

GLOBAL GIVING TEACHER TRAINING REPORT



Whispering Seed



from little things...

big things grow!!!

Thoughts from jim
March 2014

Dear Friends and Family,
Welcome to share in our first Global Giving report for Whispering Seed Teacher Training Programs in Myanmar. We have only just started the trainings. Please keep posted on our website and Global Giving for future reports and more details on projects we will be starting and continuing on here in Myanmar!!!

Warmest regards,

-Jim Connor
Founder & Director

Global Giving Open Challenge a Huge Success!!!!

A warm thank you to everyone who contributed to our Global Giving Open Challenge in December. We went above and beyond our original goal and reached \$7,345 from 87 donors. Thank you for all your support.

We have already started several teacher training programs and have more over the next few months. Please keep posted on our Global Giving webpage and our website for further details. Because of the overwhelming success of the campaign and the more callings we keep receiving for further Teacher Trainings, we have increased our fundraising goal another to \$9,000. Please support us in reaching our goal in order to train more teachers, build more classrooms and offer further necessary resources to teachers in remote regions of Myanmar.



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New Earthen Classrooms & Schools for Kachin communities in Northern Shan State

Whispering Seed working in partnership with local community development group based in Yangon to support Kachin IDP (Internally Displaced People) communities Northern Shan State. Many of the Kachin communities located in Northern Shan State are still in conflict with the central Myanmar government.



Due to fighting along the Chinese border, several of these Kachin communities have IDP (Internally Displaced People) camps for those who have fled from the fighting, located within their church compounds. The IDP camps, similar to refugee camps, but within Myanmar boundaries, house mostly women and children in simple bamboo houses. Having fled from conflict zones, they have little access to basic food, shelter, healthcare and basic education.

In February, Whispering Seed went to lead the first training to teach over 60 participants from 13 Kachin communities from all over Northern Shan State. Each of the 13 communities needs classrooms and schools for their growing populations, many of the children coming from within the IDP camps. The first training WS held was to teach how to make earthen adobe bricks. Working together with local development groups, we plan to build the first school with 5 earthen classrooms close to the China border.

This first building will be used as a model school, with members from all 13 communities being trained in all steps of the earthen building, in order to return to their communities with the necessary skills to build their own schools and classrooms. Members from the 13 communities, including the students, teachers and women from IDP camp completed over 10,000 bricks for the first school project. The local drug rehabilitation center also sent many of their recovering patients to participate in the training in hopes of offering new skills for their future. The earthen building is used as tool for community empowerment and involvement, as well as teaching cost-effective building skills which villagers will then be able to apply themselves.



In March, we returned with Dan Lockwood from Dragonfly Community Foundation in Thailand to start the teaching and building of the first school. In just a few days, we were able to design and build most of the first building. Next month, WS will return and teach plastering, painting and finishing work with the teachers and community members. Following this, each of the 13 communities will have the skills and ability to build their own classrooms and schools as they like, using just mud!!! Through our trainings, the Kachin communities are now able to design and build their own classrooms, for extremely affordable prices, while gaining new skills which can be applied in other building projects for their communities.





Children, youth, parents & community members all working to build their own school from the ground up while Kachin Baptists and Burmese Buddhists work together hand in hand in the mud.



Advanced Teacher Training of Trainers

Together with Spirit in Education Movement, Socially Engaged Monastic Schools and Center for the Promotion of Monastic Education, Whispering Seed assisted in facilitating an advanced Training of Trainers. The training was held in the Pa-O region near Taunggyi, in Southern Shan State.



20 teachers from all over Myanmar were gathered for the training to learn new schools to now improve their basic teaching skills but also to become trainers who will now be able to go out and train new young teachers across Myanmar.

The training included training in personal development, life skills training, exposure visits to local projects and sites in around Shan State, including a visit to Inle Lake to meet with other teachers who are also working as community leaders. The training was a great success and partnership with many organizations. We look forward to many more trainings to support teachers to better enhance the quality of life for the poor and marginalized children of Myanmar.



We look forward to sharing more new from our upcoming trainings!!!!

Shanan Education Network Summer Teacher Training

In April and May we will be working again with St Matthews Orphanage Center here in Pyin Oo Lwin and their Kachin education group to help provide teacher training. The teachers come from all over Shan and Kachin States and are working mostly in rural areas. We will be working with 2 groups, one here in Pyin Oo Lwin and one group in Myitkyina, Kachin State.

Continued Earthen Buildings for Kachin in Northern Shan State

In April and May we will also continue our work helping to build Earthen classrooms and schools in northern Shan State with the Kachin communities. We will work to finish the classrooms we have already started and also teach finishing plaster, painting and further design work with the communities. We will also support members from the other 13 communities in preparing for future building projects at their schools.

Whispering Seed Upcoming Teacher Training Projects

Naung Taung Monastery Community Leadership Training for Pa-O Communities

At the end of March, we will travel to Southern Shan State to offer support training to Naung Taung Monastery for their Community Leadership Training. We will provide several days training introducing in Holistic Education, Practical Life Skills and Introduction to Sustainability. We are excited to continue our work and support for the monastery and their surrounding communities.

Holistic Education Teacher Training Materials

Whispering Seed is also partnering with several other education organizations here in Myanmar to work on the document, translation and printing of further reading materials and documentary films focused on Holistic Education and Sustainability. These materials will be used throughout the country for various groups to use during their teacher training as support for the trainings. So far, there are plans for translation into Burmese and Kachin languages.

A Warm Thank You to everyone who has supported
our Teacher Trainings in Myanmar

We look forward to your continued support as we aim to support the children & teachers of Myanmar during this critical time of rebuilding the country. Please keep posted for our future updates on Teacher Trainings and for our new funding raising projects through Global Giving.

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