

^TS. JAMES' *Connections*

Bicentenary 2019-2024

Mynmar Water Challenge

Anthony Naake

Extracted Articles:

April/May 2019

April/May 2020

October/November 2020

December 2020/January 2021

MYANMAR WATER



Women in Pyay Deanery carry containers after collecting water © ABM/Brad Chapman 2015

In 2019 for the Anglican Board of Mission's (ABM) 'Integrated Water Sanitation and Hygiene Project' in Myanmar, I have set myself a challenge—to raise \$50,000! Many villages in Myanmar do not have access to clean water due to contamination of rivers and existing wells drying up during summer. Consequently, women and children can spend hours in the hot weather every day walking long distances to collect water for their villages.

I recently visited Myanmar with ABM, who currently have several development projects there. I saw first hand the lack of access to clean drinking water and the serious implications for people's health, such as water-borne disease.

This project is to support healthy potable drinking water to Oun Tee Wa village. The water source

will be taken from the mountain 2.4 miles (3.9km) from the village and will be piped into the village by using plastic PVC Pipes. Two cisterns will be built (one in the village and one will be at the water source).

Oun Tee Wa villagers are using water from the stream of Kalet Chaung, which is muddy during the monsoon and also dirty in summer. Unclean water causes many diseases, such as cholera and diarrhoea, even when people use boiled water for drinking. Kalet Chaung stream is 25 minutes walk from the village. The villagers need potable drinking water and this project will solve their issues. There are 43 families, 77 children (35 male, 42 female), 160 adults (84 male, 76 female) in Oun Tee Wa Village.

ABM has placed a priority on helping communities in Myanmar

to improve their access to clean water. This year ABM aims to build two tube wells and provide piped mountain water to a total of 774 people, and conduct hygiene and sanitation awareness raising seminars.

Training workshops, typically conducted in the local church, cost \$60, and educate 20 people on personal hygiene and sanitation, gender and environmental awareness, and agriculture.

Two basic fly-proof latrines cost \$100, and \$500 funds the fee of a professional water technician. The construction of a tube well, which provides water for up to 225 people, costs \$2,750.

One very important factor to me about ABM's work here is that the benefits go to everyone, of any religion, and even the non-believers!

CHALLENGE 2019

If you belong to a group, society or an organisation that you think may be able to help my challenge I am very willing to visit, show a presentation and answer any questions.

A small donation from Australia goes a long way in these villages in Myanmar. They are very resourceful people who work hard and nothing much goes to waste.

With your generosity in supporting the 'Integrated Water Sanitation

and Hygiene Project', together we can ensure people in Myanmar villages gain access to clean water and learn about good hygiene and safe sanitation.

So please join ABM and myself in reaching our goal of \$50,000 in 2019.

From 1 to 14 February 2020 I will be travelling with ABM on an organised trip to Myanmar to see various projects including, Integrated Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and of course

some amazing culture! If you are interested in joining us and for more information please contact Wilnor Flores wilnor.flores@abmission.org.au

To donate please visit abmission.org/TonyNaake

Gifts to the Integrated Water Sanitation and Hygiene Project are tax-deductible.

Anthony Naake is a parishioner at St James' Church.



Tony Naake by the lake in Yangon.

Above:
Men, women and children help carry PVC pipes for the construction of their water system. The pipes will bring water to the village from the mountain. © ABM

Right:
Children carrying water jars and waiting their turn at the communal tap, after ABM's water system was installed in Yung Let Wa village. © ABM

