



Frontier
Labourers
for Christ

Frontier Messenger



BAREFOOT DOCTOR SCHOOL 2025

Bringing Jesus' Love and Care to Myanmar

FRONTIER LABOURERS FOR CHRIST

2025 Barefoot Doctor Program

Dr. Bruce Gross, Dean of School

The 2025 session of the Barefoot Doctor School, I consider to have been a success on many levels. I watched with fatherly love as the students shared how having medical knowledge and skills opened doors of opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus. One student said, “The villagers had never been interested in hearing what I had to say about the things of God. But now, with my medical skills, they are very interested!”

This year we taught over 40 medical topics along with several practical labs. The students were taught how to suture a wound, give injections correctly, fill a cavity, extract a tooth, and clean teeth with a scaling machine. Thanks to generous donors, this year we were able to send a basic medical and dental pack and a scaling machine home with each student. Dental care is an invaluable tool in their ministry because of its scarcity in Myanmar.

We also focused on “Case Presentations”. Each student presented a difficult case that they encountered to the class, offered a diagnosis, and outlined their treatment of the patient. It was a valuable teaching time with all of the students learning from one another.



◀ Practical training! Students report their diagnosis and medical treatment to Dr. Bruce Gross



▲ All the teachers and staff received beautiful handicrafts from Myanmar!

Our teaching staff has been very stable over the years consisting of 7 doctors and nurses from Myanmar, Canada, and the United States. Each instructor is a volunteer and is eager to return. Each one knows the eternal value of the information they impart to the students.



◀ Learning to suture with pigs' legs!

The real stars, however, who made the Barefoot Doctor Program a success, were the students. I found them to be very smart, eager to learn, and willing to work very hard. They would be the “dream student” for any instructor. They came with a fervent love for the Lord, a burden for the lost, and a vision on how to reach the lost in their villages by using their medical skills. They shared stories of how villagers have come to Christ through their medical care as well as some patients being healed through prayer alone!

I want to personally thank all who support the BFD program both in prayer and financially. This would not happen without your partnership and investment in the lives of our students. Thank you so much!

Bringing Medical Care *and* Hope to Myanmar

Checking the ears is part of the training ▶

Dr. Susan McDowell

This marks the end of another trip to Thailand! It was my fourth class of students since I began teaching in February 2010. I answered a call to help train the students from an ENT surgeon at my training hospital in Indiana, USA. He also happens to be Pastor Jon Ulm's brother.

Over the past 15 years of travel, I've witnessed many changes—some for the better, such as seeing 10 women in this year's class, and some for the worse – like the fear students now carried for their loved ones' safety back home. Yet one thing remains constant: the ongoing need for these students to bring medical care to Myanmar.

I am always inspired by the students, but the 2024–2026 class is already proving exceptional. Their collective logbooks contained over 1,500 patient entries—a remarkable number! This didn't even include students unable to attend due to conflicts in Rakhine State or those who lost their logbooks while fleeing danger or floodwaters.

During those two weeks, I had the privilege of teaching wound care, arthritis management, suturing, local anesthetic injections, and moderating case presentations. Our interpreters played a vital role in delivering lessons, often pushing us to refine our explanations to ensure clarity.

Dr. Susan McDowell ▶
discusses the best
treatment for this badly
injured foot





We covered many practical medical topics—skills that can make a real difference in people’s lives. But beyond their medical work, these students also serve as a source of spiritual support for their patients. I cannot begin to comprehend the daily challenges of life in Myanmar, yet I imagine my own concerns—paperwork, planning surgeries—pale in comparison. These students are a steady presence in the storm. Their training not only grants them access to communities that might otherwise fear outsiders, but also allows them to bring both medical care and hope to a country sinking deeper into widespread poverty.

Please keep our students, our interpreters, and the people of Myanmar in your prayers.

◀ Dental filling



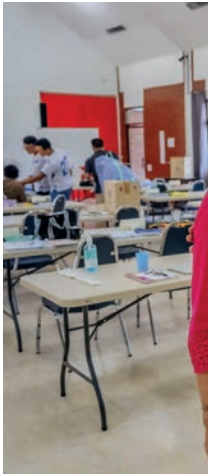
Obstacles *and* Challenges!

Dr. Susan Parker, Lynda Audia and Betty Reid-White

We were deeply grateful for the opportunity to teach this remarkable group of Burmese students. Their dedication to medical education was truly inspiring. They not only demonstrated a strong commitment to mastering the knowledge and skills needed to become effective healthcare providers, but also carry a profound sense of responsibility for their people. Their ultimate goal is not personal gain but to return to their home villages, where they will serve as Barefoot Doctors, providing essential medical care in communities with little to no access to healthcare.

