him without any complaints. After 1 year her husband died and she knew that she got HIV positive. So she had to take treatment from the organization who supported the patients of HIV positive. She had to go to the city where was far one hour by boat from her village. She felt so weak and could not work as before. As she was loved by people surrounding her, she got help from some caring people and her mother also supported her as much as she could.

When I knew about her through the pastor I went to her house and talked with her and prayed for her. Then I shared about the Christmas gift which had given by you.

She was very happy because she needed money to go to city for taking medicine and wanted to buy some rice. She felt the real joyfulness because of your gift. She said that now she could buy something for her son as Christmas present which her son asked her. Her mother also thanked you and very happy for knowing that there are people who willingly to show their love and concern for them.

So they all received the joyfulness of Christmas which empowering them to get a new hopeful life for their future.

Naw Paw Gaw

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Friends of Burma, Inc. sponsored fourteen teams from Kawthulei Karen Baptist Bible School and College at \$75 each. Here are their reports.

Team 1, Karen State, Mission Campaign 2019 of KKBBSC

From: Mary Wood

I want to begin this report by saying that as students provided this first report of mission campaign to me all I did was cry. Their mission campaign during the month of December is humbling to me. The amount of care and compassion that they provided to 13 villages amazes me beyond belief. During their travels, they managed to travel by truck, foot, boat and tractor. What 75 dollars can do in one month for a group of traveling students to Karen State in Myanmar only God can fathom.



The First group reported traveling to brigade seven visiting 13 villages. They did not meet any Christians. All villagers were Buddhist and Animists. Some village leaders allowed the group to share the good news of Jesus Christ but some did not allow. The villagers were poor and unable to afford to send their children to study at school. Another village(see pictures below) consisted mostly of grandmothers and grandfathers. Their children did not care for them. Out of great pity the students cared for the elderly ones in their loneliness.

The students took pity on the children and villagers as they provided dramas, music, singing and love.

The students are pictured here traveling in various destinations during mission campaign.

If you ever wondered how you can do ministry from your life in USA, consider giving 75 dollars to a mission campaign

group this Christmas during sweet December. Your money will send students to do the work you want to do but you will not ever be able to do for yourself. The students will do, in their capacity, the

work of God in your place. Their love is packed full of determination and commitment to do the will of God with a Smile and a greeting. These students go into places in Burma where you may be able to



go, but the students will go often at great risks to themselves and their health, and they go with deep ability to love others as Jesus commanded us to do as Christians.



They make a stage in each village.

Tablut (thank you) for your constant faith in the Karen people. Thank you for your generous giving. Thank you for supporting ministry inside the jungle in very remote places that still wait to receive the love of God in Jesus Christ.



Thank you for your giving to the Mission Campaign of KKBBSC.



Students at prayer.

With Love and Admiration from KKBBSC,



Thramu Doh Mary Wood
Team 2, Karen State, Mission
Campaign 2019 of KKBBSC

The second mission campaign group consisted of combined classes from KKBBSC who visited Brigade 7. Students reported, "We went to the Buddhist community, 17 villages total."



Transferring from boat to truck.

This group provided home visitation, helping the villagers in the fields, sharing the good news when chances are given, and at night they organized the fellowship and concerts. They were very careful only going into Buddhist villages whose village elders gave permission to share to gospel.

This group amazed me that they helped farmers in their fields and shared the gospel as they worked side by side.



So creative and so special that these students can go to remote places.

Please notice that your donations help provide food, games for children, fuel for tractors that carried the students, and shirts designed by the group and made at the Bible school for the mission campaign.

Then to farm tractor.



Program present on stage they created.



Audience of villagers.

God bless these students who see the world with broader vision because they have taken the gospel into the Karen State during December 2019.

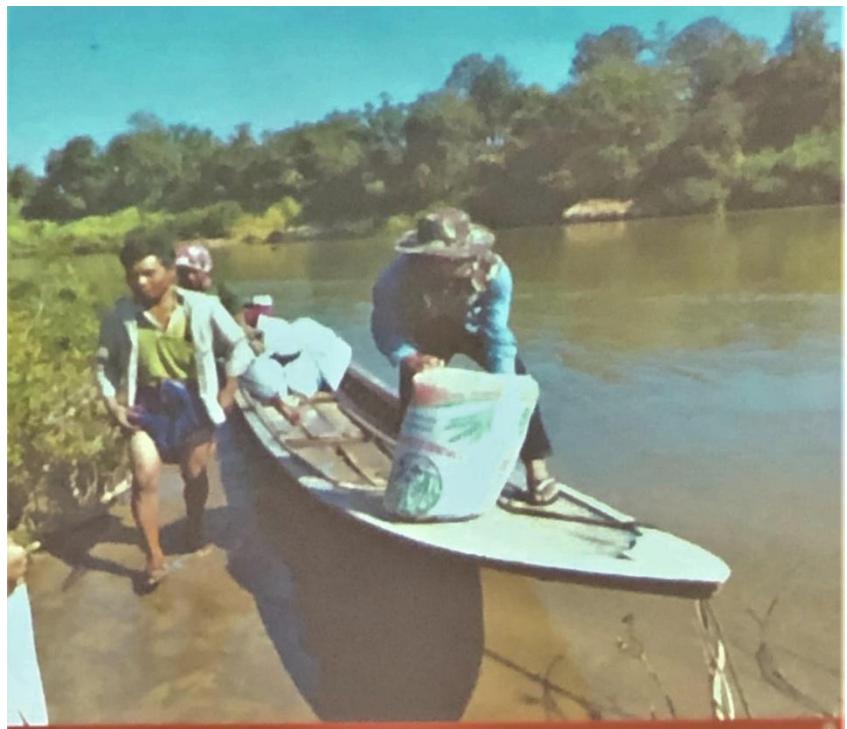
In the Blessings of Christ,

Thramu Doh Mary Wood

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Team 3, Karen State, Mission Campaign 2019 of KKBBSC

Each team must carry all the materials they use including gasoline, food, gifts and treats, balloons, etc. Boats are often used.



