Myanmar, also called Burma, sits on the Bay of Bengal’s shore, between China and India. It gained independence from Britain in 1948. However, in 1962, a coup d’état put Myanmar under military control. Uprisings and violence have pockmarked the nation’s history as activist and militant groups have attempted to wrestle governing control. The people of Myanmar, the Burmese, continue to live under oppression today, which includes restrictions on the press and how citizens may interact with each other.

Myanmar is a leading source of jade and gems, as well as a producer of natural gas, wood, and fish. However, it remains one of the poorest countries in Asia, and one-quarter of its 55 million people are illiterate. Moreover, it is a source country for human trafficking: men into forced labor, women and children into sex trafficking. It is also a major producer of illicit opium.

These people need the Gospel. Myanmar is a country with a Christian minority where only 6 percent of the Burmese are Christians. In fact, the city of Bagan traces its roots to antiquity. It contains the greatest concentration of Buddhist temples and relics in the world. Most Burmese live along the beautiful coastal areas. Their traditional attire is the *longyi*, a wraparound garment worn by both men and women.

Lutheran Hour Ministries conducts outreach in Myanmar through mass media, literature, and interpersonal channels.

**Ministry Response**

There is tremendous opportunity to share God’s love and reach out with the Gospel in Myanmar. Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM–Myanmar) responds to the spiritual hunger across this Asian country through a variety of strategies:

**RADIO.** People love listening to the radio in Myanmar! Daily during the week, we air one-minute radio spots addressing issues such as stress, depression, and cancer. In addition, we produce and broadcast the *Hope for Youth* program on the internet to bring hope to youth and young adults. Radio programs provide an important venue for promoting free topical booklets and *Bible Correspondence Courses* (BCCs). For those who are interested, we refer them to a nearby congregation.
LIVE EVENTS. Special events provide fun, pressure-free environments for demonstrating the love of Jesus to those who attend, offering more information to those who do not know Him or are new to the faith. Each month, our puppet shows share the Good News with children in ways to which they can relate. Our annual Gospel Through Music program combines music and personal testimonies into a unique experience for those who do not attend church. This is a key way to reach secular young adults.

YOUTH MINISTRY. Today’s young people will become tomorrow’s leaders in Myanmar. As young people struggle with conflicting moral and social choices, our youth program helps them make healthy lifestyle choices and avoid addictive or destructive behaviors. Many participants have never stepped foot inside a church. In Myanmar, we coordinate the JOEL Cup, a sports tournament open to youth of all backgrounds. It provides an opportunity for non-Christians to interact with Christians firsthand.

HOLISTIC OUTREACH. Hospital visits are more critical than you might think. The children we visit, ranging in age from 5 to 13, are susceptible to human trafficking and child labor if they don’t see true love in action. Where fitting, we bring along a puppet, too! On the safety side, we educate women ages 14 to 60 about human trafficking and other topics, sharing the Gospel at the same time, to help them escape poverty and avoid becoming trafficking victims.

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSES. Bible Correspondence Courses (BCCs) introduce the Gospel to people who don’t know Jesus and reinforce a biblical understanding for people growing in their faith. When someone responds to an outreach activity, LHM–Myanmar will typically invite the respondent to begin a BCC as the next step in his or her spiritual journey. BCCs are available for new believers, as well as small group leaders. BCCs are available for adults and children.

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS. LHM–Myanmar conducts Equipping the Saints (ETS) workshops to provide a new generation of Christians with practical ways to carry the Gospel into their local communities. After attending these sessions, believers feel more confident sharing the Good News with their neighbors and inviting them to local congregations. We continue to keep in touch with the participants to help them apply what they learned.

Impact

WORD OF MOUTH: How God’s Work through Lutheran Hour Ministries Caused a Chain Reaction

Several years ago, Zeya suffered from Stage 4 cancer. Her condition was dire.

At that time, she received LHM’s Coping with Cancer booklet, which encouraged her. By God’s grace, she is now cancer-free, but she hasn’t forgotten how much the booklet and staff helped her.

Recently, Zeya was sitting in a taxi cab. Nanda, her driver, had heard about LHM on the radio and asked if she was familiar with it. Yes, she replied, she knew about LHM, and its resources helped her. So Nanda requested an LHM booklet on stress.

That marked the beginning of a beautiful journey.

Nanda had never been to church. But as he read more LHM material, God worked on his heart. Nanda wanted to know more about God, so he began to visit local Christian churches—and noticed a sense of peace followed.

Nanda’s journey continues today. Please pray for him as the Holy Spirit continues to nudge him toward Jesus.

LHM.ORG/GLOBAL

*Due to the sensitive nature of ministry work in this region, please do not reprint this information or post it on social media or in public places.*