Many of these students faced significant hardships just to come to Thailand for their training; overcoming political instability, economic struggles, and requiring many personal sacrifices. Yet, they know that even greater challenges await them when they return home. They will work under difficult conditions, often without sufficient resources or support. Despite these obstacles, they remain steadfast to their mission, driven by their faith in God and a deep love for their people. Their unwavering commitment to serve others, even in the face of adversity, is both humbling and inspiring. **It is both a privilege and honor to teach and support them on this journey, knowing that they will bring healing, hope, and compassion to those who need it most.**

Medical team from Canada ►



Enjoying healthy meals after a difficult time in Myanmar



Nurse Betty Reid-White teaches the students how to treat typhoid fever ▲



Su Su

▼ *Serving with Jesus love*

Su Su is a 47 year old single lady from the southern part of Myanmar. She lives in the Arawaddy Delta where the river divides into dozens of tributaries. Last fall, the flooding was the worst that it had been in the last 80 years. She joined forces with a friend and then recruited a doctor to help provide care to those stricken by the flood. They held medical clinics in small villages every day for one month, seeing 200 patients a day.

Su went to college in 1997 and earned a master's degree in electrical engineering and then taught as an engineering instructor for the college for five years. Life was good. Then in 2006, the military sent her a letter stating that they wanted her to enlist in the army to work with them. She didn't want any part of that. So, she resigned from her position and moved so that the military could not find her.

The next year, she felt God's calling to serve the Lord. Then, she had a vision. She said, "In my vision, I saw three ladies coming to me, each telling me that I was called to work for God. Within one month, it actually happened! Three different ladies came to me and each told me that I was called to serve God. So, I moved again and began to work in the administration department of a Bible college. After a year, I returned home and began taking Bible classes by correspondence and earned my Bible degree."

In 2011, she established a church and it grew to 35 members, but it had to close in 2021 because of the military coup. She returned to her hometown, but shortly after arriving, the pastor of their church left and she stepped in to serve as their pastor, where she serves today it was so apparent that the life of this bright energetic lady who loves the Lord has been totally turned upside down by the wars in Myanmar. Yet, she feels that it has all been a part of God's call on her life. She is so happy to be serving the people medically and spiritually right where she is at and is so happy to be a part of the Barefoot Doctor program.



▲ *Su Su administering medicine carefully*

Ah Pung



Ah Pung is 52 years old, married with three children who also adopted two nephews after his brother died. He lives in the northern part of Myanmar. Ah Pung is a pastor, completed Bible College, and his church has 100 members. He planted two other churches in nearby villages and is the pastor of all three. Ah Pung supplements his income by raising pigs and chickens. His church is made up of 6-7 ethnic tribes. Many of the church ladies are married to non-Christian government soldiers, so he has developed a ministry to reach the soldiers.

One day he went to the Government military camp to visit his church members. He visited the home of one of his church ladies whose husband was unsaved. One of their children had abdominal pain for one week. She had been to the local doctor several times but they could not help her. Ah Pung told her that Jesus can help you. He led her to Christ and the girl trusted in Jesus for her healing as well as her salvation. Ah Pung visited several other homes that day and about an hour later he saw the girl running around pain free. Because of this miracle, her father and her sister became Christians and were baptized together.



He has been a pastor for many years and has much experience. The younger men at the Barefoot Doctor School look up to him as a mentor and leader.

I asked what it was like living in a village where the government army has a camp. He said that he ministers to the soldiers. There

is no fighting in his town because of the military presence. The commander told him that if anyone in the government army gives him a hard time to be sure to drop the commander's name and they will leave him alone. This has given him protection in his church and ministry.



▲ *He has his Burmese Bible open at all times!*

Medical treatment with Jesus' love ▲



Dee Nar

Dee Nar is 45 years old and has three daughters ages 18, 13, and 12. Her husband was the pastor of their church, but he died two years ago. She had already attended Bible College with her husband, so now she serves as the pastor of the church of 120 members.

She said that her BFD training has enhanced her ministry. She tells this story. "I saw a man who had diabetes and he had developed an infection on his toes and foot. One of his toes was black (dead). The doctor at the hospital said he needed to amputate his foot, but the man didn't want to do that. So, after Dee Nar prayed with him, she used some of her BFD instruments and removed his black toe. His infection cleared up and he did not need to have his foot amputated. Now he is well!"

