

# From the Golden Shore

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The Davis Family in Mawlamyine, Mon State, Myanmar (Burma)  
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Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

Happy New Year to all of you. We truly appreciate all those who have invested their time through prayer and their funds through their local church missions giving. Jesus had a job to do while he was on the earth. He was fully immersed in and consumed with that job. Luke 12:50 says, *"But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!"* We also have been baptized with a job to do. Several times over the last few months it has felt as though God has thrown us into the deep end. Although we are the busiest that we have ever been, His grace is sufficient, and we are making progress with establishing the new Bible Baptist Church.



Over the last two months, we have seen about ten folks saved while out soul winning on Thursdays and Saturdays. There was only one Sunday in the last eight weeks that we did not have a visitor show up at church. Our attendance has averaged in the high thirties. Pastor Gideon's wife, Helen, gave birth to a baby boy whom they named Caleb. On their first Sunday out of the hospital, we had a baby dedication during the morning service. That was a first for me to lead a baby dedication in church. We had a great service on Christmas Day service just two months after the grand opening. We sang Christmas carols together and handed out a small gift to everyone. Sixty-eight people came with ten being first-time visitors. Everyone heard the gospel during the service. We closed out the year with a salvation at church.

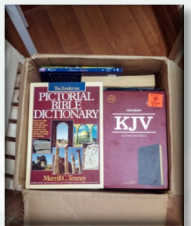


We have also seen a few Mon (pronounced with a long "o") people trust Christ recently. The Mon are some of the most devout Buddhist people in the whole country and have introduced Buddhism to the other ethnic groups including the Burmese. When my wife made a friend on a Saturday with a Mon lady who said she believed there was only one God, we were quite surprised. Later, I went back with Annie to visit this family, and for some reason, they were almost immediately endeared to us. The husband came to church by himself. On a visit with more time, I had the privilege to lead him to Christ in his home. His wife and granddaughter came with him for the Christmas service. After the first of the year, I got the chance to lead this man's wife to Christ. After I told him that I would give him a Bible, he went out to an eye doctor to get some glasses with which to read it.

The new year brought some new opportunities. On the second Sunday of the year, we started Sunday school. There are two classes: a kids' class and a class with teens and adults. The classes are set up to teach the Bible and to help train believers to be what God wants them to be. Annie started teaching the creation story to the kids' class. I started teaching through the parables of Jesus and the Bible doctrines that Christ taught through those parables. Our folks will also learn how to actively study the Bible for themselves. After the parables, we will teach the folks exactly what a church is and what it means to be a Baptist which will lay a sound doctrinal foundation.



Pastor Gideon and I started meeting once a week to go over some of the administrative things in caring for the church. Bible Baptist Church was started at Pastor Gideon's house, which is a common way to start a church here because it cuts down on cost and maintenance in the early days. One of the challenges to starting a church is not having a baptistry and having to figure out how to get people baptized. We look forward to having the church's first baptisms soon. He and I recently went over how to record and budget the offerings that are received to set the church up on a solid financial foundation that will eliminate reliance on outside sources through emergency offerings.



In the last few months, we have also finished setting up our new library. Thousands of books have been distributed to some of our ministry friends around the country. Nearly ten of my preacher friends have received some Bible study helps and fundamental Baptist books by the likes of Dr. Tom Malone, Dr. Curtis Hutson, and Dr. Lee Roberson. One of the preachers has already translated some sermons into Burmese. Most Myanmar believers have been influenced by liberal and contemporary forms of Christianity, so we are excited to get some proper doctrine into the eyes and ears of sincere Baptist believers.

Please pray for Pastor Gideon and his family, that God would protect them spiritually and give them wisdom in leading the church properly, and for the new church plant to be established and set on the right course. We are praying that the church will be fully autonomous by the end of this year. Please pray also for the new believers to grow in the Lord and to have the courage to become soul winners themselves. Summer is coming soon, and with it will be longer power outages lasting 10-12 hours at a time. Many things in our house, including our water supply, are dependent on electric power. We asked about solar power and were told that it would cost around \$6,000 to equip our house. Please pray that God would take care of this need. There is much work to do, and we are straitened until this work gets accomplished. But we trust it will be accomplished to the Lord's liking. Thank you all for your prayers. It is a privilege to represent Christ and you all in the Golden Land. God bless.

Yours for Souls,  
*The Davis Family*  
Matthew 4:16



GLBM

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