

Myanmar/Burma

June 6th—June 17th 2012



Dear Team Member,

Welcome to the wonderful world of Short Term Missions! You are about to embark on an amazing journey that will, if you allow the Holy Spirit to have his way in your life, change you forever. **Thanks for considering being part of our June 6th—June 17th, 2012 Mission Trip to Myanmar/Burma.** We've put together this packet for you, and it is important that you review all of the information carefully. **If you have any questions, please contact Cari Arnold at 309/732-0026 or email Cari.Arnold@heritageqc.com.**

Purpose of this trip:

Continue construction and rebuilding at the Galilee Children's Home and provide leadership development and encouragement for the seminary students and love for the orphans.

Team Leader

Rena Gainey began her mission work in 2004 traveling to Brazil, Zambia the Amazon River and ultimately Burma (Myanmar) which grabbed her heart first in 2009. This trip marks her 5th time there after discovering that God created a very special place in her heart for Burma and its people. Rena also serves locally at Kings Harvest Ministries here in the Quad Cities.

Passport

A passport is required. Contact your local Post Office or Passport Facility. You will need to make an appointment to obtain a passport for the first time.

For information: http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_830.html

Trip Expenses

The trip expenses are estimated to be **\$2200 - \$2500** and will include your airfare, visas (if needed), exit fees (if needed), ground transportation, lodging, meals, overseas health insurance, and miscellaneous. You will need to bring your own spending money for personal gifts/items.

Travel Guidance

Details on what to bring such as clothing, personal property and specific travel guidelines will be provided in the team training meetings prior to your trip. Team leaders will gather information from previous teams, local conditions in **Myanmar/Burma** and consultation with the Consular in the US Department of State to provide detailed travel instructions to team members.

US Consular Information Sheet: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1089.html

Checklist

Requirements Checklist

Approximate Trip Cost: **\$2200 - \$2500**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Date</u>
___ Apply for Passport	Immediately
___ *\$100 Non-Refundable Deposit (check payable to Heritage Church)	(Due by 2/8/12 with application)
___ Application Form	2/8/12
___ Disclaimer	With application
___ Release of Liability	With application
___ Immunization Agreement	With application
___ Team Member Covenant	With application
___ 2 copies of passport (photos & signature page)	With application
___ 1st Payment: \$1000 (check/s payable to Heritage Church)	4/6/12
___ 2nd Payment: \$1100-\$1400 (approx.) (check/s payable to Heritage Church)	5/30/12

Please return completed applications and check for deposit to:

Cari Arnold, Outreach Department

Heritage Church

4801 44th St.

Rock Island, IL 61201

*(deposit will be refunded if applicant is not chosen to be part of the team)

Application

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name on Passport _____
(as it appears on passport/full legal name)

Social Security _____ Date of Birth _____

Passport Number _____ Place of Issue _____

Date of Expiration _____ Country of Citizenship _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name/Relationship _____

Cell Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Email Address _____

TRIP FOR WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING

Date **June 6th—June 17th , 2012** Location **Myanmar/Burma**

Primary means by which you plan to finance the trip: ___ Personal ___ Raise Support

Past Mission Trip Experience

Year	Location
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Other Ministry Experience: _____

Have you given to Faith Promise at Heritage this year? ___ Yes ___ No

Are you a member of Heritage Church? ___ Yes ___ No

Are you a regular attender at Heritage Church? ___ Yes ___ No
How often do you attend? _____

Why do you want to participate on this trip? _____

How would you like to grow personally from this trip? _____

SPIRITUAL GROWTH ASSESSMENT

Briefly describe how you came to know Jesus Christ as your Savior? _____

How have you grown in your relationship with Christ in the past year? _____

What are your Spiritual Gifts? _____

I understand that by completing and turning in this application that I am applying to be a member for the above stated mission trip. Completion of this application does not guarantee my acceptance as a member of the mission team for which I am applying. I further understand that I may be required to go through a personal interview with the mission trip leader(s) as part of the application process.

