

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY



The Anglican Relief and Development Fund[®]



MYANMAR: EXPANDED SEMINARY OFFERS THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

Seminary Will Help Equip the Clergy, Support the Church, and Preserve Anglican Orthodoxy



With the construction of the four-story Anglican Training and Resource Center in Myanmar, Holy Cross Theological College will be able to enroll an additional 75 students.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

CONTEXT: The church in Myanmar continues to face numerous challenges as it navigates competing stances, positions, and perspectives within the faith communities. Thus, most Christians find themselves disenfranchised in two ways: by their religious faith and ethnicity. Christians in Myanmar are from one of the seven minority ethnic tribal groups recognized by the government.

NEED: The Anglican church in Myanmar is at crossroads in a battle for orthodoxy — its practices, theories, and doctrines — with those seeking cultural accommodations to a secular and even anti-Christian culture. Until clergy are trained to defend the church's historic doctrine, the church is in danger of being perceived to be moving in a more liberal direction.

Founded in 1934, Holy Cross Theological College (HCTC) has long played a central role in training clergy and uniting the Anglican church in Myanmar. It primarily trains clergy but in order to equip and empower them in accordance with the changing context and challenging issues, the physical space needs to expand.

SOLUTION: In order to raise up a new generation of lay, ordained leaders with a sound grasp on theology, Holy Cross Theological College will expand and equip classes and its library so it can train even more students, who will serve the Anglican church in Myanmar. The new building will feature an upgraded library that provides more learning materials with multimedia facilities, as well as archive facilities for the Anglican church in Myanmar. It will also make available a number of class rooms, study rooms, an office, guest rooms, a graduation hall, and an apartment for international visiting professors. Also, the college will serve as the only Anglican Theological College in Myanmar providing basic and advanced Anglican study programs for lay people and scholars. The expansion also helps to ensure that the college will not have to turn away applicants because of the lack of space, as it has done in the past.

LIFE IMPACT

Benefits 75+ people, some in multiple ways:

- 75 additional students (*in the first year*) will be trained and equipped with a quality and advanced theological education rooted in Orthodox Anglican theology

PROJECT PROFILE

ID: ARDF-0420-Holy Cross

Lead Ministry

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF MYANMAR



LIVES IMPACTED 75+

(75 for the first year, after which the student population will continue to increase.)

SECTOR Education

AMOUNT REQUESTED \$115,000

COST PER BENEFICIARY \$1,533

TIMELINE 18 MONTHS

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

"I am one of the Holy Cross Theological College alumni. ... I must say that [the college] is the only provincial level college offering an accredited theological degree and fully run by Church of the Province of Myanmar. ... This is the best place to train Myanmar Anglican priests. It is the power-bank for orthodox Anglican priests. This college continues to produce committed priests serving the Anglican church with great zeal and commitment. I thank God for this great college that has united us Anglicans in Myanmar."

– The Rev. Enoka, 32, a member of the Khumi Chin people group



WHAT IT'S LIKE NOW



"Christians in Burma, also known as Myanmar, make up an estimated 8.2 percent of the Buddhist-

dominant population – or around four million people. Many of those Christians live in the often undeveloped, neglected periphery states."

— www.foxnews.com/world/with-worlds-attention-on-rohingya-muslims-christians-in-burma-also-face-brutal-persecution, Aug. 17, 2018

"Pressure on Christians has slowly increased and converts face strong pressure from their family and community. Rebel groups are active in Wa State, and many churches have been forcibly closed. Buddhist extremists maintain that to be Burmese—the majority ethnic group in Myanmar—is to be Buddhist, so there is intense pressure on all religious minorities, including Christians. The army also maintains tight control over the government in Myanmar, restricting and minimizing the rights of Christians."

— www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/world-watch-list/myanmar/

"Although full freedom of worship can be practiced, Buddhism is the favored one more than other religion. Buddhism is believed to be practiced by 89% whereas Christianity is practiced by 6%, Islam by 3.8%, Hinduism by 1% of the population. Christianity has not spread widely and is still considered to be an alien religion in the central plain."

— <http://ojs.globalmissiology.org/index.php/english/article/view/1884/4197>

PROJECT DESIGN

This initiative of the Church of the Province of Myanmar synod includes the construction of a new 29,450-square-foot, four-story Anglican Training and Resource Center. The first floor will have classrooms, a study room, an office, and a community center. The second floor will house an upgraded library with multimedia and archive facilities. The third floor will have classrooms and guestrooms. The fourth floor will have a graduation hall, community hall, and mini-theater. The church hired an architect who has already designed the building, which was approved by the province. Local government inspectors will help ensure the construction project complies with building codes.

