



## **Ministry Report of Rakhine Missions Band for Christ**

This report covers January to March 2013. We praise the Lord for His guidance and blessings on the ministries of Rakhine Missions Band for Christ (RMBC) in partnering with us. In this quarterly report, there are four parts: Church Planting, Discipleship, Social Development and Evangelistic outreach to the Rakhine Buddhists.

### **1. Church Planting**

As our aim is to plant the indigenous churches with the converts, RMBC keeps focusing on church planting. Our local and indigenous churches within the Buddhist community in Rakhine State are being trained to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ in Myauk U, Kyauktaw, Taungoke and Thandwe townships. But our church planning process in Punna Kyun township is not well established yet due to hindrances.

Strategically, we are planning and praying to set up four main mission centers within Rakhine State: Sittwe, Kyaukphyu, Taungoke and Thandwe. If we can set up well, from these places we can extend our mission works to other townships within the Rakhine State. As transportation is mostly by water within Rakhine State, it is our strategic planning to set up mission centers in those four townships. Now we are ready to start our work in Kyaukphyu after Water Festival (Water Festival falls on April 12 to 16). Our selected church planter (Mr Lu Thit) and his family will be with us in our gathering in Thandwe during the Water Festival. We will dedicate Mr Lu Thit who is Rakhine Buddhist convert and has great concern to reach Rakhine people. In addition, he is Rakhine Buddhist convert from Kyaukphyu township.

### **2. Discipleship Program**

We believe that the school of discipleship never ends as it is long process. But this can happen in the context of church planting and small group. So to plant healthy churches, we need discipleship indeed. Accordingly, we could continue our discipleship program on March 18 and will end on April 9. Even though we plan to train 15 people who are also group leaders, in reality some group leaders cannot come for some reasons. For example, as they have to guard the village in turn not to happen social violence between Rohingyas and Rakhine Buddhists. That is why they cannot attend the training even though they are willing. Indeed, this social conflict affects our CPM. Our design of discipleship program is apprenticeship conducting formally and informally as well.

### **3. Community Development and Children Ministry**

We understand that evangelism and community development (Social Development) are like coin-sides. We try to train our converts to grow holistically. In this point of view, it is hard in reality. But we try our best. We could help our group leaders for their micro-enterprise or income generation project. It depends on what they have. For some, they plant peanut but for some they sell things which are basic needs of people. For some, they buy rice or clothes to have daily income or monthly income. Honestly speaking, sometimes we lost our investment as they cannot run the business well or other cases. In this point of view, we have to evaluate why they lost or fail in the works. If we need to train them more, we have to do and think again to help. For some places, due to climate or lack of knowledge particularly in planting, they fail to reach the goal. To extend this Community Development, it depends on funding and faithfulness in the works.

According to social structure of Asian societies, usually older people can influence the younger ones. Having understood this, we could help nine children last year for their education. This year we are planning to help 15 children. Our strategic plan is that next 10 to 15 years they can be upcoming leaders for RMBC. While they are at hostel for their education, the gospel is being communicated with them and now our senior nine children are growing in the Lord. On the other hand, their parents are part of this process.

### **4. Evangelistic Outreach**

Our concern is that all Rakhine people will have chance to hear the gospel in their specific context. After our Christmas outreach (One Meal, One Gift and One Message), based on the feedback of Rakhine Buddhist community, we arrange to have seminar with them in different places. In February and March we had seminar with Buddhists. Peter could not involve in February seminar but he was one week in Sittwe for March seminar. Praise the Lord to hear that most of attendants realized that they need Jesus Christ. However, we never force them to convert them like missionaries and some churches did and are doing. Instead, we encourage them to remain within the community as Buddhist identity but inside they believe in Christ. This approach we call as insider movement or contextual conversion. Our concern is not to compromise with but to share their new faith with their family and friends and neighbors.

### **Praise Points**

1. On behalf of RMBC, last week of March Peter was appointed as the associate general secretary of Myanmar Evangelical Christian Fellowship which is member of World Evangelical Alliance.

2. On March 30, Miss Than Than Nu, our Rakhine Buddhist convert, finished her Three Year Christian Studies from Holistic Leadership Institute.
3. Our new building in Sittwe for multi-purpose was completely finished and now being painted.

### **Our Prayer Requests**

1. **Pray for the political stability within Rakhine State. Due to social conflict taken place between Rohingya as and Rakhine Buddhists, it affects mission works a lot as we have to work within the community. The tension is critical till now particularly.**
2. **Our gathering in Thandwe during the Water Festival will be fruitful and extend our church planting ministry effectively in Kyaukphyu township as soon as possible.**
3. **Our training courses for Rakhine missions and training programs.**
4. **Our evangelism, church planting and community development will be going well.**
5. **Peter's health. He sometimes feels painful in his heart and his blood pressure goes up very often.**
6. **All RMBC families' spiritual life to grow in knowledge of His grace.**
7. **To have own training centers in our four strategic places: Sittwe, Kyaukphyu, Taungoke and Thandwe. Now we have training center in Sittwe. But we still need to have in other three places.**

Reported by:

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