

# PCANZ Mission Trip to Myanmar January 2012

## A Pilgrimage of Pain & Hope

### Why are we going?

The purpose of going to Myanmar is primarily to connect with our brothers and sisters through the partnership that the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand (PCANZ) has with the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar (PCM). Our time together is about sharing and learning from each other's lives and providing support and encouragement where possible. In our partnership everyone has something to give and something to receive. This will be an opportunity for team members to engage with our brothers and sisters in Myanmar and to see firsthand the initiatives in which the two churches are jointly engaged. It will allow us to catch an enthusiasm for this work and to encourage our local church congregations in participation and support of this mission.

Going to Myanmar is just one way we can participate in the ministry of the church.

To find out about the other opportunities available to support, check out our website [www.myanmar.stcolumba.org.nz](http://www.myanmar.stcolumba.org.nz)

### Please pray for us



#### Margaret Dewse – St Columba – Auckland – Team Leader

Hello, I'm Margaret and since my first visit to Myanmar in 2009 the country of Myanmar and its people have found a very special place in my heart. I am a member of the Myanmar Oversight Board which supports Angela in her role. It is a privilege to have to have the opportunity to introduce the team to a place and people for whom I care so much.

#### Please pray with me:

- For eyes and hearts open to all God wants us to see
- For good team relationships – that we may share friendship, unity, co-operation and fun
- For safe travel and god health for all team members
- For the development of good reciprocal relationships between team members and the folk of Myanmar
- For opportunities to interact meaningfully with members of the PCM



**Angela Norton – St Columba – Auckland**

Mingalaba, I'm Angela, the Myanmar Partnership Coordinator for the PCANZ.

It is a real privilege to be able to be a part of connecting New Zealanders with our brothers and sisters in Myanmar. We both have so much to offer each other through the partnership we have, and it is in being with one another, sharing our lives, faith, food and cultures that we can truly begin to understand and care for one another.

**Please pray for me:**

- That I will hear God's voice throughout the trip
- That I will see, feel and experience what is important to the people in Myanmar and for our team members
- Please pray that I will show compassion, wisdom and discernment where needed



**Rev Peter Cheyne – Moderator PCANZ**

Peter is the current Moderator of PCANZ and will join Angela in attending the Presbyterian Church of Myanmar's Partners Roundtable where they will participate in discussion around the future projects and partnership between the churches.

**Please pray:**

- For understanding of the issues involved when meeting with representatives of other churches interested in mission in Myanmar and the ability to contribute sensibly.
- For clarity regarding teaching opportunities and for the ability to do that in a way that is helpful
- For a growing appreciation of the needs and mission opportunities
- For the ability to support Angela well
- For health and safety
- For God to grow me through this experience



### **Clare Thomson – Knox Church – Dunedin**

Clare is seeking to build on the experiences of other members of her church family who are part of this year's November trip to Myanmar. She has artistic gifts in drama, music and drawing and is wondering how these might be used with the people we will visit.

#### **Clare's prayer requests are:**

- For peace and stability in Myanmar
- For the family that I will be staying with for one night before the rest of the team arrives, that they won't be troubled for letting a foreigner stay
- For our team, that we will all be happy, healthy, and open to new experiences and perspectives



### **Robert Stewart- Dunsandel Trinity Church - Canterbury.**

Robert is originally from Scotland and divides his time between working on a dairy farm and doing a wide variety of voluntary work. He is hoping that the trip will provide opportunities to make a positive difference in the lives of those we meet.

#### **Please pray for me:**

- That I will listen to and be guided by God during my stay in Myanmar
- That my love of God will be strengthened through my Myanmar experience.
- That as a team we can build a lasting friendship and relationship with the people we meet.
- That the partnership between our two churches will grow and evolve during our stay.



### **Marion Bowker - Nelson**

Hi my name is Marion and I have been to Myanmar before but not to the Presbyterian work. I work with former refugees in Nelson and have a passion for the people of Myanmar.

#### **My prayer requests are:**

- That my conversations will be God's words in my mouth.
- That I will be able to encourage my sisters and brothers in their walk with the Lord.
- That I will have wisdom to discern the needs God wants me to participate in.
- That we will all work together as a team.