The \$115,000 from the Anglican Relief and Development Fund will be used to purchase and install an elevator, transformer, generator, public address system, interior decoration, and lighting for the multi-purpose hall. An itemized list of materials and labor costs has been produced, enabling the province and contractor to estimate the overall costs.

Upon completion of the new resource center, Holy Cross Theological College will admit 75 additional students in two of its programs: the bachelor of theology and a master's degree program that will be developed. The theology program requires students to stay on campus in order to attend mandatory daily services. To accommodate the new students on campus, an old classroom will be transformed into bedrooms that will house 25 students. Another 50 students will be admitted once the college launches new programs for day students that don't require staying at the hostel.

The school will offer quality academic training, improving its bachelor's degree program and launching a master's of ministry and divinity programs. Other plans include developing a liberal arts program and a continuing theological education program for lay people. Other initiatives include short training courses and educational programs for those looking to develop skills. The upgraded library and archive will also be used by the Anglican church in Myanmar. The college will rent out some guest rooms and the graduation hall, generating income to support the school.

Measuring impact. A development committee comprised of the provincial office and college will oversee the construction project and file quarterly progress and cost reports. The committee will meet monthly to evaluate construction progress and, after completion, to evaluate how effectively the new facility is being used.

PROJECT BUDGET

ITEM	BUDGETED	LOCAL/OTHER
Elevator	\$46,428	
Transformer	\$21,428	
Generator	\$25,000	
Research and evaluation	\$15,000	
PA system, interior decor, lighting for the multi-purpose hall	\$7,144	
Foundation		\$144,000
First floor		\$144,000
Second floor		\$144,000
Third floor		\$132,000
Fourth floor ceiling and slab roof		\$209,314
TOTAL	\$115,000	\$773,314

HOW YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

For \$4,643, you and nine others can provide the elevator to service the new building.
For \$5,000 each, you and four others can provide the generator for the new building.
For \$7,144, you can provide the public address system, the decor, and lighting for the new addition.



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



IMPLEMENTER FINANCIALS*

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

INCOME	2016	%	2017	%	2018	%
Grant from province	30,660	39	30,660	28	33,792	45
Internally generated income	6,536	8	26,077	25	7,078	9
Contributions from students	21,944	27	23,441	22	15,471	20
Donations	15,794	20	8,270	8	9,519	13
Interest	5,053	6	17,753	17	10,140	13
TOTAL	79,987		106,201		76,000	
EXPENDITURES	2016	%	2017	%	2018	%
Personnel	21,166	28	21,528	27	15,520	25
Assets (office equipment, instruments, vehicle)	2,067	3	17,134	23	11,276	17
Messing	7,464	10	8,792	12	8,070	12
Office administrative expenses	6,903	10	7,472	10	9,156	14
Program and scholarship	8,726	12	5,390	7	7,145	11
Repairs	12,157	17	3,571	5	4,754	7
Other	9,797	14	7,200	9	5,341	8
Utilities	4,095	6	5,008	7	3,618	6
TOTAL	72,375		76,095		64,880	
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	7,612		30,106		11,120	

NOTES:

*Income and expenditures reported in U.S. dollars

INCOME: Holy Cross Theological College's financial reports for 2016, 2017, and 2018 show close to 30% of revenue was a grant from the province for rental income. In 2018, the grant rose 9% to \$33,972. Internally generated revenue is from the sale of gifts, wines and wafers, and the publication of books. The sale of a vehicle in 2017 was also recorded as generated income. This income rose 8% in 2016, 25% in 2017, and 9% in 2018. The second- and third-largest sources of income are from current and past students for ministry, scholarships and awards.

EXPENSES: The college's expenses averaged \$71,116 over the three-year period. Salaries, medical expenses, and professional development for staff represented 29%, 28% and 24% of expenses in 2016, 2017 and 2018, respectively. Over the three-year period, the college purchased office furniture and equipment, musical instruments, and in 2017 a vehicle, resulting in a 12% increase in expenses. Messing included the cost of wafers, wine, and surplices used during church services. Other significant costs included the ministry program and scholarships to students. At 12% in 2016, expenses declined 38% in 2017, and grew 33% in 2018 to represent 11% of total expenditures.

