

Dear Nila friends and supporters,,

Burma/Myanmar is changing and news that would have been unthinkable not very long ago is coming in almost every day. Private newspapers were published on 1 April, the first time in almost fifty years. The abolition of censorship ensures that newspapers can take up critical issues. For example, on their front pages they reported on the bloody clashes between Buddhists and Muslims in the country. The new newspapers were sold out within minutes. It will be interesting to see what effect the new uncensored media has.

New multimedia room

Nila already improved the information and training opportunities in the Myitta Mon orphanage a few months before the publication of the first private newspapers and set up a multimedia room, where the children can learn how to use computers, for example to learn English.

We had already purchased some computers during the summer of 2012 and we have now added some more hardware. Our equipment now comprises fifteen workstations, a flat screen monitor, a printer and a scanner. An English teacher teaches the children every day. Tasks are explained clearly with the help of the flat screen monitor and using a scanner and printer we can hand out educational material to the children. Furthermore, there is enough software available to teach all of the children every day. We have tried the software ourselves - it's great and the children love it.

Teaching English in Burma/Myanmar was banned for several decades. There are only a few English teachers and the pronunciation of English teachers in public schools in particular is not very good. With the help of computer training we intend to improve the quality of English teaching and to increase the number of teaching hours. If this test project is successful, we plan to introduce computer assisted English teaching in all of our orphanages.

(From left to right) Mee Nge, our helper, with a carer from the Shwe Taung Tan orphanage, with her new 'company bicycle', with our two English teachers in Shwe Taung Tan and in front of a pagoda.





(From left to right) The Parents Universal Love orphanage: children playing, a maths lesson with a volunteer teacher, Ralf with the head of the orphanage, dinner cooking in the kitchen.

Changes in our orphanages

As previously reported, the financial situation of the Baptist Daw Ghy Daw Nge orphanage has improved significantly thanks to the involvement of other aid agencies. We have therefore decided to stop supporting this orphanage and instead to take up a new orphanage, which has fewer funds available.

We have chosen the Parents Universal Love orphanage. Fifty children, 22 girls and 28 boys aged between four and eighteen years, live in this orphanage. The happy mood here is striking - the children are carefree, laugh a lot, are relaxed and play football and other sport.

All the children go to school and in the orphanage they have additional lessons in important subjects. Many of the children come from the poor state of Kayah, on the border of which we - along with the Myitta Mon committee - also opened the Pan Pyone Net orphanage in 2012.

The Parents Universal Love orphanage is run by two Buddhist monks who also built it themselves. It is worth mentioning that the monks do not belong to a monastery because they want to implement their own ideas in managing the orphanage. Eight teachers, two cooks and two carers volunteer at the orphanage.

We are convinced of the orphanage and its dedicated leaders and want to help where we believe there is most potential for improvement - the hygienic situation. We have therefore employed a full-time carer to teach the children how to pay attention to their personal hygiene, how to clean up their beds and not to leave any rubbish lying around. She also implements our suggestions for improvement in the orphanage.

Other current projects

In the December newsletter we informed you that we had three water projects in the Buddhist orphanage Shwe Taung Tan. Two of the three water projects have already been



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(From left to right) Our Shwe Taung Tan orphanage: an English class with Shirley - the English teacher we employ - the children in the classroom, morning personal hygiene and playing.

completed: the septic tank for sanitary facilities is in operation and the new roofs over the water tanks help to keep the water clean. The test drillings for new wells have not yet been successful. We shall therefore have to either drill deeper or build the well at a different location.

The preparations for constructing the new orphanage have been completed. We can begin as soon as we receive the building permit. Despite several successful discussions with the ministry, we are however still waiting.

Donation receipts

Donation receipts for 2012 were sent to all donors, for whom we have an address, at the beginning of the year. If you have not yet received a donation receipt, please notify us of your address.

For donations of less than €200 a simplified proof of donation is sufficient. Information can be found on our website under Sie können

helfen (you can help) - Spendenbescheinigung (donation receipt).

Nila Summer Party

We would like to thank all our friends and supporters and to get to know you all more personally. You are therefore invited to this year's summer festival in Hamburg, Germany. It will begin at 19:00 on 15 June 2013 near the Außenalster (outer lake Alster). Please let us know if you can attend and we shall send you the address.

Finally, we would like to give you a few impressions of how the Christmas presents we brought the orphans in your name were received. The next page has a short letter from Mee Nge, our helper in Burma/Myanmar, and a few photographs of the presents being handed over in the Catholic orphanage Brother Felice and the two Baptist orphanages Myitta Mon and Pan Pyone Net.

Ralf



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The boys from Brother Felice (left) and Myitta Mon (right) in their new football shirts, Christmas presents and the Christmas dinner (middle).

Dear NILA,

Today we celebrated Christmas in Brother Felice, Myitta Mon und Pan Pyone Net orphanages. We gave the children your Christmas presents. They are really happy and smiling all the time.

I told them that these presents are from Nila e.V. and they asked me please tell all Nila members thanks a lot. They are really happy and they gave their wishing to you.

We never forget your donations and Christmas presents.

Merry Christmas to you and all your friends
Mee Nge



Mee Nge, 'our Father Christmas', handing over Christmas presents in the orphanages.



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