

The Bridge Builder

David Strable Ordained & Installed as pastor to Burmese

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Jeanne Burger wrote this article for the Fort Wayne Lutheran. It originally appeared in the July 2009 issue.

On Sunday, June 14, David Strable was ordained into the ministry, installed as an associate pastor of New Life Lutheran Church, 2424 S. Coliseum Blvd., and sent as a missionary to the Burmese people in Fort Wayne through the Lutheran Agency for Missions to the Burmese (L.A.M.B.) L.A.M.B. is headed by New Life associate pastor, Rev. James Keller. Strable will work alongside Keller, focusing primarily on the Muslim Burmese population while Keller continues to work primarily with the Buddhist Burmese and to provide guidance and training to Lutheran churches in Fort

Wayne and beyond that want to develop ministries to the Burmese. Both men will work in partnership with New Life pastor Rev. Michael Wakeland.

Rev. Randy Duncan, from Living Word Church, Plymouth

has also been a leader in outreach among Muslim people. Rev. Scott Zeckzer, circuit counselor for the Fort Wayne East circuit, led the rites of ordination and installation. Over 100 Burmese people attended the service. Many of New Life's

Pray for:

- Whole Burmese families to be baptized.
- Burmese mothers and their babies.
- Strength for those who are persecuted.
- Kellers, Strables, and Thay Lar Htoo's family.
- God's provision for the needs of this ministry.
- International Camp
- International Day Camp
- Summer VBS



Rev. Strable with his family: Gennea, Ellie, Jordan and wife Sally.

Townships, Michigan, preached for the service. Duncan was one of the original church planters for New Life Lutheran Church and

Burmese members attended and participated in the service by joining with the praise team, and assisting with bible readings and translations. Members

Strable Ordination continued

of the Karen and Hispanic congregations also joined the members of New Life and offered special music presentations. The service was translated into Burmese, Karen, and Spanish.

Strable began his work among the Burmese people while assigned as a field worker at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 3425 Crescent Avenue. He was then called to New Life for his vicarage and during that time he expanded his involvement with the Burmese people, heading up a tutoring program at Au-

tumn Woods Apartment complex and assisting families with everything from medical care to enrolling their children in school during the process of settling in a new country. Strable's wife Sally, and their three children, Geanna, Jordan and Ellie, have also been actively involved in Burmese outreach. Sally has especially worked with the Burmese women, as an advocate for medical care and other needs, and accompanying many of the women through childbirth.

In his message to the congregation, Duncan said, "The need for people to hear the Gospel is great, but the power of God is

greater. No nation is excluded from knowing that God loved the world so much that He sent His Son to die for them. New Life, and this ordination, is about giving people the opportunity to hear the Gospel." Duncan recognized the mission work that has been placed on our doorsteps, saying, "God in His grace is bringing the nations to us. The call to 'Go' is not a matter of miles, but often only a matter of blocks." Duncan encouraged Strable by sharing 2 Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him," then closed by adding, "Stay His."

LAMB Goes Electronic

Due to rising postage costs and machine failure, LAMB is trying to distribute *The Bridge Builder* electronically. Please help us out by e-mailing us your e-mail address. Contact us at newlife4burmese@NL4U.org

LAMB now has videos posted on YouTube! Our goal is to post a new video every week. You can now see and hear what LAMB is up to by logging on to <http://www.youtube.com/lambinfo>. Current videos include two from Rev. Strable's ordination and one of Pastor Jim giving a devotion at the LCMS Indiana District convention. Be sure and log on regularly to keep up with LAMB!

July Prayer Calendar

Please pray for...



Mission House Manager Kyaw Sann and family demonstrating family devotions.

