

Myanmar and Beyond

The Aung Mang Memorial Fund

“Go, make
disciples of
all people.”



The Rev Dr Aung Mang (1959-2020) was the founding Principal of the Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology which was established in June 1996. Aung died in April 2020 during the Covid-19 lockdown. His contribution to the training and development of great Christian leaders for Asia-Pacific is immeasurable. To honour Aung Mang and his extraordinary contribution to the training of a new generation of young Myanmar Christian leaders a memorial fund is being established to provide for the enduring training of a new generations of young Myanmar Christian leaders, who will serve the mission of God and Church of Jesus Christ throughout Myanmar and beyond.



Aung Mang with his family

A LIFE



Aung Mang in engaging conversation with LeaDev-Langham's Founding Executive Director Tony Plews

An Extraordinary Life

Aung Mang endeared himself to everyone he met and especially to the people of New Zealand. His joyful outgoing disposition and wonderful personality was demonstrated over a long period of time and led to him being known as 'St Aung of Yangon.'

He exemplified the meaning of a Biblical humble servant. He dedicated his life to the service of Christ and His Church in Myanmar and was an extraordinary example of sacrificial generosity, living a life of simplicity integrity and excellence. An example of his selflessness is how he chose to stay in Myanmar when he and his young family could have applied for political asylum and residency in the USA by declaring himself a refugee. He was often encouraged to do so, but he declined, as he always said that his call was to serve Christ, and to suffer for Him, in Myanmar.

Aung was given many large financial gifts, and also gifts in kind during his international travels during which he advocated for many ministries, Bible schools and children's homes. But he never accumulated for himself. On a multitude of occasions he literally gave the shirt or jacket off his back to someone who asked, who had less than him.

Aung was an enthusiast and ideas person, who made expansionary and innovative decisions somewhat unilaterally. However, as was explained by someone in Myanmar, he never made a selfish decision, and thus all his colleagues, whom he called 'co-workers' from most senior to least junior, followed him and supported him, because they trusted him, and he never betrayed their trust. Aung was highly esteemed and trusted within Myanmar, in both his own tribal Falam Chin group and Assembly of God church denomination and was highly sought to assist many groups. In 2014 Aung was elected to the Executive Council of the Myanmar Evangelical Christian Alliance which is affiliated with the World Evangelical Alliance, and elected Chairman of the Theological Commission of MECA. That appointment required him to become Chairman of the Board of MEGST leading him to resign as Principal. He was invited to represent MECA and many other groups at a multitude of international gatherings including Lausanne III, Cape Town, Oct 2010, and to speak at events throughout Myanmar associated with many churches and Christian organisations.



Rev Dr Aung Mang (1959 -2020)

A LOVE

Aung was loved by many

“Aung was the perfect living illustration of our mantra that we want to develop “humble servant leaders who believe, study, teach, model and apply the Word of God in their context.”

Denis Browne

“His influence changed me as a person I am today. I’m so proud to be Dr. Aung’s student, colleague, and friend. He is an inspiration, a model and a hero. Rest in peace with the Lord, for now, to receive us one day in glory.”

Ronald Laldinsuah VP Academics, MEGST

“Thank you Aung for transferring some of your heart for the people of Myanmar into ours.”

Russell & Philippa McLachlan

“Your energy, your vision and your achievements in Yangon will always inspire us.”

Peter & Jessica Crothall

“I have said many times and in many places that Aung was the person I most admired of anybody I have ever met. What a privilege to have known him, called him friend, and been called a friend by him.”

Tony Plews

“This diminutive man by some standards was a giant in stature in fact! This soon became apparent when anyone spoke with him even for 15 minutes.”

Bryden Black

“A gentle, humble man, who loved God, his family and his country deeply. In New Zealand we say, of a great person on his/her passing, that ‘a mighty Totara (a native tree) has fallen’. That is truly the case.”

Grant Adams



“His legacy will continue to live on through students who have graduated and continue to graduate from this humble Bible school. He is a spiritual brother that I will always fondly remember as an example of a man who has yielded himself to Christ.”

Milne & Shelly Horne

“We will remember him as a great man of God.”