Signature of Participant

Date

*******Disclaimer*******

- _____ 1) Submission of application does not guarantee you will be going on a trip.
- _____ 2) I understand I am expected to attend **all** team meetings.
- _____ 3) A copy of my support letter must be submitted to the team leader no less than four weeks before departure (six weeks is preferable).
- _____ 4) All funds submitted are at the discretion of the Global Outreach Department of Heritage Church. According to IRS tax laws, no funds may be designated for a particular individual. In the event that your fund raising efforts have exceeded your portion of the trip cost or you decide to cancel going on the trip, there are two options:
 - a) Funds will be designated for another short-term volunteer going on the same mission trip that still needs assistance to raise their portion. In the event that every person has fulfilled their portion, funds will go to the particular ministry that the current trip is assisting. No funds will carry over to another trip and cannot be designated for another short term volunteer going on a different trip.
 - b) Funds will be reallocated to the general Faith Promise fund.
- _____ 5) Any requests for financial assistance must be submitted in writing, using the form available in the Global Outreach Department, no later than three days before trip departure.
- _____ 6) I understand I am responsible to pay for the full amount of the individual's portion (airplane ticket and any other expenses that Heritage Church invested) of the trip **prior** to the trip departure. Failure to do so will result in denial of participation in future trips.

By initialing each box above, I indicate that I understand and agree to adhere to all requirements of the Heritage Global Outreach Department.

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

Release of Liability

I. MINORS (To be filled out by the parent or legal guardian of individuals under the age of 18)

I, _____ the parent/legal guardian of _____,
(here after referred to as "minor") a minor, hereby acknowledge that said minor is presently under my care and custody. I hereby give said minor permission to go to and participate in activities with Heritage Church, Rock Island, Illinois (here after referred to as "church").

In the event of an emergency, necessitating medical or surgical attention, I hereby consent and give my permission to the church, its' representatives, or trip leaders to make decisions to perform such medical treatments and/or surgery upon said minor which may in their sole discretion be necessary and proper under the circumstances.

I, the undersigned parent/legal guardian of said minor do release, acquit, discharge, and covenant to hold harmless the church, its' representatives, or trip leaders from any and all actions, damages, and/or liabilities arising out of any accident or sickness, or treatment thereof, incurred by said minor during activities with the church.

Signature of Participant

Date

II. ADULTS (To be completed by those 18 years of age and older).

I, the undersigned, am 18 years of age or older. I have read the above waiver of minors and do agree to the same terms and conditions as stated. I do hereby release, acquit, discharge, and covenant to hold harmless Heritage Church, Rock Island, Illinois, its' representatives, or trip leaders from any and all actions, damages, and or liabilities arising out of any accident or sickness, or treatment thereof, incurred by me while involved in activities with the church.

Signature of Participant

Date

Immunization Agreement

In the interest of providing adequate information to all volunteers, Heritage Church strongly encourages you to consult with your physician or Passport Health at least 3 months prior to your planned travel.

TETANUS: Booster at 10 years or injury.

TYPHOID: Every 3 years intradermally.

ORAL POLIO: Every 10 years.

HEPATITIS A: 2 shot series, 6-12 months apart.

HEPATITIS B: 3 shot series—get first shot, one month later get 2nd, 6-18 months later get 3rd.

MALARIA: Consult your medical provider.

I have reviewed the recommended immunizations above, have consulted with my physician or Passport Health concerning the necessary precautions, have complied with the recommendations of my physician or Passport Health and agree to assume all risks regarding immunizations.

Signature of Participant

Date

Additional information: Some of the immunizations require a series of shots that can take several months for full protection. Recommended travel medical specialists:

- Passport Health @ 309-757-1252, 515 Valley View Drive, Suite 103, Moline, IL 61265
- More detailed information can be found at the Centers for Disease Control:
<http://www.cdc.gov/travel>

Team Member Covenant

Name _____ Country of Service Myanmar/Burma

Date of Trip June 6 - 17, 2012 Trip Leader Rena Gainey

As a volunteer with Heritage Church, I agree to pay all costs related to my trip such as immunizations, travel, food, lodging and miscellaneous costs, and to serve without payment.

I will be responsive to the counsel and suggestions of the Mission Team Leader(s) and abide by the standards of conduct and ethics of the above named field and the policies of Heritage Church.

I will abstain from any form of conduct unbecoming to a Christ-like example. I agree to abstain from the use of any form of tobacco, alcohol or drugs.

I will not hold Heritage Church and any of their departments, segments, officers, agents and employees responsible for any accident, injury, or illness resulting from my visit to the field nor for the loss of or damage to personal property while on this assignment and will indemnify and hold harmless Heritage Church from and against any and all liability occasioned by my service.

I affirm that Heritage Church has complete discretion and control over the use of all donated funds, and reserves the right to redirect funds designated for my ministry in the event that my ministry is over-funded to assist other team members or the trip in general. I understand, and will explain to potential donors at the point of solicitation of funds, that surplus funds will not be returned to the donor or me.

