

August 27, 2008

Dear Friends,

I have returned from Myanmar. The Yangon and the Irrawaddy Divisions are disaster zones because of the damage wreaked by cyclone Nargis. However, I am happy to report that US Collection was able to assist the people. Because of your support, US Collection accomplished many good deeds. US Collection helped thousands of displaced storm victims in Myanmar through its humanitarian activities. Regardless of politics, US Collection made allies and found supporters in the cyclone relief effort.

It was good to see the relief efforts taking place by a variety of persons, groups, and agencies, but as I always mention – humanitarian efforts were needed long before any such disaster. US Collection went back to areas where we already had established programs to continue our aid work. I have been helping the people of Insein, Shwepyithayar, and Hlaingthayar since I was a young man, but now with the organized power of US Collection, greater humanitarian aid projects can be accomplished.

US Collection fed thousands with the distribution of rice. We fixed the roofs of seven huts and helped families get back on their feet. These poor people are just struggling to survive, and US Collection was able to help in this struggle. We were welcomed into the villages with smiling faces. We fought against poverty, disease, and hunger. Slowly we are winning the war. Please help us fight the battles against poverty, disease, and hunger. It is a war we can win.

I am physically and mentally drained. So much more work needs to be done. The clean-up after the cyclone in the Yangon and Irrawaddy Divisions will take many many years. The war against poverty, disease, and hunger is ongoing but winnable. I hope you will help US Collection as we continue to help the needy people of Myanmar. I faced so much poverty, disease, and hunger, but I am not depressed because I know these scourges can be eradicated in Myanmar. Slowly and methodically, these scourges can be eradicated. Please help.

“God, give us the grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.” This is the Serenity Prayer by Pastor Reinhold Niebuhr. I know God loves Myanmar. I call upon all the leaders of the U.S., Burma-exiles, and Myanmar to change your hearts and drop your pride and help the people. God is watching and sees into our hearts. Please help US Collection do the work to eradicate poverty, disease, and hunger from Myanmar.

Sincerely,

Thet Win  
Founder  
US Collection