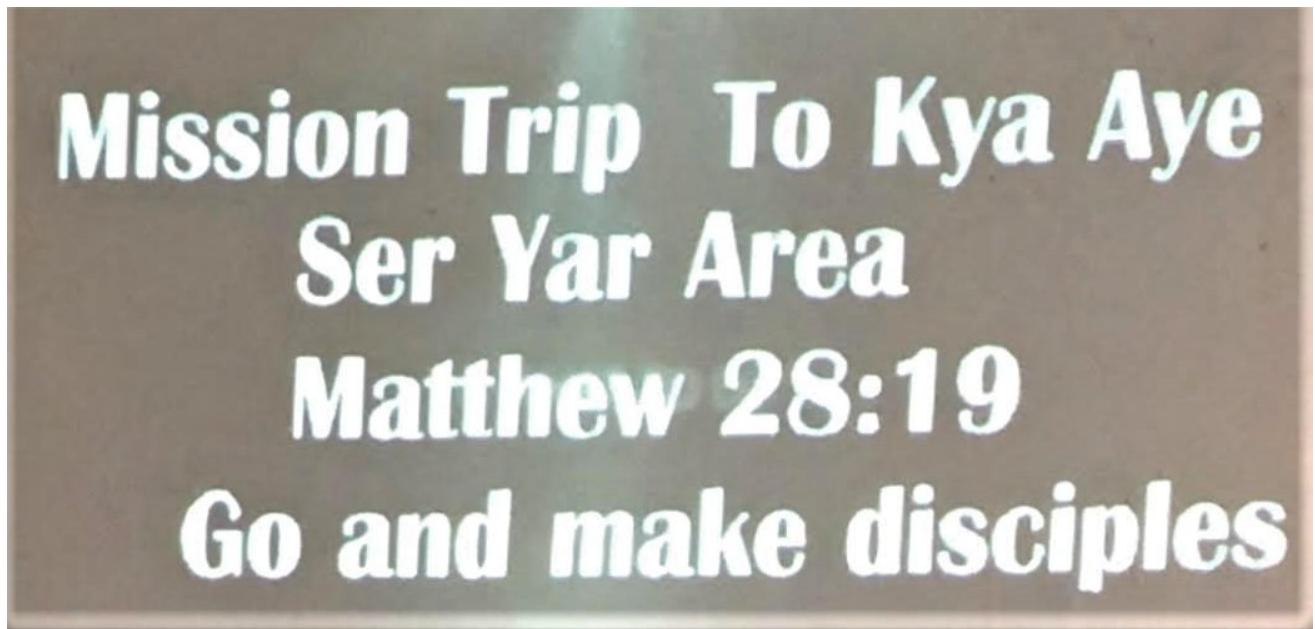
This group traveled to the Delta area. They gave a video presentation at 1:30 pm to the entire school and all of the older area pastors attended a special celebration at the chapel at KKBBSC. Each mission campaign reported their experiences to the school and thanked Friends of Burma.



These students walked a great part of the time as they traveled to the Delta area.

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Team 4, Karen State, Mission Campaign 2019 of KKBBSC



This mission campaign went to the Kya Aye Ser Yar Atea. Their mission was based on the scripture verse Matthew 28:19. One of the younger teachers, a musician, who teaches music theory, is seeking to further his education with keyboard performance. I truly hope he contacts Friends of Burma to receive further education. When he was my student years ago, I have never watched a student excel so well on the keyboard and play the Hallelujah Chorus from a handwritten score.



This group went to with this teacher, Saw Kwala Htoo, and the group visited this teacher's village in the Karen State.

God bless you all for your faithful giving. It is a pleasure to see the happiness and joy in the faces of the students as they report their mission campaign experiences. Praise God for the people who love the Lord



Yours in Christ,

Thramu Doh Mary Wood

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Team 5, Karen State, Mission Campaign 2019 of KKBBSC

Report from Mary Wood.

Please accept these pictures from a report the students made today. Because of my language barrier I did not



understand which part of the current state they were visiting. Please take special note of this slide:

What a blessing are those whose feet carry the good news!



Villagers praying in class room.



Mission Team working in villagers' peanut field.

Notice how much care the students provide to Buddhist villagers. The students help the villagers farm the fields as part of their ministry in providing the love of Jesus Christ.



Helping villagers harvest peanuts.



Actions speak louder than words as these students work side by side the Buddhist villagers and share the Good News.

Helping to harvest the paddy (rice).



Rest time is witness time.

May Christ always bless the donations and love from Friends of Burma.

Many blessings, Thramu Doh Mary Wood

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