

History of the house:
January-December 2020

Kyaikhmi & Kawthaung.

Short introduction:

Kyaikkhami, Mon State (est 2001) and Kawthaung, Tanintharyi Division (est 2014) are situated in the deep South of Myanmar close to Thailand and surrounded by the sea water. Both mission though apart by over 500 miles, 24 hours by bus and one hour by flight belong to the same Diocese of Mawlamyine where St. Emilie sent her first Sisters in 1847. Being close to border, drugs addiction, prostitution and human trafficking are common crimes.

The year 2020 is a year of change, challenge and also a time of opportunities born out of the unavoidable circumstances for our community.

List of the community members:

Srs. Emma Khin Moe Wai, 36 years, Magdalene Samuel 62 years at (HIV/AIDS Care Center, Kyaikkhami) and Sr. Martha Paul 68+ at (Kawthaung) made the community for the year 2020. Besides there are twelve lay volunteers including a resident doctor who helps and shares the apostolic.



Staffs of Kawthaung



Staffs of Kyaikhmi

The Apostolic of the members: Kyaikkhami

Sr. Emma Khin Moe Wai, 36 years is a responsible person in Kyaikkhami and looks after the smooth running of the whole HIV Care Center which shelters 14 children under fourteen years including 11 HIV infected children and 78 adults with HIV who live outside the Center but come for the monthly distribution

of the life-saving-drugs, counselling and medical checkup group by group. Sr.Emma cooperates with six volunteers. And also sees to the repairs of the house.

During Covid-19 pandemic Sr.Emma together with the volunteers helped 16 most needy poor families in the neighborhood with essential food supply such as rice, oil and beans twice by the Christmas donations we received. The same distribution to 78 HIV families bought with the bank interest of their own "Self Help Group Fund" of the 78 adult and 11 children. A poor couple with a disable wife is helped by repairing their little hut and supported with weekly food supply.

Sr. Magdalene Samuel, 62 years sees to the medical and psycho-social need of the children especially by collecting monthly HIV drugs from different hospitals and clinics in different towns for 11 HIV children. Traveling to hospitals and clinics, queuing up in long line spending the whole day exposed to the Virus transmittion is a highly risky job for a senior Sister. Getting home in time without public transportations is also challenged with lockdowns. Sometimes it required to hire the private vehicles with extra charges. The community in Mawlamyine is a great help in this apostolic.

Sr. Magdalene takes out the children often for a walk to the sea beach through rubber plantation to play.



Kyaikkhami



Kyaikkhami center

Apostolic (Kawthaung):

Sr. Martha Paul and six volunteers take care of the Center where 25 children including five HIV are sheltered. Majority are from migrant and broken families. Seven are from the streets of Thailand deported through Thai-Myanmar Border Police and Immigration Office officially. A divorced mother of a nine years girl is sentenced to 7 years jail in Ranong, Thailand on charges of drugs trafficking. Two HIV orphan children under ten from Myitkyina, Kachin State in the far North of Myanmar, were sent to us by air flight. More wanted to come but we refused.



Kawthaung Centre



Distribution for poor family during Covid-19



Visit to poor

Health Support:

This year, in spite of the Pandemic, our children are in good health. The usual seasonal Denque fever is absent this year. When needed for the minor medical consultation, we phone our family doctor to avoid virus transmission and give treatment according to the advice.



Monthly drug collection to various hospitals and clinics in different towns



Regular drug intake

Nutrition Support:

We managed to give better food and extra nutrition such as fresh milk and eggs to strengthen their immune system especially HIV children. To our delight the HIV infected children arrived with low CD4 counts are boosted up to 1500. The fresh organic fruits and vegetables from home grown garden, ice-free fresh fish from the fishing boats and the fresh sea air are natural resources for the maintenance of good health of the children.