She also tells of a woman who had a stroke and was not able to move her right arm and leg. Her doctors gave up on her and said there was nothing that could be done. Dee Nar prayed with her and encouraged her to trust God. She checked in on her daily for the next two weeks and saw improvement in the motion of her arm and leg every day. She gives God the credit.



▲ Studying hard!



▲ Caring for the children too

Yo Sep (Joseph)



Yo Sep is 51, married, and has four children, ages 12, 10, 8, and 4. He attended Bible college and is a pastor. He was serving in a church of twenty-five people in Rakhine State, where the war is the worst. While he was at the BFD program last year, his church, his home, and the homes of all of his church members were bombed by the military. He was not able to return home and told his wife to gather the kids and meet him in Yangon. Once in Yangon he moved with his family to Myitkyina in the northern part of the country.

Ministering in the Rakhine state is very difficult because the people are Muslim. He said, “The people listen to the gospel much more when they receive medical care.” He tells this story. “A Muslim man was attending my church and became a believer. His wife and family were still Muslim. His wife had health problems and was “crazy”. He took her to five different doctors but they could not help her. He talked her into going to church with him. She gave her heart to the Lord. By the time they got home, she was healed, totally normal.”



▲ *His Church was destroyed by military*

Last year he spent five months ministering in the mountain villages around Putao. At each village he would stay with the pastor. He held clinics every Saturday night and Sunday after church. It was a wonderful experience.



▲ *Over 200 people in Tachilek were given good dental treatment by Barefoot Doctors*



Esther

Esther is 45 years old and single. She lives alone and works as the leader of women's ministry and is the leader of the church's dormitory for children. She was raised in a Christian home and came to faith as a teenager. After her high school education, she attended Bible school.

She lives in Inlay Lake area in a village of about 45 homes. Her church has around 100 members. She holds medical clinics every Sunday afternoon for both her church people and for the other villagers too. She said that in the past, the non-Christian people in her village would not listen to her talk about God. But now, when they come to the clinic, they are happy to listen.

When Myanmar was hit by Typhoon Yagi last September, her village was flooded. It took one month for the water to subside. During this time, she traveled by boat to other villages to hold medical clinics and to help the people with food supplies of rice, cooking oil, and beans.

She grew up in a nearby village. About 20 years ago, the village monk told her family to leave the village because he didn't want any Christians around. So her family moved to Inlay Lake. When the flood occurred last fall, the monk asked her if the Barefoot Doctor's would come and help them. Esther said that they had already forgiven the monk and went to his village to help them. Last Christmas, her church held a Christmas celebration. Esther invited the monk and his villagers to attend. **800 unbelievers from his village came to the Christmas celebration where they heard the gospel. She believes that God will use this event to bring the monk's village people to Christ.**

Esther said that just recently she was experiencing difficulty at the dormitory and felt all alone. She thought, "No one is with me." Then, at the BFD program she received the note of encouragement from her prayer partner in the US. This was so helpful to her and was an answer to prayer. She knows that she is not alone. She is so grateful to have people pray for her.



▲ Houses under water!



▲ Esther and team set out to help



▲ Travelling by boat to help the people



▲ Healing the injured, including Buddhist monks

Mi Sar



Mi Sar is 34 years old and single. She lives in a small mountain town near Putao. To get to her village from Putao, she travels by truck for two days, takes a motorcycle for one day, and then walks for another two days. Her village has 30 homes and the church has 200 members. Mi Sar lives alone and volunteers at her church in women's, teen's, and children's ministries. She treats patients medically in her village and also travels to other villages to care for patients once or twice a month.

Mi Sar relates this story. "A man came to me and said that his wife was pregnant and her water broke, but she was not in labor. Could I help her? I walked to their village and found his wife with ruptured membranes, but not in labor. I waited for 3 days, but she did not go into labor. I was scared for the mother and the baby. It would take one week to get to the nearest hospital. I began to pray asking God how to make the baby come out. After praying, she went into labor the next day. I delivered the baby and it was normal and the mother was healthy! After that time, many more people came to me for health care."



Toothbrushes anyone! ▲



Ruth

Ruth is 28 years old and single. She was raised in the very northern part of Myanmar near the China border in a Christian home. Her father established a Bible College in their town of Shing Kong. Ruth taught English and women's health at the Bible College. There was no electricity and no internet in that town.