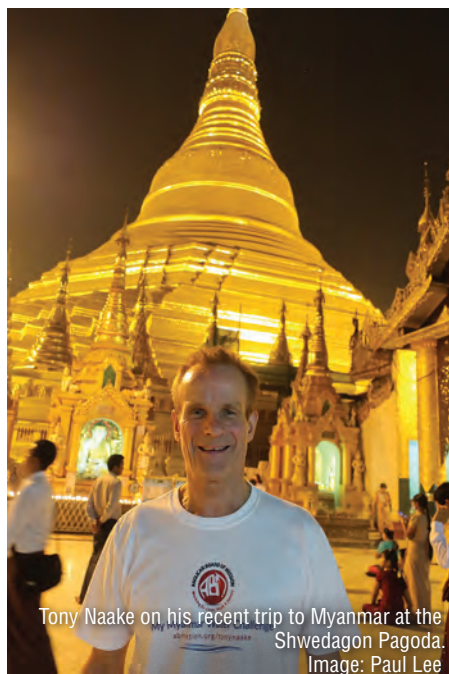


To help Tony reach his goal please donate via this link: www.abmission.org/TonyNaake

Mingalabar!

(Welcome and good fortune!)

Tony Naake



Tony Naake on his recent trip to Myanmar at the Shwedagon Pagoda.
Image: Paul Lee

“Good morning”, “good afternoon”, “good evening” and “good night”—we have so many ways to greet people. However, in Myanmar one simply says “*Mingalabar!*” If I had to sum up my third pilgrimage to Myanmar in February 2020 with the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM) it would be: laughter, emotional tears, joy and happiness!

My interest started on an ABM pilgrimage in 2017 when we visited Mya Goe Gyi, a remote village in the Ayeyarwaddy delta, a major rice-growing area. The area is surrounded by water but is unusable due to severe contamination and pollution, which is mainly due to fertiliser runoff, factory waste, and all sorts of human waste and garbage that get discharged into the river.

As a result, the people use copious amounts of plastic bottled water; the women have to walk miles to surrounding villages every day to collect clean drinking water. Since that first visit, my passion

grew to make a small contribution to this wonderful country.

In April 2019 my Myanmar Water Challenge was launched to supply clean drinking water to these remote villages. My original target was to raise \$30,000 but my good friends at ABM supplied me with promotional material to raise \$50,000! How could I refuse?

So here I am in February 2020 back in Yangon, the capital city of Myanmar, renowned for its colonial heritage buildings. Every trip to Yangon has to include a visit to the gilded Shwedagon Pagoda. This time we visited at night, witnessing large crowds of people of all ages paying their respects to Buddha.

The first two days of the pilgrimage were spent with the Myanmar Provincial Development Desk staff and meeting the Men's Group and the Mother's Union who shared progress on their projects.

I could hardly wait for our bus trip to Yaytarley Village to witness the vibrant

community where villagers are now enjoying the benefits of ABM's partnership with improved water sanitation, waste management, and livestock grazing practices. Prior to ABM's involvement in the village, there was no clean drinking water, very little sanitation, and no toilets. Bringing clean drinking water to a remote village in Myanmar is my passion, something we all take for granted in Australia! ABM's project was to construct three tube wells and at least 20 latrines with septic tanks in the village. The best thing is that after the three tube wells were constructed and in operation, the villagers used the technology and know-how to construct a further eight tube wells for the village. The water is piped from the well by generator into a holding tank to let the water settle as the quality is not good enough to drink. After 3 days the water is tapped to another smaller tank for use and the holding tank is cleaned. To drink this water it has to be filtered or boiled.



A holding tank and two water outlets at Yaytarley village.
Image: Tony Naake



Latrines and septic tanks promote good hygiene at Yaytarley Village.
Image: Tony Naake

Saying “*Mingalabar*” to the villagers was a teary experience—we have so much and they have so little. However, we might think they don’t have very much but, as an agricultural country who produce rice as their major export, they seem happy and content with what they have.

Back on the road again to Taungoo, on the way we visit the Men’s Association organic farming programme at Hlegu. ABM partners in several projects here

by purchasing the land and building accommodation and a work area for the four farm workers. The use of fertiliser is not good for the land or the produce. Runoff into the water systems creates contamination, hence the practice of making natural compost with a special brown liquid, which can be achieved in just two weeks! Breeding pigs, selling them at the market and rice farming are now slowly producing an income. I drank water straight from the new tube well in

Hlegu and can report no after-effects! The plan is to invite farmers and students to learn about animal husbandry and organic farming. As electricity is about two miles from the farm, one of the students, who is also an electrician, has constructed a windmill and a solar panel to supply the buildings with electricity—he is very innovative!

