



In the largest city of Shan State in the central mountainous part of Myanmar is the city of Taunggyi, home to 400,000 people. On a very busy street and within the center of this predominately Buddhist community lies a very special children's home... the Daw Gyi Daw Nge Orphanage or now better known as Ms. Emerald's Children's Home.

The extraordinary 87-year-old lady that runs the home has a foundation of a Christian legacy that has weathered several crises and hardships: the British colonization, the Japanese invasion in World War II, the harsh 60-year rule by a totalitarian military government, persecution of many ethnic groups such as the Karen and Kachin, the 1988 deadly student uprising, Cyclone Nargis, flooding and the reality of poverty. All of these historical events brought many children to her door. She never turned away any child, even if they were mentally disabled.

Over a thousand children have passed through her doors and even now over 85 children actively live there while others come to attend the day care or live and work on her small farm five miles away. It is a 24/7 ministry that started with her grandmother in 1905. Its very existence is a testimony to the faithfulness of God and it continues to testify to His faithfulness even now.

A few years ago, Ms. Emerald was exploited through deception and on her death, the property of the home will go to Chinese developers. But God, who is always faithful, (*Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations. Deuteronomy 7:9*) has opened a door through Vision Beyond Borders and generous supporters to care for these children and build a new home on the outskirts of Kalaw. It is a beautiful farming area with scenic mountains and just a little over 30 miles from the famous Inle Lake. There is room to build two large dormitories, classrooms, a kitchen, a chapel and library.

The classrooms will allow instruction in sewing, computers, and woodworking. The land surrounding the home will equip students to grow vegetables and raise livestock. The chapel will give these children an opportunity to go to church together...a fact that is not always possible now.

It has been difficult for Ms. Emerald's children to attend church in Taunggyi. The churches in this predominately Buddhist and politically complicated nation are small. The ability to provide the room and the needed teachers has its own difficult logistics let alone transporting the children back and forth. The chapel will afford them



the room, and open up the door for just the right person(s) to come each week to the home to provide God's Word, communion, and baptisms. The need for pastors to be involved in these children's homes became very evident to our team this last December. Our accompanying pastor performed communion, a baptism, and prayed over the children in different homes we visited. Ms. Emerald's sad comment was that our pastor came 8,000 miles to pray over her children and her own pastor had never done that before.

Visiting these homes is so much more than giving gifts and celebrating Christmas. We had the opportunity to share the Gospel, give each child a Bible, and commit them to the care of our Lord and Savior. Each precious child shares a story of loss, but it is the vision and goal of VBB to help these children thrive in a new life in Christ. Coming alongside the nationals who have committed a lifetime of care for these children and helping them meet the children's needs is the least we can do as followers of Christ who live out God's mercy and grace to a hurting world.

Ms. Emerald's new home in Kalaw will be in need of computers, sewing machines and woodworking equipment. There will be a need to buy livestock and seeds. If you haven't already got involved with this home, would you consider giving a one-time gift for these needs? Would you consider giving a monthly gift to support this home or any of the other ten homes in Myanmar that VBB has committed to help? You are always welcome to join a VBB team to visit these homes! You will have the opportunity to meet the children face to face!

After visiting these homes three times during 2018, I come home always thankful for those that live out John 15:13 on behalf of these children. May God continue to bless the children, the caregivers, VBB, and the supporters of this wonderful ministry!

Pam Johnson