RISK ANALYSIS



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

CONCEPT: 1

The infrastructure of Holy Cross Theological Seminary desperately needs updating in order to promote better theological education in Myanmar. The improvements in modern technology are long overdue and necessary to support the growth of the Anglican church in Myanmar. This educational opportunity will enhance the church's mission, evangelism, and theological training for clergy.

PROGRAM DESIGN & EXPERIENCE: 2

Local involvement is strong, with the new building designed by a local architect. The supervising engineer and contractor have successfully overseen the construction of similar projects. The college enrolls about 50 students a year, which limits the number of programs it can offer. The college is in a prime location in Yangon, so it should easily attract new students. Holy Cross Theological College has trained more than 300 Anglican ministers, including the current primate and head of the province of Myanmar.

LEADERSHIP: 1

Church of the Province of Myanmar leadership understands the changing needs of the church in Myanmar. The college is committed to providing vital training that promotes sound theology, which will help the church in Myanmar grow.

Church of the Province of Myanmar and the college have stable management and secure fund transfer methods. Accounts are externally audited and the synod will maintain a separate bank account for the construction project. The organization lacks independent governance as all are members of the Anglican church.

SUSTAINABILITY: 3

This is a one-time building project that is dependent on both internal and external funding. There is a plan to mobilize local contributions. Future costs will include building maintenance and training programs, which Holy Cross Theological College has regular income provided by the provincial office (25%), tuition fees and other required fees from students (35%), and individual donors and local churches (25%). The college will also be able to rent the facility for private events.

EXTERNAL: 2

As a predominantly agrarian country, Myanmar is affected adversely by unpredictable and extreme weather conditions, which can breed poverty for rural populations in particular.



LEADERSHIP PROFILES

The Rev. Dr. Paul Myint Htet Htin Ya has served as the principal of Holy Cross Theological College since 2019. His background includes:

- 10 years of ministry service
- priest in-charge, Holy Cross parish, Yangon
- a bachelor of arts degree in English and a master of theology from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky
- a doctorate in theology, specializing in the New Testament, from Divinity School of Chung Chi College, The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- General Secretary, Church of the Province of Myanmar from 2015-2019
- lecturer, Holy Cross Theological College, from 2010-2014
- lecturer, Myanmar Institute of Theology, Yangon

The Rev. Alan Kyaw Myo Naing, General Secretary, Church of the Province of Myanmar and board member Holy Cross Theological College, is part of the provincial committee overseeing the construction work.

REFERENCES

“The current governance of Holy Cross Theological College, chaired by Archbishop Stephen Than Myint Oo, provides clear cut vision for the college with strong leadership. I have known Archbishop Stephen since my childhood and have seen his leadership ability with tenacity in making decisions. Under his leadership, the governance guides HCTC in the right direction of raising up orthodox Anglican leaders to proclaim the uncompromised Gospel of Jesus Christ without reservation.

“HCTC is the only Anglican Theological College in Myanmar. It is fully owned and run by the Anglican Province of Myanmar with the support from Myanmar Anglican community who entrusted the college with raising up the future Anglican leaders for the Province. “The Rev. Dr. Paul Myint Htet Htin Ya, current principal of the college, and staff work well under the guidance of the college governance. At the moment, Rev. Dr. Paul is implementing the vision of the governance on infrastructure improvement and the governance places their complete trust in his leadership and management.

I highly recommend HCTC for their dedication in producing workers to reap the harvest for the Kingdom of God.”

– Anne K. Ni, treasurer, Diocese of Cascadia Anglican Church in North America, Bremerton, Washington

RESEARCHER’S STATEMENT



Frederick Barasa
Sr. Research Analyst
April 2020



Political, cultural, and religious influences have significantly shaped Christians in Myanmar in ways that present barriers to the development of servant and authentic leaders. The Anglican church in Myanmar needs courage, wisdom, and fortitude as it discerns its future. It needs strong seminary training with an authentic theological foundation that helps shape and grow the church. This project will enable the college to offer such training to an additional 75 students and also enrich its program offerings.

IMPLEMENTER’S INSPIRATION

“Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,” says the LORD Almighty.”

– 2 Thessalonians 3.10-12 (GNT)

HOW TO FUND THIS PROJECT

PROJECT RECAP

ID - ARDF-0420-Holy Cross
 Timeline - 18 months
 Requested - \$115,000
 Modified - 061720

For information about the Fund or Projects, write to:
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The Anglican Relief and Development Fund

