

# MOMENTS OF HOPE AND JOY

Since I left Burma on July 7 much has been happening there. Daw Virañani has been updating me with information and pictures on the activities that have happened in the places where we offered your donations. As stated in the last report a small amount of donations was left and we put it aside for later needs that might emerge. And these needs have emerged faster than we expected. Daw Virañani has compassionately responded to these opportunities to help and support. So, we are very happy that another lot of people have received much needed help.

Your donations had been used by the three nunneries near CMMC in the following ways:

## **At Chanmyay Tharya Nunnery:**



*The nuns in front of the new well*



*The dining hall is now covered with tarpaulin*

## **At Pyapon Nunnery:**



The new hostel (picture taken from behind) offers accommodation for the nuns. It had been completely destroyed during the cyclone with only the foundations being left.

Daw Aye Myint (on the and her daughter Ma Khin the picture) are from everything during the Pyapon Nunnery and asked place to live. They had lost start their lives from zero. sewing mosquitonets to daughter had been studying 200'000 kyats for an easier As Daw Virañani wrote, Khin Suu Win were clearly very happy - in the usual Burmese way. So there wish you could have seen



very right of the picture) Suu Win (on the very left of Pyapon. Because they lost cyclone they came to for shelter as they had no EVERYTHING and had to The mother had been make a living and her in Yangon. We offered them start into a ,new existence.’ „Daw Aye Myint and Ma surprised at the dana and delightfully understated were no dramas, but how I their smiles!“

At the Pyapon Nunnery they also replaced the books that had been destroyed in the cyclone.

#### **At Yadanar Man Aung Nunnery:**



*The new roof giving protection from the monsoon (right now) and the sun (later on)*

Because the nuns have a very hard time to get enough rice and food, we offered some more money to the three nunneries to buy rice at a nearby rice shop. In Daw Virañani's words, „It is so wonderful to know that all these good nuns can have a bit of respite from fruitless almsrounds for a little while! I checked with U Kyaw Moe (the owner of the rice shop) the other day and found out that the very next day all the nuns came to get their rice!

**Donations to Mahagandhayon monastery in Yangon:**

The money we offered to the Mahagandhayon monastery in Yangon had been used in a place an hour by boat from the sea, and a two hour boat ride from Dedaye (one of the towns in the delta). The conditions at the monastery are very difficult - and everything has to come in by boat: bricks, sand, etc... The dana has gone for medicines, building supplies, food, and fertilizer (so that the farmers can plant!).



Pictures from a remote village in the delta where your donations have gone



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 08 Sayadaw U Indaka, Daw Mimmi, and Ma Moe Moe went to Dedaye to offer the donations they received in Malaysia. Much of the dana went out to the coast there through three monasteries; these people had received next to nothing up to that time! Sayadaw had planed to offer houses, rice & oil, and a small amount of cash (1000 kyats) to 1321 households in 10 coastal villages. As he didn't have enough to cover all the costs, Daw Virañani spontaneously offered 600 US\$ from your donations to make up the shortfall.

Here are some pictures:



*Mimmi offers the cash to be donated*



*The rice being ready for distribution*



A group of villagers waiting for their turn to be called, one by one. People walked/boated quite a way to get to the dana-offering and it was very well organized: one village coming at a time to get their rice.



*At one of those monasteries in the delta*

Then, very soon after Sayadaw U Indaka returned from Dedaye, three monks from Dedaye showed up at CMMC - one came from Shwetaungon Monastery (which had already received dana directly from Sayadaw), bringing with him two others from more remote monasteries that had 'missed out'. Like the earlier rice & oil offering here at CMMC, the word had spread, and those in need presented themselves.

Sayadaw asked Daw Virañani if we could help with some donations for the two monasteries. With this, another opportunity presented itself to help where support was much needed! After some considerations, the dana for the two monasteries consisted of 300'000 kyats from your donations plus the 250'000 kyats that Sayadaw U Indaka offered.

In late August, there was another request to consider. When Sayadaw U Indaka went down to Dedaye, they took a trip down the river to an outlying village, Daedan. There is a monastery that had also received no help so far. Daw Mimmi told Daw Virañani that she was sooo touched by the Sayadaw and the people there that she gave away all of the 10'000 kyats that Sayadaw had given her (and two other accompanying helpers) at the beginning of the trip to use as 'spending money.' The seven lakhs that we offered will go mostly to the monastery but also for food and shelter for the villagers nearby. The village is strung out along the river, the houses up on stilts, and no way to go anywhere except by boat.

They have now received some money thanks to Sayadaw U Indaka and all of you, but more is needed (Sayadaw did not know about this place before they went down).

In Daw Virañani's words, "The photo of Sayadaw U Indaka and this old Sayadaw really touched me. Such a beautiful face! You can see where he sleeps, right there where people come and pay respects. Mimmi said that the monastery was really simple; of course with no electricity or phone."



*Sayadaw U Indaka (sitting on the chair) and Daedan Sayadaw (sitting on the ground)*

In late August, U Chando from Sinchayyar village in the delta came to CMMC. Daw Virañani asked U Chando how it had been going, and he spoke of the plans he has to rebuild houses for people there. And he told her of some other outlying places that he had since visited that are also really in need of help. So even though we had already given him so much (100 lakhs), Daw Virañani offered two lakhs more, specifically for food for these people. It was very gratefully received, and Daw Virañani could see Sayadaw U Indaka was very happy at the additional offering, too.



Finally, last but not least, a small rice and oil offering at CMMC. One afternoon a very poor looking mother appeared at the office carrying a baby that Daw Ñana later said 'looked like Ethiopia'. Daw Virañani described it as follows,

„I have only seen kids like this in photos. It was a Sunday, and they had just come from the free clinic, where the doctors had her to take the baby to a hospital immediately. So Daw Ñana gave her bus fare, and I asked if she had been included in the rice and oil dana at the beginning of July. The answer was because she lives far away, out past SOM centre, she did not get rice and oil. So I immediately arranged for U Ba Wun to make sure she gets the same amount of rice and oil as we had offered everyone else.“

As I write this report I feel deeply grateful for all your generous support. There is a profound sense of satisfaction, joy, and delight in knowing that we could bring some moments of hope and joy in these people's lives.

May all beings, without exception, live at ease and in peace.

With metta

Ariya Ñani



*What will the future be like for these kids?*