



STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION

Stars of Dawn	
Ministry type	Long term project, community development, informal learning
Area of impact	All areas
Country	Myanmar
Approx. date	September 09
Report source	Aung and Charity Thet, aungthetnyunt@hotmail.com

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Program Name: "Stars of Dawn" Wholistic Development Training

Purpose of the Program: Helping and Training Young People to Grow and Develop like Jesus

Address: 219 Aung Thu Kha Lane, 9th Mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Tel# 95-1-663091

Person Responsible: Charity Nyunt (Khin Hnin Wai) - Coordinator

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Stars of Dawn program was born out of a desire to help Myanmar children and orphans in their spiritual growth, social maturity, physical fitness and educational and vocational pursuits.

The Stars of Dawn Wholistic Development Program

The Wholistic Development Program is designed for young people, irregardless of whether or not they have attended university. The educational system in Myanmar is very substandard and even university graduates who receive better educational training are still ill prepared to secure a job in any of the growing sectors of the economy. In addition, the chaotic political situation over the last 2 decades has led to economic sanctions against Myanmar, and as a result, foreign companies were compelled to fold and move out. As thousands of workers became jobless, prices sky rocketed and the cost of living soared. Inadequate education and a devastated economy have resulted in a loss of self confidence and fear for the future.

In the Wholistic Development program, orphans and needy young people receive educational and vocational training in a multitude of subjects, including Computers, Language Proficiency, Musical Skills, Health Education, Bible, Sewing, Handicrafts, Sports and other subjects as teachers and

materials are available. In the future, Book Keeping and Accountancy, National and International Cuisine Cooking, Nurse Training, Mechanical Workshop, Plumbing and Woodworking Apprentice Training will hopefully be made available. The inaugural beginner-level session of the Stars of Dawn Wholistic Development Program was completed in September of 2004 with 29 graduates.

The results of the first session of the Wholistic Development program have been amazing. Young people who have always questioned their existence and purpose in life are being given the gift of love and hope. One girl said that being an orphan used to make her sad and lonely. But now she says, "I have come to realize that my existence in this life is not accidental. God has a special purpose for me." Students are being shown that they have a purpose and have been gifted by God in various areas. The Stars of Dawn program is helping young people discover and develop their identity and SHAPE in order to have confidence and the opportunity for a spiritually, socially and economically successful life.

Stars of Dawn – Wholistic Development Training

Inspiration verse: "And Jesus grew in wisdom, stature and in favor with God and man." (Luke 2:52)

Purpose Statement

Stars of Dawn exists to glorify God by helping to fulfill the great Commission through developing young people to become servant leaders who grow spiritually, physically, intellectually and socially and actively serve and lead others in their own community to be transformed and reflect Jesus.

Mission

Stars of Dawn exists to nurture, develop and raise-up young people to become Spirit-filled servant leaders for the Harvest in every State and Division of Myanmar and abroad.

Vision

Developing and Empowering Spirit-filled servant leaders for the King's global Harvest

Faith Goal

1. Wholistic development Training Centers to be established in all 14 States and Divisions of Myanmar in ten years from 2005.
2. "Stars of Dawn" Wholistic Leadership Institute" by the year 2010.

Objectives: Young people will learn to:

1. discover their purposes in life.

2. recognize their SHAPE
3. develop and maintain their Moral Values

Spiritual Developments -Desired outcomes:

- Spirit -filled life.**
- Knowing God intimately**
- Obedience to the Word**
- Becoming effective witness as a way of life**
- Becoming like Christ**
- Spiritual multipliers**

The Curriculumms offered are :

1. Assurance of Salvation/Personal relationship with Christ
2. FU group studies # 1 – 6 (Beginning your new life with Christ)
3. Transferable Concepts
4. Ten Basic Steps towards Christian Maturity
5. Evangelism and Discipleship Training
6. Purpose Driven Life (40 days small group reading & discussions)
7. Leadership Development Training (FHI & Harvest Foundation)
8. Community Health Evangelism (CHE)
9. Sunday School Teachers Training (Child Evangelism Fellowship)
10. Seven Dispensations
11. The Attributes of God/ Knowing God
12. Our Identity in Christ/ Knowing Ourselves
13. SHAPE (by Eric Rees)
14. .Biographies & Topical studies

Myanmar Campus Crusade Staff led the teachings in class or in groups. There were also Practical out-reach programs (one on one) on alternate weekends. Speakers from other churches

& organizations were also invited for Topical Bible Studies which helped much in their spiritual Growth.

Social Development-Desired Outcomes:

- Communication skills**
- Self-Esteem**
- Interpersonal skills**
- Gender Knowledge**
- Fellowship & Games**
- Team Building**
- Problem Solving and Resolving Conflict**

Intellectual Studies-Desired Outcomes:

- Computer Skills**
- 4 Skills in English**
- Music(Music Theory, Violin, Piano, Key Board and Guitar)**

Sports & Physical Fitness Development-Desired Outcomes:

- Personal Hygiene
- Physical Fitness & Education (Dance and Martial Art)
- Nutrition
- Healthcare

Fresh Hope and Transformed Lives

Exasperated with his aunt's pleading, teen troublemaker Haung Khaung went to the Stars of Dawn (SOD) center just to get her off his case. Haung was not only addicted to cigarettes and heroin but also to gambling; so much so that he gambled away all of his family's money and properties. This caused his parents so much stress and heartache that they died, leaving him an orphan under his aunt's care.

