

# INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY



The Anglican Relief and Development Fund®



## MYANMAR: DIOCESE OF PYAY, SECURES A PERMANENT HOME

New three-story building will house a chapel, staff quarters, diocesan offices, and a conference hall



At the consecration of the Rev. Clement Sun Oo as Bishop of the Missionary Diocese of Pyay in May 2018, the following bishops laid hands on him: Bishop Kevin Bond Allen of the Diocese of Cascadia, ACNA and Archbishop Stephen Than Myint Oo, Primate of the Church of the Province of Myanmar.

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

**CONTEXT:** Diocese of Pyay in Myanmar was established Jan. 6, 2023. Diocesan leaders seek to build a headquarter to serve the people in this new jurisdiction. It now shares space with St. Mark's Cathedral in Pyay, Myanmar, which limits diocesan activities. It is also far from the Pyay community that the diocese serves. Like many regions of Myanmar, those living in Pyay need to be reached with the Good News and disciplined in their faith as many have not grown up in Christianity. The educational and community development training will help people grow in many ways.

**NEED:** Diocese of Pyay seeks to establish a base to provide a solid church experience for its members and the community. It needs a place to host weekly services, baptisms, marriages, and other functions. The facility will also allow the diocese to provide social-economic programs that help meet the needs of the community and congregants such as schools, conference facilities.

**SOLUTION:** With support by the Anglican Relief and Development Fund (ARDF), this project will allow the Diocese of Pyay to build a three-story, 7,920-square-foot building that will house diocesan offices, guest rooms, meeting rooms, and a conference hall that can be used for community development and training. It will also house a chapel and staff quarters.

### LIFE IMPACT

Benefits 3,050 people, some in multiple ways:

- 2,500 current members of the diocese will have a new church home where they will be disciplined and experience life together as a body of Christ.
- 50 new believers will be welcomed to the Christian faith in an open space and offered programs that help nurture their faith.
- 500 new people from the community will be able to access a church in their community. These are those who previously could not travel to the cathedral due to its distance from Pyay or those who are curious about the faith will be invited to explore its teachings.

### PROJECT PROFILE

ID: ARDF-0723-Myanmar

Lead Ministry

**ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF PYAY, MYANMAR**



LIVES IMPACTED 3,050

SECTOR OUTREACH/EVANGELISM

AMOUNT REQUESTED \$146,667

ARDF COST PER BENEFICIARY \$48

TIMELINE 24 MONTHS

### IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"We are the parents of a kindergartner and a second-grader who attend school in Nga-lu-san village. We are thankful that Pyay Diocese sent schoolteachers to teach at our village school, as well as provided the desks and chairs needed for the school children. Our children and all the village children can now learn to read and write in our own village and do not have to travel to other villages. We are so grateful for this support the Pyay Diocese gave to our village children for such a difficult time as this. ... Thank you so much, Pyay Diocese."

– Ko Soe Naing, parent of two students from Nga-lu-san



## WHAT IT'S LIKE NOW



*“Christians in Myanmar are estimated to make up around 8.2% of the population, roughly 5.5% Protestant,*

*1.3% Roman Catholic, and the remainder members of independent churches. Of these groups, about 2.5% identify as Evangelicals and 2.1% as Pentecostals.”*

— ‘Christianity in Myanmar,’ Religion and Public Life at Harvard Divinity School; Copyright 2023, President and Fellows of Harvard College

*“Pyay is situated around (180 miles) north of Yangon and is part of Myanmar’s many ancient capitals. It is a quiet and peaceful stupa studded on the Ayeyarwedy River in Myanmar. The hilltop, located in the center of the town, is one of the biggest pilgrimage sites in Myanmar and offers panoramic views of the river and beautiful surroundings.”*

— [thutatravel.com/pyay/](http://thutatravel.com/pyay/)

*“For Myanmar to experience true transformation, the division and conflict among ethnic groups must be addressed, and Christian leaders are in a great position to help bring the healing and restorative powers of Jesus Christ.”*

— Christian Leaders Have an Unprecedented Opportunity to Impact Myanmar; [daintl.org/blog/articles/stories/christian-leaders-opportunity-impact-myanmar/](http://daintl.org/blog/articles/stories/christian-leaders-opportunity-impact-myanmar/)

## PROJECT DESIGN

The 1,980-square-foot ground floor will house the diocesan staff quarters. The conference hall, office spaces, and a chapel will be on the next floor. A dormitory, guest room, and meeting rooms will be on the third floor. A multipurpose space will be on the roof top that can host various events.

