



From the Golden Shore

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Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

Greetings from Mawlamyine. We trust that this letter finds you well. The Lord has been gracious to us over the last two months. We are making progress with the preparations for the starting of Faith Baptist Church. As we endeavor to start this new church and overcome the challenges that come with a new church plant, I am reminded of Ezra and Nehemiah. It was said of both men that the good hand of their God was upon them. They had unusual pull with the kings and local officials to do the work that God had put in their hearts because God's hand was on their lives. We read in Nehemiah 2:10, "When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, heard of it, it grieved them exceedingly that **there was come a man to seek the welfare of the children of Israel.**" Nehemiah went to Jerusalem to help others. God has given us opportunities to help people in Daing Wun Kwin.

There has come a family to seek the **eternal** welfare of those in Mawlamyine. Soul winning is still a major part of what we do. We have recently added more soul winning times to our schedule. Annie and I have also had the opportunity to go on soul winning dates, when just the two of us spend some time together walking around town and talking to people about Jesus. A few weeks ago, we saw a 99-year-old lady whose name is Daw Bayn get saved. Three of my daughters and I were out on a Thursday evening talking to people and handing out tracts. A lady met us while we were making our way back to our car and said, "There's a lady down the street who is 99 years old. She is the oldest lady in the neighborhood. Would you like to meet her?" It was getting a little late, but I said, "Sure, we'll go see her." I figured that if she is that old this might be my only chance to talk to her about her soul. When we got there, the lady who took us to her said, "There's a Burmese-speaking foreigner here to see you." Daw Bayn was sitting in front of her house near the side of the road. Although she could not see very well, she listened intently to the gospel and trusted Christ to save her. Now, for the first time in 99 years she is sure about heaven.

The next Saturday, our second eldest daughter Jasmine and I went out soul winning and met an Indian couple. I was able to lead the wife to Christ. The next Saturday, I went back to give her a Bible. When we arrived, her husband said that she had gone grocery shopping, so I took the time to share the gospel with him. A few minutes after he asked Christ to save him, his wife came back home. She was so happy to hear that her husband was saved. I gave them both their own copies of God's Word and showed them where to start reading.

There has come a family to also seek the **temporal** welfare of those in Mawlamyine. A person's soul is most important, but we also want people to live abundant Christian lives. The two main things that help induce that abundance are the Word of God and church. Soul winning helps give out eternal life. The church helps people take hold of God's blessings found in the Bible in every area of their lives. We have been preparing to start a new church since before my trip to Japan. We already have the office work and services organized. We made our own hymnbooks. Last week, we bought wood for a simple pulpit. At the beginning of the year, we started actively looking for a place to meet which has had its challenges. Renting a place to start means getting a landlord to agree to allow a church to meet in the building. Some landlords are very much against renting to foreigners because it is a lot more work with possible legal issues. We looked at five buildings and had a few tentative agreements but were not able to close the deals. Last week, we found one more place that is suitable for church. The landlord saw me and said, "I've seen you around before. How long have you been here?" I said, "Seven years." He said, "Wow, your Burmese is good." He asked us what we wanted the building for. We told him that we wanted to use it for church. He said, "Ok. You can give a deposit today. When do you want to sign the lease?" Then one of the local guys that works with us had to go to the quarter leader's office to get a signature.



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We thank all of you who have prayed for us to get a building. God did not give us what we asked, but He miraculously gave us what we needed. God moved on two supporting churches to give us the funds to rent the place. We appreciate their investment. The building is on a main road with easy access. There are plenty of people in the area to walk to church, many of whom are looking forward to having a church family. In the backyard is a water reservoir that can be used for a baptistry. In the coming weeks we are going to paint, replace lights, and install front doors to make it an appropriate representation of Christ in our neighborhood. From the very beginning Faith Baptist Church of Daing Wun Kwin in Mawlamyine is being started by faith and will be an example to people here the change that the faith life can truly give. We are looking forward to the first services starting in May.

Due to the war in the middle east, fuel throughout the whole country is being rationed, and drivers are being assigned which days they can drive their cars. Please pray that the effects on our soul winning schedule and church attendance would be minimal. Please continue to pray for more people to be saved and for the newly saved folks to grow and become soul winners themselves. We also need prayer for God's hand to work on our behalf. We cannot wait to see what great things God will do on the northside of town through this new church.

Yours for souls,

The Davis Family

Matthew 4:16



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