In Taungoo we were present for the opening of the lecturers’ accommodation at St Peter’s Bible school, which ABM has contributed to. We were inspired by a visit to the early childhood centre Agape 2 which ABM first supported in 2010; it was self-sufficient by 2015, and we were privileged to visit there in 2017. The project was then extended to Agape 1, next to the bishop’s house which we were thrilled to visit on this latest trip.

In 2020, ABM aims to supply clean drinking water to a total of 2,750 people in 8 villages. Seminars will also be conducted to cover important topics such as hygiene and sanitation, environmental awareness,



Clean ‘Ready to drink Water’ from the tube well at Hlegu.
Image: Tony Naake



Sunset at the longest teak bridge in the world at Mandalay.
Image: Tony Naake

safe agricultural practices and women's empowerment.

Training workshops, typically conducted in the local church, cost \$60 to train 20 people in four different topics: personal hygiene and sanitation, gender and environmental awareness, and agriculture. \$100 buys two basic fly-proof latrines. \$500 funds the fee of a professional water technician. Construction of a tube well, which provides water for up to 225 people, costs \$2,750. So much can be achieved with people's generous support!

One very important factor to me regarding ABM's work in Myanmar is that the benefits go to everyone: any religion and even the non-believers! A small donation from Australia goes a long way in villages. They are very resourceful people who work hard and nothing much goes to waste.

As well as witnessing the great work of ABM, we had some time off sightseeing at Inle lake, a significant world biosphere site, as well as watching gold leaf making at Mandalay, and a day trip on the Ayeyarwaddy river to Bagan, including hot

air ballooning over the ancient temples.

If you belong to a group, society or an organisation that you think may be able to help my Myanmar Water challenge, I am very willing to visit in the future, show a presentation and answer any questions. Please contact Wilnor Flores at wilnor.flores@abmission.org.au.

The donation progress to date is \$35,320 so we require a further \$14,680—that's

about another 5 tube wells! Help me in reaching my challenge and give a gift that is worth sharing. For further information, please visit www.abmission.org/tonynaake

The Integrated Water Sanitation and Hygiene Project is tax-deductible—*Mingalabar!*

Tony Naake is a parishioner of St James'



All dressed in traditional costume for a farewell dinner with the staff at Yangon.
Image supplied.

Ready, Steady, Flow!

Tony Naake

In April 2019, my 'Myanmar Water Challenge' was launched to supply clean drinking water to remote villages. During 2019 my fundraising activities included: email campaigns, two articles and advertisements in *St James' Connections*, and weekly updates in St James' pew sheets, after-breakfast and dinner talks, a short radio interview, collecting donations after lunches and dinners, visual presentations to groups, and two garage sales, where I sold most of my beloved collection of vinyl LP albums, including Jethro Tull and Pink Floyd!

These donations have enabled the Anglican Board of Mission to supply clean drinking water to a total of 2,750 people in 8 villages. Seminars have also been conducted to cover important topics such as hygiene and sanitation, environmental awareness, safe agricultural practices and women's empowerment.

In early February 2020, I visited Myanmar. My trip included a trip to Yaytarley Village to witness the vibrant community where villagers are now enjoying the benefits



Image courtesy of Hpa-an Diocese (C)



Image courtesy of Hpa-an Diocese (C)

of their partnership with the Anglican Board of Mission (ABM), with improved water sanitation, waste management and livestock grazing practices. Prior to ABM's involvement in the village, there was no clean drinking water, very little sanitation and no toilets. Bringing clean drinking water to a remote village in Myanmar is my passion, something we all take for granted in Australia! ABM's project was to construct three tube wells and at least 20 latrines with septic tanks in the village. The best thing is that after the three tube wells were constructed and in operation, the villagers used the technology and know-how to construct a further eight tube wells for the village. The water is piped from the well by generator into a holding tank to let the water settle, as the quality is not good enough to drink. After three days the water is tapped to another smaller tank for use, and the holding tank is cleaned. To drink this water, it has to be filtered or boiled.