In addition, I agree to comply with any specific regulations and rules of conduct pertaining to the field where I will be serving.

I realize that these guidelines have been created for my safety and in accordance with the policies of Heritage Church and the field in question. I understand that any violation of this agreement may result in the termination of my service and that I will be personally responsible for any expenses related to my return to my home and related financial commitments.

Signature of Participant

Date

Approval

Date

Myanmar/Burma Country Profile

Burma, officially the **Republic of the Union of Myanmar** is a country in Southeast Asia. The country is bordered by the People's Republic of China on the northeast, Laos on the east, Thailand on the southeast, Bangladesh on the west, India on the northwest, and the Bay of Bengal to the southwest, with the Andaman Sea defining its southern periphery. One-third of Burma's total perimeter of 1,930 kilometers (1,200 mi) forms an uninterrupted coastline. Burma is the second largest country by geographical area in Southeast Asia.^[6]

The country's culture, heavily influenced by those of its neighbors, is based on Theravada Buddhism intertwined with local elements. Burma's diverse population has played a major role in defining its politics, history, and demographics in modern times, and the country continues to struggle to overcome its ethnic tensions. The military has dominated government since General Ne Win led a coup in 1962 that toppled the civilian government of U Nu. From that point, Burma's leadership went under the control of the military-led State Peace and Development Council. It remained so until 2011, when the council was dissolved following the 2010 election and subsequent inauguration of Burma's civilian government.

The United Nations and several other organizations have reported consistent and systematic human rights violations in the country, including child labor, human trafficking and a lack of freedom of speech. However, since the dispersion of the country's military regime, some groups within Burma have attempted to adopt a new constitution in hopes of creating a more modern, democratic nation.

Geography

Burma, which has a total area of 678,500 square kilometers (262,000 sq mi), is the largest country in mainland Southeast Asia, and the 40th-largest in the world. It lies between latitudes 9° and 29°N, and longitudes 92° and 102°E.

It is bordered to the northwest by Chittagong Division of Bangladesh and Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh of India to the northwest. Its north and northeast border straddles the Tibet and Yunnan regions of China for a Sino-Burman border total of 2,185 kilometers (1,358 mi). It is bounded by Laos and Thailand to the southeast. Burma has 1,930 kilometers (1,200 mi) of contiguous coastline along the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea to the southwest and the south, which forms one quarter of its total perimeter.

Demographics

Burma has a population of about 56 million.^[168] Population figures are rough estimates because the last partial census, conducted by the Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs under the control of the military junta, was taken in 1983.^[169] No trustworthy nationwide census has been taken in Burma since 1931. There are over 600,000 registered migrant workers from Burma in Thailand, and millions more work illegally. Burmese migrant workers account for 80% of Thailand's migrant workers.^[170] Burma has a population density of 75 per square kilometre (190 / sq mi), one of the lowest in Southeast Asia. Refugee camps exist along Indian, Bangladeshi and are principally located along the Thai-Burma border. There are nine permanent refugee camps along the Thai-Burma border, most of which were established in the mid-1980s. The refugee

camps along the Thai borders while several thousand are in Malaysia. Conservative estimates state that there are over 295,800 refugees from Burma, with the majority being Rohingya, Kayin, and Karenni and camps are under the care of the Thai-Burma Border Consortium (TBBC).

Government & Politics

Burma is governed by a military junta styled in the form of a presidential republic with the head of state being Senior General Than Shwe, who holds the post of "Chairman of the State Supreme Council". General Khin Nyunt was prime minister until 19 October 2004, when he was replaced by General Soe Win, after the purge of Military Intelligence sections within the Myanmar armed forces. The President is General Thein Sein, who took over as Prime Minister upon the death of General Soe Win on 2 October 2007 and became President under the 2008 constitution. The majority of ministry and cabinet posts are held by military officers, with the exceptions being the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Labour, and the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, posts which are held by civilians.^[87]

Elected delegates in the 1990 People's Assembly election formed the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), a government-in-exile since December 1990, with the mission of restoring democracy.^[88] Dr. Sein Win, a first cousin of Aung San Suu Kyi, has held the position of prime minister of the NCGUB since its inception. The NCGUB has been outlawed by the military government.

Major political parties in the country are the National League for Democracy and the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, although their activities are heavily regulated and suppressed by the military government. Many other parties, often representing ethnic minorities, exists. The military government allows little room for political organizations and has outlawed many political parties and underground student organizations. The military supported the National Unity Party in the 1990 elections and, more recently, an organization named the Union Solidarity and Development Association.

