

# The Bridge Builder

## Caught Between Two Cultures

Please pray for:

- The Burmese caught between cultures.
- LAMB staff as they boldly share the Gospel.
- The LAMB board as they develop partnerships and new sources of funding.
- Elders as they study, lead, and grow in faith.
- Volunteers as they build relationships and grow in cultural understanding.
- Protection and wisdom for the families of all those working with LAMB.

**The banquet to raise money for the Bible Women ministry will be on Thursday, April 7, 2011, at 6 p.m. at Southwest Lutheran Church. Please help support this ministry.**



Elders meeting

Min Min, Ta Puay, Kyaw Sann (Thein Htun Aung not pictured)

“You've heard my message, and it's been confirmed by many witnesses. Entrust this message to faithful individuals who will be competent to teach others” (2 Timothy 2:2, *God's Word*).

What happens when you move halfway across the world? You find out that the culture you grew up in is not the same as the culture in which you are now living. How do you reconcile what is culturally acceptable in your small, transplanted community but not in the larger community in which you live? What does the Bible have to say about this? What if what the Bible says is different from what either culture says?

These are questions that our elders must answer. All four of our elders grew up Buddhist. Three of our elders became Christians before coming to America. One elder crossed the bridge from Buddhism to Christ through the ministry of LAMB. These men were elected by our Burmese/English/Karen worship service to provide spiritual care and oversight for our people. They are now finding themselves caught between two cultures.

Part of their leadership formation is helping them to learn how to navigate between these two cultures. Pastors Keller and Strable teach them how to use the Bible to choose the best of both cultures and to reject those things from both cultures that go against the Bible. These men are studying Luther's *Small Catechism* anew. They are reading it in Burmese and using the workbook that has been translated into Burmese. Two of the elders have had a lot of schooling and are enrolled in college courses. Two elders have had little formal education. Yet, all four value Luther's *Small Catechism*. Pastor Jim patiently leads them through each lesson. He meets individually with each elder over a two-week period.

LAMB is now on the internet! Our website is  
[www.newlife4burmese.org](http://www.newlife4burmese.org)

We are now also able to receive donations online!



**LUTHERAN AGENCY FOR  
MISSIONS TO BURMESE**

**L.A.M.B.  
P.O. Box 15833  
Fort Wayne, IN 46885-5833**

*LAMB monthly cash needs:  
\$17,000*

*LAMB is a nonprofit 501c agency. We receive no government or synodical funding. LAMB relies on the donations of partners like you. Please feel free to share this newsletter with others who may be interested in partnering with us to bring Jesus to the peoples of Burma.*

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### **Caught Between Two Cultures Continued:**

They see the need to bring this book and its clear teachings to all who attend our worship service. They get excited about what they are studying. They share it with their wives, and they teach it to their children. Every other Sunday the elders gather before worship to discuss the catechism lesson and the pamphlet "What about Living Together Without Marriage?" by Dr. A.L. Barry. This pamphlet was translated into Burmese by our partner in Burma, Rev. Charles Edwards. The Burmese culture defines marriage differently than we do in America. These elders are wrestling with how we as the church, made up of Burmese living in America, should believe regarding marriage. The discussions take place in English, Burmese and Karen. The answers are not always easy. Yet the elders know they are not just coming up with answers; they are forging the new path for their people to live in their new country and their new relationship with Jesus.

Pastor Strable challenged the elders at our last meeting to pray for two or three people they know who are not followers of Jesus and share Jesus with them. Pastor Strable told the elders that it is the responsibility of all God's children to share the Good News of Jesus with others. He told them it is the duty of the elders to set the example for the congregation.

Please pray for our elders as they wrestle with God's Word, live out His Word, and set the example for the rest of our congregation.



The girls from New Life Burmese and their friends meet every Saturday at my house. We study the Bible, play at the park, and eat great food. The girls are very concerned about their non-believing friends and try to reach out to them as much as possible. Almost every week there is a story of how they have been sharing their faith. They all care very much for people who need help. When they heard about children who weren't being taken care of, their hearts were touched. For the last month the girls have been bringing in their change and asking for donations to raise money to support orphans in the United States, Burma, and Thailand. The money they raised was far more than was expected. They raised over \$100. Please pray for the girls Bible study, that they would be strong in their faith and continue to reach out to their friends. ~Gwen