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awareness, and agriculture. \$100 buys two basic fly-proof latrines with septic tanks. \$500 funds the fee of a professional water technician. Construction of a tube well, which provides water for up to 225 people, costs \$2,750. Construction of a gravity-fed water system, which provides water for up to 225 people, costs \$2,750. So much can be achieved with people's generous support!

Since the end of 2019, fundraising has been understandably difficult with the bushfires, drought and now COVID-19. However, as a result of such generous support, I am very pleased that the donations to date have amounted to just over \$47,000!

A further \$3,000 is required, which is about one more tube well! Please help me in reaching my challenge and give a gift that is worth sharing. Please visit www.abmission.org/tonynaake for further information.

The Integrated Water Sanitation and Hygiene Project is tax-deductible.

Tony Naake is a parishioner at St James'.



TAKE PART IN TONY'S \$50,000 WATER CHALLENGE!

Tony Naake has challenged himself to raise \$50,000 to support ABM's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Project.



Many villages in Myanmar do not have access to clean water due to contamination of rivers and existing wells drying up during summer.

Consequently, women and children can spend hours in the hot weather every day walking long distances to collect water for their village.

Tony recently visited Myanmar with the Anglican Board of Mission, who currently have several development projects there. He saw first hand the lack of access to clean drinking water and the serious implications for people's health, such as water-borne disease.

ABM aims to build two tube wells and provide piped mountain water to a total of 774 people, and conduct hygiene and sanitation awareness raising seminars.

Please support Tony's Water Challenge so that we can ensure people in Myanmar gain access to clean drinking water and learn about good hygiene and safe sanitation.

The Integrated Water Sanitation and Hygiene Project is tax-deductible.



To help Tony reach his goal please donate via this link: www.abmission.org/TonyNaake

Appeal for Archives

Do you have any memorabilia associated with St James' that the Archives could have or borrow, as we move to celebrate the bicentenary of the Church's consecration?

If so, please contact the Archivist, Gordon Cooper at rgc@tsn.cc

Borrowed material will be photographed or digitised and returned to its donor.

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humanity is caught up in selfishness, brokenness, and sin. We are part of the problem, but we also have the opportunity of being part of the solution. That is why God came into the world in Jesus and invited us to become his followers—the choice is ours.

The promises of God are not a cynical exercise in buying popularity, but rather an offering made for the whole world to which we are invited to respond. We therefore note that Jesus, whose coming we celebrate at Christmas, did not remain a bubbling baby

lying in the straw, but became the one of whom John the Evangelist wrote:

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ...

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. (John 1:14 & 16)

In the meantime, we wait with anticipation.

The Rev'd Andrew Sempell is Rector at St James'.



Aumbry in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, St James' Church
Image: Brooke Shelley

A message from Tony Naake...

Myanmar Water Challenge *SMASHED!!*



Tony Naake
Image supplied.

I am very happy to report that the target to raise \$50,000 has now been now reached. In fact, we have overflowed to \$50,500 and 30 cents!

As the COVID-19 restrictions made it impossible to hold events, fundraising has been limited, so most donations have been forthcoming via word of mouth, through articles I have been fortunate to have published in *St James' Connections*, updates in St James' Church pew sheets, and also donations from a group of very generous diners who would always make a collection after frequent lunches.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone who has made a contribution in any way to reach the target. In the meantime have a happy and safe Christmas, all the very best for the new year, and I can't wait to get back to Myanmar!

Mingalabar!

Tony Naake is a parishioner at St James'.

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Bicentenary 2019-2024

St James' Connections

sjks.org.au/church/our-story/parish-connections/