

# From the Golden Shore

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Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

Greetings from Myanmar, our Promised Land. God has done some wonderful things over the last three months. The following verse seems to have been the theme of our ministry since June. *“But **charge** Joshua, and **encourage** him, and **strengthen** him: for he shall go over before this people, and **he shall cause them to inherit** the land which thou shalt see.”* (Deut. 3:28) Simply put, to encourage is to put courage into someone. The Promised Land is a picture of the Spirit-filled, blessed life inside the will of God. Courage is required to conquer and possess that which God has prepared for us. The Lord has given us many opportunities to both give and receive encouragement.

In June, I had to go back to the States to renew my driver's license. I stayed through the whole month and was a part of the 38th anniversary celebration at our sending church in Troy, Ny. I also had the opportunity to spend Father's Day with my dad for the first time in about ten years. Although I had not scheduled any meetings for the month, God allowed me to present our ministry and preach four times, win ten people to Christ, and have six visitors in church. One Sunday afternoon, I was on my way to a church to “stop in”. I passed by another church building, and the front sign had a college friend's name as the pastor. I quickly made a U-turn to see if it was who I thought it was. I made my way to the pastor's office to meet him, and sure enough, the pastor was my college friend. He said, “You know, I don't go on Facebook often, but when I do, your posts are one of the first I see on my feed. I always thought that I would like to have you in if ever given the opportunity. Now, here you are standing in my office.” I said, “I just happened to be passing by and saw your name on the sign.” He said, “Would you mind presenting your ministry and ministering the Word to us tonight?” I said, “If that's what God and you want, I would be happy to.” What a way for God to get us to meet!

On Father's Day evening, I sent a text to one of my former college teachers who pastors in the area about church that night. He asked me to preach. I got up and shared what God has been doing here and some of our projects. I preached on investing our lives in others. We had a great time of fellowship afterwards. About a week later, the pastor texted me saying that one of the families wanted to help with our hymnbook project. They helped us pay for the first 500 copies of our expanded hymnbook, which should be ready to print in the next few months. What an encouraging thing it is to have the opportunity to encourage others!

I then went to New York to get my drivers' license renewed and stopped in at one of our supporting churches to meet the pastor whom I had not had the chance yet to meet. We got to talking about translating and printing. He showed me their printing setup for paperback books and taught me how to use the binding machine, which will come in handy when we get our own print shop. I also had a blessed time with my brother-in-law and parents-in-law at our sending church, going out soul winning together and helping with the church's big day. Families are closest to each other when they are serving the Lord together. People were saved, and we filled up the car that I borrowed from my parents twice with first-time visitors. What a feeling to have a convert you personally won to Christ come to church the next day and bring others with him! You will never regret sharing your Bible in church with a visitor. God also gave me the privilege of driving one of the special speakers for the week. Spending time learning from Dr. Bob Gray, who is now eighty years old and still preaching, was a highlight of the trip. Only God knows the dividends on Myanmar souls this short trip to the States will give down the road.

When I got back to Burma in July, I got a new opportunity to take the charges, the encouragement, and the spiritual strength I received last June and pass it on to others. One of the excuses I hear more frequently from Myanmar believers (and even from pastors) is that things are different here because the culture is different. People will not listen to them because they are not American. Or they are told to “be careful” in an attempt to stop them from obeying God. But God's Word does not change; the need for faith and Holy Spirit fullness does not change; and our sin nature does not change from culture to culture. Over the last two months, we have had the privilege of helping the new church and pastor in Mudon to understand and act on this.

Every Thursday morning, I have been going soul winning with Pastor Ahlem, and we have been helping him with his services on Sundays. They get to hear sound doctrine and see from our manner of life how that doctrine looks in the winning of souls and the caring for people. We have seen somebody saved each week out on the street. Pastor Ahlem and I have had conversations about connecting the gospel to any sermon topic, giving an invitation after the preaching, organizing a Sunday school program, and other practical areas of pastoring.

One of the visitors is a man named U Htun Shwe whom Pastor Ahlem had met out soul winning, and he has come to church twice. On His second visit, I preached about who the people were on Pentecost that got saved, baptized, and involved in church. During the sermon, I described the crucifixion of Christ. After service, I went to chat with U Htun Shwe outside for a bit. The first thing out of his mouth to me was, “I want to make sure that I will go to heaven when I die.” After a few minutes of explaining how to be saved, we bowed our heads, and U Htun Shwe asked Christ to save him. After giving him assurance of his salvation, I immediately gave him a Bible and wrote his name and the date he got saved on the inside. He was so happy to be sure of his salvation and to have

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his own copy of the Bible. He and I both told Pastor Ahlem what had just happened. When we said, "Goodbye," he told me he would bring his Bible to church with him the next Sunday. Please pray that U Htun Shwe will grow in Christ.

On Saturdays, our older girls and I go to the area where we will start a new church next year. We go to a popular local tea shop for a typical Burmese breakfast. Our presence normally gets people's attention, and we get the opportunity to talk and give out a tract or two. We have even been able to become acquainted with the owner of the shop. Then after breakfast, we hit the streets. One rainy day, we met a man who repairs umbrellas. After watching him repair an umbrella from start to finish, Jasmine said, "I'll never take an umbrella for granted." We gave him and his friends each a tract. Then while walking down a side street, we met a taxi driver who had seen us around other parts of the city. We talked to him and his riders for a minute and gave them tracts before they drove away.

On our way back to the car, we passed by a high-trafficked area with large deep puddles. We got off the road at the nearest house with an overhang. We met a Muslim family. The husband sells betel nut out front. The wife got her eldest daughter to come out and practice her English with Naomi and Jasmine. The oddity of white people chatting out front with a Muslim family got the attention of the neighbors and passersby. Thus, we had the opportunity to meet more people. This is the ministry: meeting people where they are, taking a sincere interest in them, showing them we care, then pointing them to the Saviour. We are excited about the gospel getting out in this needy area and cannot wait to see people get saved and have their lives changed.

Please pray for Pastor Ahlem and the church in Mudon to have the courage to continue giving out the gospel and helping people grow in the Lord and to not be distracted nor discouraged. Please pray for us to get a place to rent for our new church plant and to start seeing people get saved in the new neighborhood. Please pray that God would use our translation and printing ministry to see more people saved. It is an encouraging and strengthening thought to know that you all spent time in prayer for us. May you all be encouraged as we have been to cause people to inherit the things God has prepared for them. God bless.

Yours for Souls,

*The Davis Family*

Matthew 4:16



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