The government military staged a coup in Myanmar in 2021 and China closed the border between China and Myanmar. They got their food and supplies from China, so now with the border closed, they ran out of food and had to move. They moved to Yangon, the largest city of Myanmar. **Since then, their entire village of Shing Kong was destroyed.**

Now she helps her parents minister in the poor areas of Yangon. Her father preaches and Ruth and her mother provide healthcare (her mother is also a Barefoot Doctor). The government soldiers recently came to her house to "collect soldiers". They are conscripting both men and women below 35 years old. Fortunately, she was not home at the time. Her mother doesn't want her to stay in Yangon. She said, "I'm a little scared, but I think I must go home."

On her way to the BFD program, she witnessed the military stopping a civilian girl, patting her down, and laying her on the ground at gunpoint. Then they emptied her backpack. After that, they stopped a young man on a motorcycle and forced him off the road.

They patted him down, laid him spread eagle on the ground, also at gunpoint. She was so frightened, thinking that could also happen to her. **She needs prayer for safety from the military conscription.**

Another story told by Ruth. One day there was a peaceful gathering of youth in the street. The military came and started shooting them. She started running away and she felt like her legs wouldn't work and she couldn't run fast enough. A motorcyclist came along beside her and she yelled, "Help me! Help me!" He placed her on the back and took her away. Without his help, she might have been killed.



▲ Ruth receives a medical card and log book with joy!

Saw Yu



Saw Yu is 31 years old and is single. He comes from the Rakhine state where the war is very active and brutal. Last year, after the BFD program he was not able to return home because of the war. Since then, he has been in eastern Myanmar and in Thailand where he attends a Myo church, which is his native tribe and language.

He was raised in a Christian home but then rejected Christianity when his mother and aunt bullied him relentlessly. He didn't want any part of that type of Christianity. He was put into jail many times and finally sent to prison for murder. He heard the gospel message many times in prison, but still rejected Christ.

Then, in 2015 he was hiking and fell 350 feet off a cliff. He remembers on the way down that he saw heaven and he saw hell. He knew that if he died, he would go to hell. He cried out to God, "I don't want to die and go to hell!" His three friends who also fell died immediately. Saw Yu did not die. He was unconscious for the next 3 days. When he woke up, the nurse told him that he needed to seek God because he should be dead. A short time later, Saw Yu came to faith in Christ.

Since then, he has attended the Bible college in Putao and is the pastor of a church in the Rakhine state until leaving last year for the BFD program.

Today I found him sitting in a corner by himself playing the guitar singing "Amazing Grace" followed by "I Surrender All". This is an amazing young man with a heart for following the Lord. I'm confident that God has great things in store for him.



▲ Military bombed his house



▲ The church was bombed too

Myanmar's Collapsing Health System Crushed Beneath Earthquake and Civil War

Humanitarian Crises 04/04/2025 • Stefan Anderson

On 1 April 2025, locals pass by a collapsed building in the aftermath of the 7.7-magnitude earthquake that struck central Myanmar last week, killing and injuring thousands. Myanmar's health system was collapsing. Then the earthquake hit.

Cascading crises

The earthquake struck a country already grappling with multiple humanitarian challenges. Before the disaster, approximately 19.9 million people—over a third of Myanmar's population—required humanitarian assistance.

"In the INFORM Risk for 2025, Myanmar ranks 11th out of 191 countries, with a 'very high' risk classification driven by extremely high scores for hazards and conflict intensity," the UN assessed months before the earthquake struck. "If the current trajectory is not reversed, the humanitarian situation in Myanmar is expected to remain extremely dire and further deteriorate in 2025."

The epicenter was near Sagaing Township, a region that was already hosting one-third of the country's internally displaced persons due to the ongoing civil war. Nationwide, an estimated 3.5 million people had been displaced since the military overthrew the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, all before the earthquake struck.

Myanmar's civil war, now in its fourth year, has become the world's most violent conflict, killing at least 50,000 people, including at least 8,000 civilians, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project.

The 7.7 magnitude quake reverberated as far as Thailand from its epicenter in Mandalay, Myanmar.

The situation is set to worsen in the coming days, with weather forecasts predicting heavy rains from Sunday through April 11 in the earthquake-affected regions.

"The monsoon season is right around the corner, it's arriving in a couple weeks," said Tommaso Della Longa, spokesperson at IFRC. "Of course, we cannot say the severity of the monsoon season, the severity of the rains, but by experience, we know that this kind of makeshift tent and temporary shelter are not enough to keep people safe."

“There is a kind of domino effect where there is no proper shelter, where there is no proper water sanitation, where there is no proper health support, then you can have health issues,” Della Longa said.

