

# HopeAsia News

## Welcome!

Welcome to our latest newsletter!

HopeAsia has recently celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of supporting children who have been orphaned, abandoned or unable to access education due to financial hardship. We have worked predominantly in Cambodia and Myanmar but have also supported projects in China and Thailand.

While we are really thrilled to have been able to help hundreds of children we are equally excited about the opportunities ahead.

We have been overwhelmed by the support of so many individuals and organisations so a big **“thank you”** to all our supporters!

Please allow us to remind you of what we have achieved as well as let you know what is ahead.





# CAMBODIA



Cambodia was our first area of involvement in Asia where we partnered with local organisation, Hope For Orphans Cambodia. When we first met Pastor Im and his wife, Miev Saylan, they were caring for a small group of orphans in a run-down shack in a jungle area of remote Cambodia. Over the years that followed we built several dormitory buildings; a kitchen and dining hall and in 2010 a fabulous education facility that enabled us to supplement the education the children received locally.

As well as academic learning we trained the teenagers in tailoring, motor cycle maintenance and woodwork so that they would be well equipped for the outside world when it came time to leave the home and make their way in life. We have received many heart-warming stories of the youngsters going on to get jobs or embark on further education at universities in Phnom Penh where one of our girls studied to become a doctor. Some have married and started families of their own.

Sadly Miev Saylan died last year. Her life affected hundreds of children all of whom would have had radically different outcomes were it not for her incredible love and care. There have been several changes since she passed away; her daughter is now in charge of the children's home and they continue to care for the children providing them with their day-to-day needs; a good education and the knowledge that they are loved and cared for.



Our involvement with the Cambodian home is far less now as they have attracted other sources of financial support and we felt we had achieved what we set out to do.





# Myanmar

We first got involved in Myanmar in 2012. The country had been largely closed for 50 years following the imposition of military rule in 1962 but as the country started to open up we discovered there were many opportunities to help some of the most disadvantaged children.



We were introduced to a local pastor and his family in Yangon. He was struggling to cope with about 30 children in a pair of run down bamboo buildings where the children slept on the raised floor over bare earth. In the wet season the floodwaters would lap just inches below the sleeping children. We felt we could make a real difference here and raised money to build a

fabulous two storey facility that provides accommodation for the children and the staff. The children now sleep safely in their own beds in dormitories.

Two years later we managed to raise some more money and build an education centre on the same site. This was a fabulous development because we can provide extra lessons for all our children who attend local schools. Our lessons are also open to other local children. There is a music room equipped with keyboards and guitars and also a sewing room where the children are taught to use sewing machines. Many of the clothes they now wear are made by the children themselves!



As well as the children's home and education centre in Yangon we have started 3 boarding houses (details on the next page) and two pre-schools. The preschools help children from deprived families get off to the best possible educational start for when they later attend local schools. Our first pre-school was started in Yangon and this year we opened one in Lashio in the north-east of Myanmar.





# BOARDING Houses

Further afield in Myanmar we have started some very exciting new projects aimed at providing education for children who otherwise would not be able to access any schooling at all.

In remote regions of Myanmar there are usually schools in the towns but not in the countryside. By building boarding houses in the towns we can accommodate children from the surrounding countryside during term times and provide them with a safe place to stay while they study. At the boarding houses our staff ensure the children are well fed and thriving at school. Help is

available for homework and extra classes are provided. Parents and family members are encouraged to visit whenever possible.

The boarding houses make a huge difference to the lives of the children and the families they come from.

Our first two boarding houses are in towns in north west Myanmar, Paletwa and Samee. We are supporting 56 children through school in these boarding houses.



At the moment our third boarding house is under construction in Khamti in northern Myanmar. The new school year starts in May so by then we hope to have between 24 and 30 children staying in the boarding house.

***We have several more locations earmarked where we would like to build boarding houses so that dozens more children can get an education and their lives be transformed. Please help us if you can. Thank you!***



***HopeAsia*** is a registered charity number 1119758

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