

Report of Myanmar Unit-1

Unit-1 is represented by the Conference Methodist Women's Fellowship of the Lower Myanmar Episcopal Methodist Church in Yangon, Myanmar. Currently, the Unit comprises of 7 Churches with 200 members in its registry, having cleared up-to-date of its pledges due to the Federation.

Activities realised

During this Office-Bearing term, Executive Committee Members have presented the entire Membership of Local Chapters between the 12th and 15th of February, 2017, where the objectives of increasing fellowship with God among members, well-organised for the preparatory process of its Denominational Church Women's Retreat to move on with the concerning MDGs agreed upon. The previous AGM was held in Yangon with Christian Home and Family Life and Homestead Micro Business Trainings conducted therein. Initial organisational trips have been realised between Yangon and Bago, consecutively, among split Women's Fellowships for decades. This activity is collecting Momentum in the eyes of the Clergymen of both split-endings. There was a Get Together Training Activity hosted by Unit-3 where the other two Units have also come together to join it, totaling to two hundred in the attendance. Activities of the Unit are normally discussed and approved once every 6 months of a year starting 1st Jan.

All activities implemented by this Unit have gone through the 24-hour Prayer Chain since 2016 which included the Area Seminar and the Federation-managed Weaving Together Programme. Inclusive of our plea for the health of our dear World Officer, our fervent Prayer Chains have proven that 'Prayers are the answers to all impossible things!' We request to all sisters of our Area to join us in our continual prayers for the out fluxed almost 700 thousand refugees now in Bangladesh.

During the 2-year period under report, an Annual Retreat was convened from 25th till the 30th of April, 2016 in Min-data in the Chin Hills bordering India. The chosen theme of the Retreat was 'A good man's words are a fountain of life, but a wicked man's words hide a violent nature' taken from Proverbs 10:11 which gave an energetic stimuli to over a hundred in the attendance from mainland parts of the country.

The Unit's Helen Kim Scholarship awardee has been seconded to the Chinese-speaking Grace Church of Yangon for Sunday Schooling purposes where she has been found recommendable by the recipient Church.

Unit-1 has, further, served God through major fund-raising for the Seminar, organising an excursion trip in the environs of Yangon City, provision of the National Media coverage of the Seminar and effective assistance for the Organising Committee by accompanying 4 trips to Upper Myanmar's Mandalay City. Moreover, in order to overcome the mammoth language barrier of the country, Unit-1 has put-in efforts of organising for a simultaneous Interpreter, along with devices for a Conference Level. Also, inputs for a professional teacher for the Burmese rendition of the translated Federation Song and Individual fund-raising for the Area Seminar has been given. Support to the Federation further, has been provided by assigning the Unit's President to participate in the Advance Planning Meeting in Chennai, India.

Fund-raising Activities:

There has been no external funding for the joint 3-Unit Programme so far. However, Unit-1 keeps on running on a 'Handful of rice saved' for a single day and other individual collections received on an adhoc basis.

Future works:

Advocacy works for the Federation's Activities have been started, but will be expanded in the times to come, They include Tree of Life literature translation and the Monthly Prayer Requests of the Federation. A National Level Gathering, each have taken places following the Huston Assembly and the Chicago Meeting, giving details of our Area's three MDGs to be met during this QQ, namely: Clean Water and Sanitation, Gender equality and Reduced Inequalities within the Area.

The Unit actively participated in the officially-formed Organising Committee of the 2018 South Asia Area Seminar in Myanmar by representing in a total of 10 meetings covered so far, in implementing its goals and purposes laid down. It happens to be the 1st time in two decades that three split Units have come together under in an officially-formed Joint Committee for the Federation-lead Gathering. Having this historical platform paved, all Units of the Federation have been seen not only in the photographic records of the Area Seminar and the Weaving Together Programme, but for the 1st time, in the State Media of the country! It is a proven factor that the Theme "You are mine (Isaiah43:1)" has been rightly-chosen by all of us!

We, as chosen people of God, extend our welcome spirit and continued efforts to build-up better working relationship with all other Units and of those under recognition or on an Observing Status by the World Federation. Bamblelah!

Sandar Aung
President, Area Unit -1
President, Conference Methodist Women's Federation