Regions hit by the earthquake were still recovering from the devastating floods caused by Typhoon Yagi, which swept across Myanmar and Thailand last year, raising concerns that another severe weather season could be even more catastrophic given the compounded crises of war and seismic damage.

“Imagine a disaster is a hammer,” said Unni Krishnan, global humanitarian director at Plan International. “One disaster has already struck which is the earthquake, then you bring another one called rains, then you bring the cyclone, and the floods and the storm surge. So, you’re talking about a bunch of hammers hitting the same spot again and again.”

The catastrophic health situation has been compounded by ongoing military operations and restricted humanitarian access. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk reported that the Myanmar military has continued operations and attacks in the aftermath of the earthquake, including airstrikes – some launched shortly after tremors subsided.

“The Office has received reports that the military has carried out at least 53 attacks, including strikes by aircraft and drones, artillery and paramotors in areas affected by the earthquake. At least 14 attacks by the military have been reported since they announced a temporary ceasefire taking effect on 2 April,” Türk stated.

While both the military junta and the opposition National Unity Government have announced ceasefires to facilitate aid operations, the continuing violence has severely restricted humanitarian access.

The humanitarian response faces additional challenges from an information blackout imposed by the military, making it extremely difficult to contact affected communities and assess the situation. Internet and telecommunication shutdowns have severely hampered coordination efforts.

“Sources from the ground describe a catastrophic humanitarian situation in earthquake-hit areas, especially those outside the military’s control, an absence of relief efforts, and a lack of clean water, food, and medicines,” Türk reported. “Fear and shock have augmented the suffering of a civilian population already subjected to four years of military violence since the coup.”

“I urge a halt to all military operations, and for the focus to be on assisting those impacted by the quake, as well as ensuring unhindered access to humanitarian organizations that are ready to support,” Türk said.

For Myanmar’s population, already suffering through years of conflict and inadequate healthcare, the earthquake has turned an ongoing crisis into a catastrophe of historic proportions—one that could have health implications extending far beyond the country’s borders.

“The people of Myanmar have suffered enough,” Türk concluded. “The response to this horrendous disaster must open pathways towards a comprehensive solution that upholds democracy and human rights.”

(Source : UNICEF)



Destroyed by earthquake ▲



Singing praises to God with all their might!

Caring *and* Sharing Jesus' Love

“So the disciples set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere.” Luke 9:6

The second year of the Barefoot Doctor School was completed successfully! Thank you so much for all your loving prayers and encouragement towards this very worthy program. The students' classes lasted from 8:30 am with praise and worship followed by devotions led by a different student each day. Then, full time classes in Bible, medicine, and dentistry from 9 am until 4 pm. A much-needed break for sports and rest followed until dinner time. Then, evening devotions and homework for the students until bedtime.

The classes were interactive with questions and answers, student presentations and small group discussions. And, of course hands-on experience, taking vital signs, giving shots, suturing, and much more! The program lasted 7 weeks with different Bible teachers, medical doctors and nurses and a dental couple from Myanmar who came to serve with us too.

The students came from 11 different ethnic people from all regions of Myanmar, each with their own language, culture and national dress. Some came from the cities and some from very remote areas near the China, India and Bangladesh borders. Yet there was an amazing spirit of unity, cooperation and love among them all. That was also true of the instructors who came from different parts of the US, Canada, UK, India and Myanmar! What bond us together was our love for our Lord Jesus, His Spirit and His Word. It was like a glimpse of what heaven will be like!

With all their training, materials and medicine packed in their bags, they have now returned to their home areas. We praise God for their safe travels with all of the medicine dispatched safely too. However, they need our continual prayers for God's guidance, wisdom and ability to treat the people medically and spiritually with Jesus' love and care. They also need prayers for protection and safety wherever they go as Myanmar is still embroiled in battles, warfare and destruction.

It breaks our hearts to see how the world doesn't seem to know or care for the suffering people of Myanmar. Yet our God sees and knows and listens to their prayers and ours. People in Myanmar are searching for good news. Praise God many are believing in Jesus now through these dedicated Barefoot Doctors and many evangelists. Our prayer is that Myanmar one day will be free both physically and spiritually!

Would you be able to help with this vital project? \$1500 US can support one Barefoot Doctor's travels and all expenses for medical, dental and Bible training at Kalnin Leadership Center, Chiangmai plus their medicine and dental equipment for one year. May God bless you for caring and sharing Jesus' love and compassion for the suffering people of Myanmar.



▲ Group discussion on spiritual situation in Myanmar



▲ Beverley's class on Spiritual Warfare, Pastor Abraham translating



YES! I CAN HELP

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