

# From the Golden Shore

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Dear Pastor and praying friends,

Happy new year from the Golden Land. There are many methods of learning, yet the most memorable method is learning by experience. "And Laban said unto him, I pray thee, if I have found favour in thine eyes, tarry: for **I have learned by experience** that the Lord hath blessed me for thy sake." (Gen. 30:27) While it is not always the best method, it can be the most effective method of learning. During our first month back from furlough, we have learned by experience that God continues to use our church and our family. His blessings are not only for us, but He has blessed us for the sake of many others also.

On our first Saturday back, we went out soul winning with the rest of our church. Twenty people came out that day, many of whom are teenagers. Getting "back in the saddle" was a great feeling. I met a man named Ko Thu Ya Htun who was sitting at a small shop with some friends. As I walked by the shop, he called me over to talk. He wanted to know where I was from and what I was doing. That conversation naturally led to the gospel. One of his friends said he was already saved, but Thu Ya Htun was not sure about heaven. After explaining the gospel to him, he bowed his head and trusted Christ.

The very next day, I got back into my Sunday school class, which had both teenagers and adults combined, and taught about Hagar looking after God. In that lesson, I mentioned that we must first seek God's righteousness. The Holy Spirit then impressed upon me that if we are to seek God's righteousness, we must prioritize the gospel. So, for the first time in two years, I taught a series on how to share the gospel with people. In the time that we were away on furlough, some new people had joined the church. This was a perfect time to teach them and the teenagers how to lead people to Christ while at the very same time living out Matthew 6:33.

Throughout the course of the month leading up to Christmas, there was no room in our tiny building. Many times we had to sit outside under the shadow of a tree in front of the church building. What a great problem to have! It is a joy to be a member of a growing and thriving church. Our church is in the middle of construction. Because the men in our church are building the new auditorium themselves, construction has been slow going. Although we will not hire a construction company, the church has hired a few individuals in search of work. One of those men, is Ko San Maung. He started coming to church to help work on the building, and Pastor won him to Christ last month. To my knowledge, he is the third man saved because of the building project. Our church is not waiting for a better building to reach people. Our church is even using the building process as a tool to reach people with the gospel.

Almost every week, I receive a text with a photo from a man named Win Zaw Aye. Win Zaw Aye got saved nearly three years ago and has been an avid soul winner for over a year. I received a photo of him preaching the gospel to a Buddhist nun. He also sent a video of her asking Christ to save her. She came to church for the first time on Christmas Eve day. What a blessing to have the powerful Word of God that can even save deeply religious people! Our people are learning by experience the blessings that obedience to God brings.

Early Christmas Eve morning, Annie and Jasmine went down to the church early to help cook the special lunch. Some ladies from the village around the church visited the service. A young man in our church brought two friends. Pastor talked to them before service, and they trusted Christ to save them. After the morning service, I had the privilege to baptize two people, one of whom was Ko San Maung.

I walked into church on Wednesday and noticed some holes in the roof. My mind immediately went to Jesus seeing the faith of four men who tore up a roof to get their friend to Christ. Even though our holes are for a different purpose, our church endeavors to show Jesus the same kind of faith. It is a blessing to see things that instantly remind us of Scripture.

The posts for the new auditorium went up during the week between Christmas and New Years. What a sight it was to see the current small building inside what will one day be a new meeting house. Yet more importantly, people were being built up in Him and established in the faith. We had six visitors that day with two saved. I finished teaching the series on how to be a soul winner. I also had the privilege to preach the last message of the year, exhorting our people to abound in the work of the Lord for the sake of those who come behind us, for the sake of those who have gone before us, and for the sake of those who serve beside us.

We do not want to learn about God's blessings only from others' lives. We want to learn by experience that God would bless us and our church for the sake of others. Please pray for our visa renewal to go through speedily. Please pray for our people to continue to grow in the Lord. As always, pray for more souls to be saved and more soul winners to rise up. God bless.

Until He comes,

*The Davis Family*

Matthew 4:16

GLBM

**Sending Church: Grace Baptist Church of Troy, NY**  
**Missions Agency: Golden Land Baptist Missions Horseheads, NY**