Economy

The country is one of the poorest nations in Southeast Asia, suffering from decades of stagnation, mismanagement and isolation. Based on the Economist, IMF: Annual average GDP growth for the period 2001-2010 was 10.3 percent.

Under British administration, Burma was the second-wealthiest country in South-East Asia; second only to the Philippines. It had been the world's largest exporter of rice. During British administration, Burma supplied oil through the Burmah Oil Company. Burma also had a wealth of natural and labour resources. It produced 75% of the world's teak (although the land-clearing involved led to the creation of vast dust-bowl) and had a highly literate population.^[81] The country was believed to be on the fast track to development.

After a parliamentary government was formed in 1948, Prime Minister U Nu disastrously at-

tempted to make Burma a welfare state and adopted central planning. Rice exports fell by two thirds and mineral exports by over 96%. Plans were partly financed by printing money, which led to inflation.^[147] The 1962 coup d'état was followed by an economic scheme called the Burmese Way to Socialism, a plan to nationalize all industries, with the exception of agriculture. The catastrophic program turned Burma into one of the world's most impoverished countries.^[49] Burma's admittance to Least Developed Country status by the UN in 1987 highlighted its economic bankruptcy.

After 1988, the regime retreated from totalitarian rule. It permitted modest expansion of the private sector, allowed some foreign investment, and received needed foreign exchange.^[149] The economy is currently rated as the second least free in Asia (one up from North Korea).^[150] All fundamental market institutions are suppressed.^{[150][151]} Private enterprises are often co-owned or indirectly owned by state. The corruption watchdog organisation Transparency International in its 2007 Corruption Perceptions Index released on 26 September 2007 ranked Burma the most corrupt country in the world, tied with Somalia.

The national currency is Kyat. Burma has a dual exchange rate system similar to Cuba.^[153] The market rate was around two hundred times below the government-set rate in 2006.^[151] Inflation averaged 30.1% between 2005 and 2007.^[150] Inflation is a serious problem for the economy. In April 2007, the National League for Democracy organised a two-day workshop on the economy. The workshop concluded that skyrocketing inflation was impeding economic growth. "Basic commodity prices have increased from 30 to 60 percent since the military regime promoted a salary increase for government workers in April 2006", said Soe Win, the moderator of the workshop. "Inflation is also correlated with corruption." Myint Thein, an NLD spokesperson, added: "Inflation is the critical source of the current economic crisis."

In recent years, both China and India have attempted to strengthen ties with the government for economic benefit. Many nations, including the United States and Canada, and the European Union, have imposed investment and trade sanctions on Burma. The United States has banned all imports from Burma.^[151] Foreign investment comes primarily from People's Republic of China, Singapore, South Korea, India, and Thailand.

Religion

Many religions are practiced in Burma. Religious edifices and orders have been in existence for many years. Festivals can be held on a grand scale. The Christian and Muslim populations do, however, face religious persecution and it is hard, if not impossible, for non-Buddhists to join the army or get government jobs, the main route to success in the country.^[190] Such persecution and targeting of civilians is particularly notable in Eastern Burma, where over 3000 villages have been destroyed in the past ten years. More than 200,000 Rohingya Muslims have settled in Bangladesh, to escape persecution, over the past 20 years.

89% of the population embraces Buddhism (mostly Theravada). Other religions are practiced largely without obstruction, with the notable exception of some ethnic minorities such as the Muslim Rohingya people, who have continued to have their citizenship status denied and therefore do not have access to education, and Christians in Chin State.^[195] 4 percent of the popula-

tion practices Christianity; 4 percent, Islam; 1 percent, traditional animistic beliefs; and 2 percent follow other religions, including Mahayana Buddhism, Hinduism, East Asian religions and the Bahá'í Faith. However, according to a U.S. State Department's 2010 international religious freedom report, official statistics are alleged to underestimate the non-Buddhist population. Independent researchers put the Muslim population at 6 to 10% of the population,. A tiny Jewish community in Rangoon had a synagogue but no resident rabbi to conduct services.

Climate

Much of the country lies between the Tropic of Cancer and the Equator. It lies in the monsoon region of Asia, with its coastal regions receiving over 5,000 mm (196.9 in) of rain annually. Annual rainfall in the delta region is approximately 2,500 mm (98.4 in), while average annual rainfall in the Dry Zone, which is located in central Burma, is less than 1,000 mm (39.4 in). Northern regions of the country are the coolest, with average temperatures of 21 °C (70 °F). Coastal and delta regions have an average maximum temperature of 32 °C (89.6 °F).

