

## Here's what's new with Asia Heartbeat...

When Bentley and Sandy Tate returned from an October, 2015 trip to various young Christian schools in Myanmar, they were enthusiastic and encouraged about the benefits of joining Christian schools in Myanmar. A desire to bring a Christ-focused education to a broken education system, suffering from 50 years of dictatorship rule, continued to grow.



Therefore, Bentley approached me, Matt Perkins, and my wife, Faith, and asked us to pray about joining the call they feel the Lord has given them to equip schools with a high quality, Christian education in Myanmar. To give you a brief background about ourselves, we both graduated college with teaching degrees, mine in English Education, and Faith's in Elementary Education. I went on to earn my Master's in Education. Faith taught for a few years, and has been home with our four children over the past nine years. I am now in my 14<sup>th</sup> year of teaching, including teaching middle school and high school English, and elementary the past two years.

As we join Asia Heartbeat with a desire and a call from the Lord to not only equip Christian schools with high, quality curriculum and teaching skills, we also see this as a tremendous opportunity for the Gospel to advance in a predominantly Buddhist culture. The children there are bright, capable, and ready to learn. The teachers desire to teach, but struggle to know how to teach, due to lack of educational training. The soil is ready for Gospel seeds that can grow and spread in families through Christian education.



Our vision is to be able to assist with providing organized curriculum, including books and teaching materials they are in desperate need of. This also includes providing teacher training, and equipping leaders in the schools with the skills and ideas necessary to effectively equip their teachers to not only use effective teaching methods but to see each child as a child of God. Ultimately, we pray that nationals and leaders in the schools will embrace the great opportunity to pioneer a high quality, Christ-centered education in Myanmar. Rather than force their culture to adopt our teaching methods, please pray for how we can strategically bring our teaching methods to their culture.

In June, Faith and I, along with Bentley, will be going to Myanmar to begin working and assessing the best avenues to come along side and support these schools. We will be visiting a city called Pyapon to do a medical clinic and support a newly formed preschool. The preschool began this year through the efforts of a young lady named Dar Khu Saw and her pastor, Kap Do. The school is currently functioning without any materials and a goal is to be able to provide Dar Khu Saw with some teacher training, encourage and support her in the English language, and bring her supplies, such as writing materials, picture books, calendars, and Bibles.

The majority of our time will be spent at a Christian school in Yangon. Last year the principal there, Victor, actually visited the school in Denver where I teach and where the Tate's two boys attend. He loved what he saw, and because he has a strong desire to see his students being educated in English, he is excited for us to join him in his desire to educate the children of Myanmar. While there, I will be learning the culture of the school and sharing some teaching strategies and philosophy with the teachers. I will also be modeling teaching in the classrooms. Much of the time will be spent with the leadership of the school, teaching and equipping them. Furthermore, we will all be focusing on what supplies and materials we can begin collecting and sending because the school has very little money.

Please join us as we pray the Lord will provide not only financially for us to come alongside schools, but also for spiritual, emotional, and physical strength as we seek to see the Lord's name glorified. The schools have very little financial support, so we pray we can provide them with necessary books and supplies so the school leaders can focus on equipping and training teachers. Please pray about how you can most effectively support Asia Heartbeat's education ministry in Myanmar.



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