For eight years Partners In Progress has been working with people in the delta region of Myanmar in an effort to share the gospel with this Buddhist community. First we fed 9,000 people for a year and then 3,000 for another two years following a devastating cyclone that hit the area. Although evangelism was forbidden by the government, when those receiving the assistance began to ask who we were and why we were helping them, our people simply answered their questions and in the months that followed more than 180 decided to obey the gospel.

Until the last few months, foreigners were forbidden from visiting the delta, but due to the relaxation of many restrictions under the newly elected government, we (Bill & Marie-Claire McDonough) were able to visit the churches for the first time. We met with the large congregation of 70+ on Sunday morning as well as visiting in some of their homes, and we thrilled at their desire to continue to study and grow in Christ. With very little help from the outside, they continue to teach their neighbors and bring them to the Lord.
Without You This Would Not Have Been Possible

As entire towns and villages were washed away and 184,000 people drown, they are still rebuilding and the government is resettling the people on higher ground. To date there is no infrastructure of utilities, and they are drinking water from contaminated ponds. Last week we were able to install three water purification systems in villages where our Christian brothers and sisters live. They will be maintaining the systems and sharing this pure, safe water with their friends as they continue to preach the WORD. This cost less than $15,000, but will provide water for several hundred people for years to come.

Cambodia: A country with pagodas in every village and Buddhist monks on every corner. We’ve been there so often that it seems normal to me, now. One Thursday afternoon this past November I saw a fairly typical scene around a small Buddha (this one merely life-sized), near the apartment where we were staying. A young family with 2-year-old twin daughters had just finished taking some photos; a couple of older adults were on their knees in front of Buddha, with heads to the ground; others were lighting fragrant incense sticks and placing them in holders conveniently located in front of the statue.

But what I saw on the other side of Buddha was new to me, and almost brought me to tears. A very intense middle-aged woman had stepped up to the Buddha, as close as she could get without touching, and was pouring out her heart into the deaf ears of this lifeless statue. She was praying, fervently, to a block of wood or stone that had been carved and formed by human hands – more than likely another Cambodian. An inanimate object that would not – could not – respond to her in any way. And in that moment I was more aware than ever of how much people truly need the Lord. The name of Jesus means nothing to this lady. She has never heard about a living God who does hear His people when they pray.

There are billions out there who do not know that God loves them, yet they have souls that are crying out for relief. We cannot reach even a small fraction of a percentage of those billions on our own, but we can pray for those souls. We can pray that we open our own eyes to see all the opportunities to do good that come our way. In Ephesians 2:10, we are told that God has prepared in advance good works for us to do. Pray that we recognize those good works, and take action on them. So many lost souls are out there. Pray for them.

Praying to Buddha by Diane Johnson
A special thanks to Lisa Engle of the Harding University School of Nursing and her student nurses for their two weeks of service on the ship. They conducted a seminar for midwives, saw patients, visited schools to teach hygiene and again evaluated all the kids at Hannah’s Hope Children’s Home.

Sophean

With his wonderful Cambodian caregiver, Aya, in the hospital in Vietnam where last month he received a good report and his next surgery is scheduled in November. His wonderful Italian medical team has high hopes of being able to give him complete genitalia, even though he was born without, and believe he will even be able to have reproductive glands. It will take several more surgeries and we ask you to continue praying for good progress.

Thank you to the nursing instructors and nursing students from Thailand who came and spent two weeks volunteering with us. This is a partnership between Partners in Progress’ Ship of Life and the Suan Dusit University Faculty of Nursing in Bangkok. We are thankful for Dr. Pragai Jirojanakul from the faculty of nursing for partnering with us on this project.
Recently God blessed this world with a special measure of grace. When he allowed His people to dedicate the grand opening of World Christian Broadcasting’s “Madagascar World Voice” 200,000 watt short wave radio transmitters that can broadcast to two-thirds of the world, He opened the doors of heaven to welcome multitudes into his Kingdom as they learn of the hope of salvation through this medium.

Countless nations that have banned Christianity and persecuted all those who have tried to follow Christ can no longer keep the Good News outside their borders. It is being carried over the airwaves to throngs of listeners who already are writing for more information and are eager to learn about the Christ whom they have never before had the opportunity to hear. Within hours of the station’s opening, E-mails and text messages began to pour in to the Franklin, TN office saying, “We are listening.”

In the opinion of this writer, this is the grandest thing that New Testament Christians have done to evangelize the world in modern history, and I encourage you to join me in taking our hats off to all those connected to WCBC and to pray for those millions who now have a chance to hear, “He Lives!”