Colin & Adrienne Sutton

“I have never known a man like him...sincere, humble, compassionate, enthusiastic, courageous, role model, sacrificial, faithful to His Lord and Saviour, totally himself... He was a great friend and Heaven will truly be the richer and brighter. I can hear his HALLELUJAH TO THE KING OF KINGS!”

Judy Plews

“He was a man who walked closely with God and cared deeply for others – a wonderful legacy for his family and those who knew him.”

Jenni & Keith Bedford

“I remember Dr Aung as a person who preached and lived by the power of the Holy Spirit. That is what fired him up and that is what he passes onto us.”

Janet Jones

“Aung will remain in our hearts as a good man, a great friend and fellow follower of Jesus.”

Geoff Lawson

“His legacy is so hard to define as he was involved in so many Christian outreaches besides his position at MEGST. His legacy is that since opening in 1996 there have been over 450 graduates of MEGST and of these nearly 90% are still working in the Church in Myanmar.”

Mike Johnson

“What always amazed me when he was in NZ was his humility about how God used him to build His Kingdom in a quite difficult country and so ably assisted by his wife and family. A true saint.”

Max Purdy

“It is clear that He will be greatly missed... We get a greater glimpse of Jesus, looking at his life.”

Neil & Bev Hopkins

“I remember his generosity, gentle manner and passion for God and the work of growing His Kingdom in Myanmar.”

Jo Bissett

“He was a delightful man and a wonderful servant of both the Church and God. Our and Myanmar’s loss is heaven’s gain.”

Barbara Bowen

“Dr Aung was small in stature but tall in wisdom and Godliness. He was friendly to everyone and excited about the Gospel. When he spoke you wanted to listen. He made you think.”

Judy Browne

“Dr Aung’s influence went well beyond MEGST. He was also pivotal and hugely influential in Empower Asia, another organisation I’m involved with – being their Board Chair for Myanmar. This influence went beyond Myanmar’s borders. He will be greatly missed.”

Bron Schick

“Words can’t fully express how he sacrificed for God. Big loss but great joy in heaven.”

Van Lian Sang MEGST graduate

“His wisdom and encouragement in guiding us as a couple was a real blessing to us.”

Keith & Tin Tin





A LEGACY

“LeaDev-Langham has been standing with the development of the Myanmar Graduate School of Theology from the beginning. Without that support, we would not be able to continue as a graduate school. Your help has been so meaningful, and we will never forget.”

Rev Dr Aung Mang
Founding Principal and Chair,
Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology

The Aung Mang Memorial Fund

An investment in the future

This endowment fund will be established and managed by Leadership Development International, an incorporated Trust in the LeaDev-Langham group.

The responsibility for investment decisions will be for the Investment Committee of the LeaDev-Langham Board, with the distributions administered by LDL management.

The fund will comprise of both endowment gifts and spend-down gifts.

- **Endowment gifts** will be invested to generate income to be used as required in supporting Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (MEGST).
- **Spend-down gifts** will be used as specified by the donor and fully distributed over an agreed timeframe but not less than ten years, and not more than fifteen years.

What the Memorial Fund will achieve

This fund will honour the character and the memory of Aung Mang by:

- **Inspiring** a new generation of humble Christian leaders in Asia-Pacific. It will ensure that his example is fostered among new and widening circles of young Christian leaders throughout Myanmar and beyond.
- **Preventing** the syndrome of *Exodus 1:8* and *Judges 2:10* being repeated: *Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt ...*

another generation grew up who knew neither the Lord nor what he had done for Israel.

- **Providing** financial resources for leadership development training of Christian leaders who are committed to serving in Myanmar and surrounding countries as Aung did. This would include:

1 Scholarships

- To MEGST **graduates** seeking to advance to MTh, DMin, or PhD at MEGST.
- For future MEGST faculty **trainees** sent by MEGST for MTh or PhD in Asia, who are not successful in applications for other scholarships.
- For faculty trainees from other Myanmar colleges who allow the beneficiaries of this support **to teach** at MEGST on a part time basis when MEGST has need.