Leaders of the Province of Myanmar will provide the Pyay Diocese with project oversight and an experienced project manager. Utilizing their experience with similar construction projects, the leaders can help form a building committee, deal with contractors, identify suitable engineers, and monitor progress. The work will be supervised by The Rt. Rev. Clement Sun Oo, Bishop, Diocese of Pyay, assisted by the Rev. Adam Myo Min Oo, General Secretary, Diocese of Pyay.

The diocese plans to mobilize its 2,500 members to give \$1 a month for 24 months. This will help raise \$60,000 for the project. With these funds, along with other donations from other Anglican churches, the diocese expects to build the foundation and first floor themselves. The other floors will be built with funding from ARDF and other funding agencies. The diocese will monitor closely to keep costs within budget, adjust expenses, and use volunteer labor — under the supervision of a professional contractor. The new building will provide space for pastoral care for the Pyay communities, including the celebration of the sacraments, promotion of spiritual growth, and assistance to those in need.

Education and faith formation programs are frequently prioritized by the diocese, which includes access to high schools, religious education programs, and opportunities for clergy, religious, and laity to continue their education. There will be student hostels, free tuition, and study tables, all of which encourage young people to commit to the work of the church.

**Measuring impact.** Once the facility opens, the diocese will track attendance at the church and the number of people attending events and conferences. In addition, fundraising goals will be monitored closely, and construction milestones will be monitored. A fully functioning building that is able to host more than 3,000 people on weekly basis in Pyay will be the mark of success of this investment.

### PROJECT BUDGET

ITEM	ARDF FUNDS	LOCAL FUNDS
Foundation construction		\$40,000
First floor construction		\$40,000
Second floor construction	\$41,000	
Third floor construction	\$54,000	
Roof construction	\$25,000	
Project administration, monitoring and evaluation <sup>1</sup>	\$26,667	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$146,667</b>	<b>\$80,000<sup>2</sup></b>

This mark is used throughout the report to indicate additional information available upon request.

### HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

For \$22.13, you can provide a single congregant with a place for worship for one year.  
For \$448, you can provide 10 people with a place for worship for two years.  
For \$4,800, you can provide a sanctuary for 100 people.  
For \$10,000, you can provide 208 people with a place for worship.

### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> ARDF contracts project research, monitoring and evaluation with The Grid and provides administration and communication to ensure full project funding  
<sup>2</sup> reflects funds supplied by \$2,500 in monthly tithes during construction. Thus far, the diocese has raised \$10,000 from members and is on course to raise more funds.



**IMPLEMENTER FINANCIALS\*** 

This project adheres to some or all of this sector's established best practices

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>%</b>
Donations and contributions	38,879	79	32,631	76	42,774	74
Tithes	1,471	3	2,046	5	2,987	5
Pension	606	1	427	1	409	1
Evangelism, training, retreat, mission	1,495	3			1,174	2
Fundraising	282	1	391	1	479	1
Investment and interest	4,154	8	5,347	12	4,908	9
Miscellaneous	2,514	5	2,334	5	4,516	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49,401</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>43,176</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>57,247</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2021</b>		<b>2022</b>	
Personnel	16,102	36	12,784	34	12,872	23
Donations	16,617	37	14,737	40	23,941	43
Travel, hospitality and other	7,495	17	7,184	19	14,659	26
Investment	4,606	10	2,668	7	4,502	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44,820</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>37,373</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>55,974</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>4,581</b>		<b>5,803</b>		<b>1,273</b>	

**NOTES:** \*Income and expenditures reported in U.S. dollars

**INCOME:** Donations and contributions stayed consistently in the upper 70% range for each year analyzed. Donations and contributions rose 11% from 2020 to 2021 and 77% from 2021 to 2022 mostly due to 55% increase in donations from parishes and a 77% increase in development project donations from the province for 2022. Other sources of income remained consistent.

**EXPENSES:** Donations was consistently the highest percentage of total expenses for all three years analyzed, followed closely by personnel (which includes pension expenses). Donations expense rose 92% from 2021 to 2022 mainly due to a 77% increase in development project expense consistent with the 77% increase in development project income.