Nutrition support activities

Education Support:

The formal academic education in school rooms are barred by the COVID-19. But we create our own way of educating. Everyday life is divided by English, Myanmar, Mathematics classes and vocational training such as welding, coconut broom making, sewing, embroidery, cooking in the kitchen and working in the garden by our staffs. These lead even to the point of selling the products in the market which support sustainability. This also gives the children the sense of self confidence, the value of work, cooperation, time, money and even leading to "self-made" business in the future.



Vocational Training Activities

Psychosocial Support:

By sitting a few minutes in meditation before evening prayers and listening to moral lessons after, promote the building of character. The daily combined prayers by children of different faith creates the understanding and acceptance of each other which encourages to peaceful coexistence later. Our alter hosts the pictures of both Christian and Buddhist which is appreciated by the visitors.

Evening play time, singing and dancing practices along with swimming in the sea, walking on the beach, lunch out to the private and lonely beaches help the children happy and psychologically healthy.

Celebrating each child's birthday with gifts, songs, hugs and handshakes is a joyful moment for all of us. These children coming from broken homes, over-sea government shelters and streets have never experienced such atmosphere. Each of them learning their birth date, expressing what they would like to eat, need to buy or how to celebrate is so exciting that they anticipate it even months before. Many of them do not even know their date of birth but we give them one.



Psychosocial Support activities

Special Occasions & Events:

- In January, requested by the Department of Social Welfare, Kawthaung, we prepared the draft for the Registration of our activities and is already in the Head Office in Nay Pyi Taw. Without this Registration we can not continue the mission. By this we will be recognised, protected and helped by the government.

- We gave vaccines for immunization of Hepatitis B to 29 adults and 12 children mostly those in the Center and neighbors. More are to be done in January 2021. The vaccines are donated by a Doctor in Yangon.



Resident volunteer doctor



Vaccine for Hepatitis B

- A young boy of 17 years from a migrant family whose father was paralysed was sent to three months welding training and earned the Certificate from the Don Bosco Training Center in Yangon.
- In March, a light truck much needed for the Center in Kawthaung was donated by a group of 7 ladies from Swiszarland.



Light truck donated by 7 ladies



Welding training for a young boy

- On the 12th May, four children under ten years from a family of a homeless migrant widow mother were brought to us by the Department of Social Welfare with the agreement of the village Headmen and elders.
- In July, a tube well was dug in view of distributing water to the poor migrant families in the neighborhood who struggle to have clean water during the summer when wells get dried.



Four children from a poor widow mother



Tube well water for the poo

- Political General Election on the 8th November was the most exciting event for the whole country because of its importance. Being the citizens of the country and for the life experience of our small children, all of us at the HIV Center took part in the public demonstration in procession together with the people around us which went through the whole town. But no religious is allowed to vote. We are on the fight for this basic human right.



Together with the people for National General Election 8th November 2020



- On the 8th December, a mother of five children stopped our truck on the way to buy fish at the beach to help find her three children under 13 years who ran away from home. After searching the area by my motorbike I found them and brought them back to their worried parents.

Finding the lost three children

- On the 14th December, we accepted a divorced 42 years old homeless man who was seriously sick. He is the father of the two small children at our Center and suffers the liver enlargement due to excessive drinking and smoking. He promised to stop drinking liquor. He improves a lot and helps in small housework especially broom making. Both he and the two children are so happy to be in the same place after two years of separation.

- On the 15th December, nine years old orphan girl from a migrant family who was ill treated by her relatives was brought to us by the Department of Social Welfare. The parents passed away while working in Thailand. The child was warmly welcomed by our children at the Center and is safe and happy now. She is in the 3rd Grade and intelligent.

- 17th December was the 20th Anniversary of our service to the HIV infected and suffering poor especially children. We celebrated by thanksgiving in a simple way.



Follow up visit by Thai authorities to deported children



Rescued a street kid

Visit:

- A group of women from Association of Women Affair visited our Center and donated some clothes, sweets and toys. Among them was the new Head of Immigration Office who promised to give National Identity Cards to our orphan children. ID Card is the life of the citizens and is costly and difficult to obtain.



Donation from Association of Women Affair

SR. MARTHA PAUL

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