



From the Golden Shore

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Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

August was a month full of paradoxical things both exciting and worrisome, both encouraging and discouraging. But that is the life of faith. There is never an open door without an adversary. We just so happened to call our new church Faith Baptist Church, and God seems to be making sure that we earn the name. I have thought often on Philippians 4:12 throughout this month. *"I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need."* The life that exercises faith is the life that is both full and hungry at the same time.

In July, we had our visas renewed for the next year. It was the easiest time to get them through. We submitted the paperwork and the fees and received the new visas. Piece of cake. Next, we take that new visa and report to our local immigration office to get the permission to stay in our house renewed. Most years, it is just a formality, but this year the office wanted more paperwork for which they have never before asked. There was a lot of back and forth with a little bit of threatening that we would have to leave the city until new requirements were met.

At the same time, some of our church teens invited us to watch their high school soccer matches. So we decided to support our church kids and watch the game. When we got there, the stadium manager, who is a friend of one of the parents in our church, let us in and put us in their version of a sky box. High school teachers and kids wanted pictures of us. I was able to give out a few tracts. The team we were rooting for went on to the semi-final and final championship games. We had the pleasure of going to both of those also. Each time, we met more people. After winning the championship, they rushed us down to the field to take a picture with the team, coaches, and school principal. As we took our place behind the team, the neighborhood quarter leader saw us and rushed over to get in the photo with us. We also received an invitation to go out to eat with one of the school teachers who wants to get to know us better. I was struck with amazement because of the stark contrast from earlier in the week.



Throughout the month we continued to have trouble with immigration. What do we do to relax and to allow our minds to feel refreshed? We go find people who are searching for light in this dark and gloomy world. Annie and I started going soul winning and visiting every afternoon just after finishing lunch, and a man from church comes out with me every Saturday. Nearly every time we went out, we saw someone saved. Even with only two people going out every day, we counted eleven souls saved in one week. Just imagine what could happen when we have a church full of people who go out caring about souls. Towards the end of the month, our immigration issues got straightened out, but we do have some things to rectify before next year.



One day, Annie and I met a widow, her two daughters, and her niece. After a few minutes of getting to know them, I shared the gospel and all four of them got saved. The next Sunday this lady and her niece came to church. Another time that we went out, I met a man who was very interested in hearing how to be saved. His elderly mother called down to him from a porch, but he listened through to the end. A few minutes later as we continued walking, I gave a man sitting on a motorcycle a tract. He did not want to talk, so I just asked him to read the tract and went on. We had not gotten very far when a lady came running out after us, yelling, "Wait, wait! You're Christians? I'm a Christian too! I used to attend a church in Yangon, but I haven't found a church since moving here." You truly cannot make this stuff up. She didn't have much time to talk, but she left with a smile on her face knowing that there is a church just a few blocks away from her house.



Sending Church: Grace Baptist Church of Troy, NY
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During Saturday soul winning and visitation, a lady invited us into her house, and we found that the whole back of the house was missing and there was a large natural skylight in the leaf roof. She listened intently as my partner explained the gospel. The next Saturday we waded through a bit of water to get to the houses. We met a retired carpenter who had built his own house himself. When I asked him if he knew Who Jesus is, he said, "I know He died on the cross." I said, "But do you know Who Jesus is and why He died on the cross." After thinking for a minute, he said, "No, I don't know Who He is." Then I proceeded to explain Who Jesus is and gave him the Gospel. When I asked, "Would you like to take God's gift of eternal life?" he readily accepted.

Many people, both in Myanmar and abroad, have voiced their doubts about reaching souls here. It is not always easy, but it is possible. Many people look at us strange as we go house to house inviting people to church and telling them about Jesus. Others who promise to come do not show up. But we go out, and faithfulness pays off. During the last week of August, going out was a bit discouraging with nobody home or very few people wanting to talk.



Last Saturday, Win Zaw Aye and I had an opportunity to talk to two ladies. As we shared the true Light with them, their hearts were opened. After getting saved, they said, "If it doesn't rain, we will come to church." We have heard responses much like that a lot. The overnight rain stopped about six o'clock on Sunday morning. The attendance at church had been pretty low over the last few weeks, so we decided not to rent the truck to pick up people. I took the van to go pick up people we knew that were coming. Our van seats ten people. Within a few minutes, we had five people come unexpectedly, totaling twelve in the van. On the way to the church, the ladies from the day before called and asked for a ride. When we got to their house there were six people waiting. Somehow we got nineteen people squeezed into that ten-seater van. We had twenty-seven in church with ten visitors, six of whom came because of a Divine appointment on the previous day. Will they all come back next Sunday? We cannot answer that. But **everywhere and in all things** we have been **instructed both to abound and to suffer need**.

We thank God for keeping us abounding in His work. Our faith is stronger today than ever before. We are seeing fruit in answer to your prayers on our behalf. Please pray that we get all the required paperwork needed to make our dealings with immigration easier and for our new converts to get in the habit of coming to church and start growing in the Lord. We know that God keeps His promises. Because of that, we keep going out and loving people. We trust God will be faithful as we do our part in obeying His command. We pray that God gives you the privilege to experience this exciting paradox of the living by faith. God bless.

Yours for souls,

The Davis Family

Matthew 4:16



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