Hiding his addictions from the SOD examiners, he passed and was admitted to the program. Everyone was astonished, when, after three months, he stopped smoking, drugs and gambling and became one of the center's model students. This transformation prompted a classmate to remark, "I wasn't going to change but because of him, I also wanted to change!" Haung has been diligently serving with SOD after he finished the school term since 2006.

Says SOD student Naw Hser Nay Paw, "I am very grateful to have the opportunity of learning computer, playing keyboard, studying Spoken-English, art, handicraft and having Physical Education. I have never dreamed of getting this kind of training in my life before." Last year, SOD added a University Entrance Exam Preparation Program to aid High School students.

Like Naw, the main draw for most of the students who join the program is the chance to learn English, Computer and Music. As an incentive and a special treat, music students have been given the chance to perform for exposure in various churches.

Also students are learning and growing in their Christian faith as they attend the Bible studies given by CCC staff. They get to experience evangelism and Christian living firsthand as they share the Gospel through house-to-house witnessing and Jesus Film showings in remote villages during their Christmas Holiday outreaches. Of late, a heavy storm severely damaged shelters in a province and the students went there to help build huts. The residents were amazed that "Christians would help them when their fellow Buddhists have not done so."

Students sent by churches also find their leadership skills develop and their burden for the lost deepens. Ma Hnin Htet Htet shares, "Before this training, I don't understand the Great Commission. I used to refuse to tell the Gospel when my friends asked me to. Now I repent for my failure and have been praying for them to have the opportunity of hearing the Gospel. When I look into the eyes of the lost, it seems to me that they are waiting for their Savior. Wherever I go, I want to tell about the goodness of God and about our Savior. I wanted to become an engineer before but now I've committed myself to take part in the Great Commission and fulfill His work."

The impact the program has had on students' lives have been tremendous. One girl, Ma Shwe, said that being an orphan used to make her sad, lonely and even bitter at God. But now she says, "I have come to realize that my existence in this life is not accidental. God has a special purpose for me." Students have been given the gift of love and hope and are being shown that their life and gifts were given by the Lord for a purpose.

By God's grace, SOD's goal of training young people to become spiritual leaders in the church and community is now coming into fruition. Another orphan Maung Htan Nai testifies, "When I heard about this training, I was eager to attend it. I fasted and prayed for three days and after, my warden permitted me to attend it. I'm determined to build up others' lives and to be a good model before them. From now on, I will serve my Lord Jesus. When I go back to the orphanage, I will nurture the children in a loving manner and teach them how to behave when dealing with elders."

Alumni are meeting once a month

Staying 9 months together in the training center bind the students' heart very close to each other. Having the same life purpose of living for God brings them back to meet for worshipping, sharing their experiences and serving together again. Every alumni treasures this time so much. They plan for further ministry and mission. They are praying to have the same training in their own respective states and divisions. They also become the workers for the harvest field. They own the vision of SOD.

To date, 175 students have completed the program. Some of the graduates have gone back to their respective cities, some have gone back to university; others have volunteered to teach in the

center and some have ministries in orphanages. More than 10 former students attend Bible school. Ten students become full time staff at SOD. Three are serving as evangelist and church planters in Nargis cyclone affected area. Some current students have expressed their interest in becoming a CCC staff after they graduate.

Believing God for the Future

At present, SOD is praying and planning to let its qualified teachers earn a Master's degree so as to prepare for its future plans. And at the same time recruiting resource persons for the further education for those who finished the first 9 months at SOD. Notably, the government has already approved the English and Computer classes that the center offers.

The Lord's miraculous moving, encourages SOD to continually believe God for the vision he has given them – for SOD to upgrade a **Wholistic Leadership Institute based on Biblical foundation and secular education, by 2010.**

Expansion Plan of the Wholistic Development Training Institute

2004: Yangon, Yangon Division

2010: Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay Division

2011: Lashio, Shan State

2012: Kayah State and Kachin State

2013: Irrawaddy Division, Mon State and Chin State

2014: Yakhine State, Sagaing Division and Karen State

2015: Pegu Division, Magway Division and Tenassarim Division

You are Welcome!

When the Lord gave me this vision in 2001, I was alone. I started to pray on May 16 2001. My leader as well as my husband blessed me and believe in this call. Without having any resource and man power, my vision becomes stronger and firmer. I started to share this dream with my fellow staff, coworkers and friends. Days and nights, year after year I have been praying, dreaming and planning. This dream of helping to grow and develop the young people in poverty and lack of opportunity came true in 2004.

My fellow staff from Campus Crusade for Christ joined me in fasting and prayer. They personally contribute their time, ideas, experties and experience. Different resource persons join us in management, administration, teaching language, computer skills, music training, sports, etc.

The Lord provided a place, many resource persons and needed funds. If you want to make a difference with you life and resources, we welcome you. SOD is the place and the ministry where

you can invest your resources effectively and fruitfully. Because we invest in the most precious assets: people, who are created in the image of God.



Alumni Meeting



Personal Hygiene Lesson



Personal Evangelism



Nargis Cleanup near Training Area



Bible Study Follow-up Group Meeting



Computer Class



Sewing Class



Seed Project (Water Well Repair in Surrounding Community)



Teaching Sunday School to Unbelieving Children



Violin Class



Keyboard Class



Piano Class



Guitar Class (Taught by SOD Alumni)



Students Eating Lunch



Spiritual Lessons Taught by CCC Staff



2009-2010 Trainees Group Photo



English Speaking Class Taught by Native Speaker



Physical Exercise (Tae Kwan Do)