**RISK ANALYSIS**



Low: 1, Low/Medium: 2, Medium: 3, Medium/High: 4, High: 5 

**CONCEPT: 1**

This is a newly formed diocese that only received diocesan status in January 2023. It will serve the members of this diocese with education, training, and conferences that will be provided at the diocesan office building. This is the right time for the diocese to have its own building as it has recently achieved full diocesan status.

**PROGRAM DESIGN & EXPERIENCE: 3**

Diocese of Pyay will receive project support from the Province of Myanmar, which has experience with large construction projects, including those supported by ARDF. However, as this is construction in a new area, the location may provide its own unique challenges that could impact construction. The team has mapped out the construction schedule to minimize this risk and laid out clear deliverables.

**LEADERSHIP: 1**

Bishop Clement Sun Oo has been instrumental in the growth of the Diocese of Pyay. He has established 10 parishes and five church plants, including the church plant in Kyee-bin-kan village where members built their own worship place. He has also overseen the establishment of a hostel ministry, preschool ministry, and a potato chip business that subsidizes diocesan work. Under the bishop, the diocese has self-funded much of its work, even though most congregants are farmers.

**FINANCIAL CONTROL: 3**

The diocese has provided financial statements for 2020, 2021, and 2022. It has an operational budget of \$55,000 projected for its 2024 activities, which is significantly lower than the cost of this construction project. Accounting will be crucial for a project this size to keep income and expenditures well defined. If there is no funding or partial funding, the diocese will continue the project with its own resources and will extend the deadline, as needed.

**SUSTAINABILITY: 1**

There will be diocesan-wide fundraising to encourage every member to contribute and own this project. Community members will be involved through financial contributions and prayers. The project has multiple sources of funding besides the amount requested from ARDF, which reduces overdependence on one source.

**EXTERNAL: 3**

The Pyay area is safe and far from the conflicts that occurred in 2021 that put the Karen communities at war. However, the nation continues to suffer political instability as recently as February 2021, when the Myanmar military, or Tatmadaw, successfully deposed the elected Myanmar government and formed a military junta. Such instability can impact even peaceful areas like Pyay.



## LEADERSHIP PROFILES

The Rt. Rev. Clement Sun Oo serves as Bishop for the Diocese of Pyay. His background includes:

- a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from Yangon University, Yangon, Myanmar
- a bachelor of theology degree from Holy Cross Theological College in Yangon
- master's degrees from Myanmar Institute of Theology, Insein, Yangon, and Trinity School for Ministries, Ambridge, Pennsylvania

The Rev. Adam Myo Min Oo will serve as the program leader. His background includes:

- a bachelor of arts degree in history from Pyay University
- a bachelor degree in theology from Holy Cross Theological College
- a master's of divinity degree from Myanmar Institute of Theology

Zin Zin Wah will serve as project manager. Her background includes:

- experience in community development
- experience in and knowledge of construction

## REFERENCES

*"Bishop Clement is young and active in the ministry with innovative ideas. He is an obedient and listening person. He has the capacity to upgrade the skills of his ministers and lay leaders to receive capacity in evangelization and community development for serving the church and community. He has the capability to lead his flock in faith in God and multiply the believers in his diocese."*

– Dr. Cynthia Yin Yin Maw, provincial director, The Mothers' Union, The Church of the Province of Myanmar

## BEST PRACTICES

Based on The GRID's research, this project adheres to the following best practices:

- Affirm consistently that the poor are made in the image of God; enable the poor to see God in their history; Initiate hope-based action for change.
- Implemented by individuals living and working in the culture and therefore less dependent on ongoing external support.
- Accompany a Gospel presentation with holistic care and provision for beneficiaries.

## RESEARCHER'S STATEMENT



**Rhoda Gathoga**  
Sr. Research Analyst  
July 2023

Leaders of Pyay Diocese have shown their commitment to leading the mission into a full-fledged diocese that is meeting the people's spiritual, social, educational, and economic needs. The leaders intend to raise significant local funds. Religious and political settings could impact the work as policies regarding religious tolerance, banking, and security continue to shift. Despite the challenges, the diocese is located in a safer region of the nation, and is less likely to be impacted by the social-political changes elsewhere.

### IMPLEMENTER'S INSPIRATION

*"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."*

– 2 Corinthians 9:6 (ESV)

## HOW TO FUND THIS PROJECT

### PROJECT RECAP

ID - ARDF-0723-Myanmar  
 Timeline - 24 months  
 Requested - \$146,667  
 Modified - 101323

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