- 1 Safe travel and good witnessing opportunities for Burmese Christians this summer.
- 2 “Medical Deaconess” Thay Lar Htoo as she shares Jesus with those she helps.
- 3 The Friday night Youth Group.
- 4 The USA.
- 5 More members for our Burmese Praise Team.
- 6 Parker Keller’s 9th Birthday!
- 7 LAMB International Housing Ministry.
- 8 Burmese trying to get their “Green” cards.
- 9 Burmese having cataract surgery.
- 10 Strable Family fun day.
- 11 Pastor Jim & Annette’s 22nd anniversary.
- 12 Pastor Jim preaching at Camp Lutherhaven.
- 13 Burmese Day at Camp Lutherhaven.
- 14 International Day Camp.
- 15 International Campers to learn of Jesus’ love.
- 16 Jessica Keller’s 4th Birthday!
- 17 International Camp Servant Eventers to have a mission heart.
- 18 More Burmese to desire baptism for themselves and their children.
- 19 Anna Lois Keller and other Burmese children being baptized today.
- 20 Keller family fun day.
- 21 Pastor Jim speaking at the Lutheran Disability Outreach Friendship Camp at Lake Luther.
- 22 Gwen & Peter Keller helping at the Lutheran Disability Outreach Friendship Camp this week.
- 23 Good opportunities for continued witness to those who came to Pastor Dave’s ordination.
- 24 Sally Strable as she helps pregnant Burmese women.
- 25 Whole families to come to faith in Jesus.
- 26 Pastor Dave preaching at Camp Lutherhaven.
- 27 Burmese Mission Servant Event.
- 28 Safe travel for Servant Eventers coming from Camp Lutherhaven to minister to the Burmese in Fort Wayne.
- 29 Open hearts among the Burmese who will come into contact with the Servant Event teens and adult leaders.
- 30 Blessings on Praise Lutheran and Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran churches for inviting Burmese children to their vacation Bible schools.
- 31 More home Bible studies to begin with the Burmese.

August Prayer Calendar

Please Pray for...



Paw Htoo and children demonstrating family devotions.

- 1 Burmese families to be faithful in having daily devotions.
- 2 Pastor Jim preaching at Worship in the Park
- 3 International Vacation Bible School at the Riverview Terrace apartments.
- 4 International Vacation Bible School at Autumn Woods apartments.
- 5 Protection and blessings on the All Nations Friendship Center.
- 6 Clarity of thought for those translating Bible study materials into Burmese.
- 7 Knowledge and wisdom for medical translators and advocates.
- 8 Our worship translators, musicians, and prayer leaders.
- 9 Pastor Jim preaching at Christ Lutheran Church, Woodburn.
- 10 God's continued provision for the needs of LAMB.
- 11 The Holy Spirit to prompt people to pray for LAMB, to serve, and to give.
- 12 God to richly bless those who do pray, serve, and give so that the Burmese may hear of Jesus.
- 13 Protection and strength for LAMB staff and volunteers and their families.
- 14 Church attendance to grow as Burmese invite friends and family.
- 15 Hser Ku Do as she teaches the children each Sunday.
- 16 Pastor Jim preaching at Camp Lutherhaven for Immanuel Lutheran Church, Avilla.
- 17 Burmese believers to be strong in their faith and witness.
- 18 Favorable contacts with families whose children came to camp/VBS.
- 19 Marriage and family life to grow stronger among the Burmese.
- 20 Unmarried Burmese to remain pure and godly in their life and witness.
- 21 Persecuted Christians to stand strong in their faith and testimony.
- 22 The Holy Spirit to remove barriers that stand in the way of trust in Jesus.
- 23 Pastor Dave on his birthday and for good health, wisdom, and endurance.
- 24 Burmese college students to do well in their classes.
- 25 Pastor Jim leading the opening chapel at Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran School.
- 26 God to open the hearts of the Burmese students who attend Lutheran schools and their families.
- 27 A successful year for our tutors and their students..
- 28 More tutors to step forward to meet the needs of the Burmese.
- 29 Jordan Strable celebrating his 11th birthday.
- 30 The Holy Spirit to fill the hearts and minds of those attending our Labor Day Youth Retreat.
- 31 Final preparations for our Labor Day Youth Retreat.



**LUTHERAN AGENCY
FOR MISSIONS TO
BURMESE (L.A.M.B.)**

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**[http://NL4U.org/
burmese1.html](http://NL4U.org/burmese1.html)**