2 Grants (Writing and Publishing)

For MEGST faculty, to enable staff and leaders to take paid time off from teaching, This will enable them to focus on writing and Christian scholarship, publishing works that contribute to Bible teaching, or to pastoral and/or preaching ministry.

3 Wider projects

Other projects that will advance the objects of the AMMF, and which may be mutually agreed between Leadership Development International and MEGST from time to time.

Stakeholders and Management

1 The Board of LDL who will oversee the Fund.

2 The Board of MEGST who will formally establish the Fund and use this as a catalyst to initiate fundraising among local Myanmar and expatriate churches, individuals, and organisations.

LDL will pledge support to MEGST from the Fund on the basis of a 10:1 matching contribution to every Memorial Fund supported project.

The Operation and Designations of Funds Distributed

The Memorial Fund will be under the administration of the LDL Board Investment Committee according to the following principles:

- 1** The committee will decide on investment vehicles and asset classes, in accordance with its investment objectives and policies.
- 2** The annual return on investment will be distributed as follows:
 - 80% to Leadership Development International for distribution as per agreed principles, and the agreements made at the time.
 - 20% to Langham Partnership NZ towards LDL annual NZ operational expenses.
- 3** All spend-down funds will be handled as follows:
 - The whole capital sum will be invested as per above.
 - Annually the entire amount of the annual ROI, plus a portion of the capital would be distributed.

4 Distribution and designation of all funds distributed from the Investment Committee to Leadership Development International and Langham Partnership NZ will be under the authority of the Executive Director, in accordance with the objectives and principles of the Memorial Fund, and according to LDL board decisions and priorities from time to time. All distributions will be ratified by the Board according to longstanding and current policies and procedures.

- 5** Grants to MEGST could include:
- Faculty development costs, including TTGU, Seoul, Korea; SAIACS, Bengaluru, India; TTC or SBC, Singapore among others.
 - A Burmese language translation of the South East Asia Bible Commentary facilitated by Langham Partnership NZ.
 - Production of the Commentary.
 - Funding for two extension centres / satellite sites in Kalaymyo and Myitkyina, Kachin State for part time, non-residential programmes.

In the event of substantial spend-down gifts to the Memorial Fund some of the annual distribution will be designated to MEGST for capital projects.

Summary

LDL is committed to ensuring the vision of Aung Mang lives on well after his untimely death.

It's worth noting:

- Myanmar has a population of **55 million** with a Christian population of **8.6% = 5 million** Christians.
- MEGST is the only Asia Theological Association accredited graduate programme in Myanmar, and likely to be so for many years.
- A growing number of churches and Bible schools are looking to MEGST for graduates whose character and quality of education is noteworthy.

An additional investment of **NZ\$100,000 - NZ\$250,000** per year into MEGST, and MEGST related projects, would make a significant difference, but would not be excessive.

Please help us keep the vision of St Aung of Yangon alive. Scan this QR code for more details of how you can journey with us.



Will you contribute to Aung Mang's legacy?

Please return this completed form to PO Box 68208, Victoria Street West, Auckland, 1142, New Zealand.

I want to contribute to the Aung Mang Memorial Fund. Please find enclosed my donation of

\$5,000 \$10,000 \$20,000 \$_____

Please choose your preferred payment option below.

Internet Banking: I/We have deposited a one-off gift, as above, to Account Number: 03-0155-0347818-003

Credit/Debit Card Authorisation: Mastercard Visa

Card number:

Expiry date: CSC: _____

Cardholder name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please contact me to discuss this Aung Mang Memorial Fund.

Please send me information on remembering Aung Mang Memorial Fund in my Will.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

_____ Contact Number: _____



LDL
LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT



Langham
PARTNERSHIP
NEW ZEALAND

LeaDev-Langham

Supporting the development of Christian leaders in Asia-Pacific

LeaDev-Langham

Russell Thorpe, Executive Director
russell@ldl.org.nz
021 481 088

Tony Plews, Associate Director, Special Projects
tony@ldl.org.nz
021 683 393

PO Box 68208, Victoria Street, West Auckland, 1142, New Zealand

leadev-langham.org