



From the Golden Shore

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Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

We are happy to announce that Faith Baptist Church of Mawlamyine will have its grand opening service next Sunday, June 7. Our church theme verse is Romans 1:17: "For therein [in the gospel referred to in verse 16] is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." From the outset of this church plant, God has been growing our faith.

By faith, we remodeled our rented building, using every spare dollar we could. Over the last three months, we have prepared the space for services. In answer to prayer, God has given us the men, the means, and the material. We stripped the old paint from the walls, raised the floor, installed a new ceiling and lights, and repainted most of the building. In April, Myanmar has a week-long holiday when most everything is closed, so I spent that week doing carpentry and built a simple cross-shaped pulpit for preaching. Over the last week, we have cleaned up the building, and next week we will furnish it for church.

In April, a friend of ours gave birth to a baby girl. She had been saved and baptized a few years ago at the first church where we served. My wife spent time each day bringing food, talking with this new mother, and holding the baby. Another friend's family was involved in a serious car wreck, and we had another opportunity to love them by faith. I also had the opportunity to pray with an elderly gentleman in the local ICU ward, and later a family member read him a gospel tract, before he passed away. Thank God he got to hear the gospel. We were also able to be a blessing to other family members while they were in the hospital.

By faith, we have consistently gone around the church neighborhood telling people about Jesus. We've won nearly 30 people in this area to Christ in the last seven months, and most of them are excited about the new church. Like the early believers, we start churches with the people we win on the street or in homes. A couple of weeks ago, when we parked in our soul winning area, a man across the street caught my eye while working in his front yard. I went over, introduced myself, and handed him a tract. After I invited him to our grand opening service, he said, "Let me take you around the neighborhood." He led us to the rest of the houses on his street and got people to come out of their homes to receive a tract. I had not even had a chance to give him the gospel yet. We met a Mon believer and a tutor on his street. We then talked to three barbers and their customers, betel nut vendors, taxi drivers, cold drink vendors, and even tea shop patrons. People from all walks of life were out. Although we had run out of tracts, I decided to talk to a family nearby anyway. The lady of the house was so taken with Naomi and Sophia that she insisted on giving us some fruit. We thanked her for the gift and continued our conversation. Before we left, I was able to share the gospel with her mother. She did not want to get saved just yet, but she heard the good news. We pray that God will use the Word to soften her heart and help her see her need of a Saviour. What a day we had! Even when nobody gets saved, soul winning has a way of encouraging your heart.

Last week, I started going out every day. I would spend three hours in the morning, take a break for lunch, and then go out for another three hours in the afternoon. My purpose was not canvassing but seeing how many people I could present the gospel to. I was not trying to rush through a lot of houses; I just wanted to talk to people. In doing so, I met a Mon family and was able to share the wonderful news of salvation with three family members, who gladly accepted it. Unfortunately, one lady will be leaving soon to head to Singapore for work, which is common here. But the others said they would join us for our opening service.

Last Wednesday, one of my converts said, "Please don't be upset, but instead of going house to house, can we go see a friend? I told him about you, and I want you to meet him." We first went to the friend's parents' house. He was not there, but I gave them a tract before leaving. After finding the friend's house, we talked with him for a bit at a local tea shop. (That's where getting to know people really happens.) Later, we showed them the church building before parting ways.

On Saturday, after the girls and I came back from our follow-up visits, I got a phone call from my convert and his friend. They picked me up, and we went back to the parents' house we had visited on Wednesday. I got to meet his family. His mother mentioned that she had read the tract I left a few days earlier. I asked her, "What do you think about it?" She said, "Some of the things in the tract are spoken of in Buddhism." I met her where she was and made the connections to Jesus. This new friend and his parents listened intently as I explained that Jesus is the Light for Whom all Buddhists are looking. Many of them just do not know it yet. I am sure my convert was excited to watch his friend come to Christ. Within a few minutes, both the friend and his mother trusted Christ to save them. As they brought me back to my house, the friend said, "You came and brought me God's gift. That's the best thing." He is coming to church next Sunday for the grand opening and bringing his family, nearly ten people.

Please pray for the start of Faith Baptist Church this coming Sunday. Please pray for the new believers to grow and be strengthened in their faith and for any lost folks to be saved before they leave the service. This new church plant has a few important firsts. It will be the first time in over 60 years that a foreigner has pastored an independent Baptist church in Myanmar. This is the first church that I know of to be started with a grand opening service. It is also the first church where local officials are expected to attend the grand opening service. We need much prayer for Faith Baptist Church to live up to its namesake. We appreciate all of you who take time to pray for our ministry. We trust that the Lord will answer your prayers in a mighty way. God bless.

Yours for souls,

The Davis Family Matthew 4:16



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