

TEAM MYANMAR UPDATE

HAPPY NEW YEAR DEAR PARTNERS!

JANUARY 2019

LOOKING BACK Our family, Dan & Amy Banac and children Daniel & Daniela, left the Philippines November 7, 2016 and set foot on Myanmar soil the same day. Pastor Kenneth Ling fetched us at the airport and immediately brought us to the rented house prepared for our family. We thank God for using Pastor Ling as our bridge to enter Myanmar (Burma).



BANACS' ARRIVAL DINNER WITH PASTOR & MRS. LING

Seasoned TCM missionaries, Gardner & Ledith Improso, left Kenya to join us in pioneering TCM's work in Myanmar. Our team worked in partnership with Pastor Ling's ministry by supporting their local pastors and training young leaders. However, the partnership lasted only 2 years. "Can two walk together unless they are agreed?" (Amos 3:3). This passage is so appropriate to describe working with people whose perspectives are different. There is a time for goodbyes in order to accomplish something better for God. December 28, 2018, Kenneth Ling terminated the partnership between his ministry and TCM. TCM Team Myanmar is no longer connected with Pastor Ling's ministry.



TEAM MEETING WITH PASTOR MAWI

NEW BEGINNING Team Myanmar has taken up the challenge of this separation. 2019 is a unique **new** year for our Team with **new** movement, **new** vision, and even a **new** place of fellowship. With a **new** look, we are strongly guided by our stand for the Grace message. One of the blessings of this **new** beginning is the freedom to work as a team with Myanmar believers who value the intention of TCM for the unreached. As we begin this new chapter, we are taking each step with a positive, sincere attitude. There was confusion and hard feelings in the separation, but God's grace allowed us to see a brighter future to discover more possibilities.

STRENGTHENED AND REVITALIZED The visit of TCM International Director Ben Anderson, two weeks after the re-start, was perfect timing due to our need to be strengthened during this transition. Despite the separation, God is making His move for growth. We call it multiplication by division. When the "bridge" turned into a barrier for church growth, God inspired us to not dwell on the past, but rather, press on and strain towards the goal. We cannot change the past but we can change the future and the lives of the Myanmar people by telling them about Christ's love and His saving grace. Our goal has never changed even though there are changes in partnership, people and place of ministry.



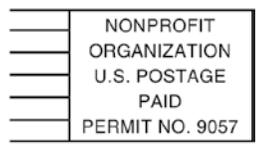
DIRECTOR BEN VISITS BANAC FAMILY

GRACE BUILDERS Paul used pictures to illustrate his point in I Corinthians 3:1-15. Verses 1-5 are a picture of a **family** where members are born and grow to different levels of maturity. The servant-leaders of God's family work together with Him, yet it is God who grows the members. Ministry is also likened to a **field** (vv.6-9a) where one is responsible for planting while others follow up the work. Paul reminds us that we are Grace builders and warns us how we ought to build our structure upon the **Foundation** of Christ according to the revelation of the mystery (vv.9b-15). With this new beginning, it is our responsibility to establish believers on the right Foundation and place them in right fellowship so they can grow, and show them where the organization is heading.



FIRST SERVICE IN NEW PLACE WITH NEW MINISTRY

FUTURE GRACE LEADERS The future of TCM's ministry in Myanmar is fundamentally founded on the Grace message. This is the reason we came here in the first place with the conviction of reaching the Myanmar people with the gospel of Grace. We are teaching our students how to rightly divide the Scriptures and challenging them to participate in church planting. We are also training them to have the right perspective of leadership. John Maxwell said: "Everything rises and falls on leadership." The recent separation was due to a different leadership model that did not allow freedom for members to grow. A true Christian leader motivates, not manipulates, the members. Four Bible school students chose to continue their studies with us. Let us pray for them as they were heavily affected by the recent split. More students plan to join us this coming June.



MOVING FORWARD IN MYANMAR



SUNDAY CONGREGATION



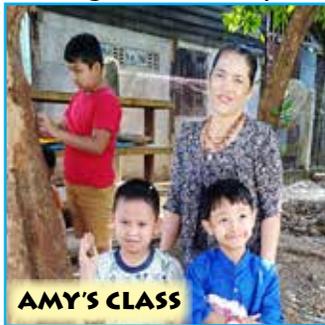
GARDNER & PR. MAWI LEAD SERVICES

BUILDING PROJECT

This picture shows the empty space at the back of the house of our newly rented property. Currently we have 4 students continuing in our English-medium Bible school. The men are staying in Pastor Mawi's house while one woman uses one of our bedrooms. Classes are taught in the living room. By June new students will be added to the current number. Thankfully our landlady gave permission to put up a temporary building to serve as living quarters and classroom. We are praying the building will be ready before new classes start. The initial plan is a two-story building mostly in order to make good use of space. According to a rough estimate, this would cost around \$4,000. Rejoice with us that the Lord has already provided this sum through legacy gifts given to TCM!



BUILDING SITE



AMY'S CLASS

The classroom of this building will also be used for the children's Sunday School that Amy is currently teaching outside under a tree. The classroom will also house Ledith's Saturday English classes for children as an arm to reach their parents.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

THANK YOU Team Myanmar is so grateful that you stand with us in facing the challenges in this field. Your fervent prayers for our team during this transition are really appreciated. We would say in chorus with Paul: "I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." (Philippians 1:4,5). Thank you very much. We really appreciate your labor of love in reaching the lost at any cost!



DAN & PR. MAWI PREACHING

PRAISES AND PRAYERS

- Thank God for Improsos' new house used for fellowship and Bible school.
- Pray for Pastor Mawi, TCM's partner who leads our new church and ministry.
- Pray for the Team's language studies and teaching ministries.
- Pray for our plan to construct a new dorm and classroom.
- Pray for Banac kids' (Daniel & Daniella) education and ministry.
- Pray for Improsos' visa run, usually over to Thailand, every 70 days.

In His abounding grace,

**Dan & Amy Banac
Gardner & Ledith Improso**



DAN TEACHES LEADERSHIP