

# Barefoot Doctors Graduation

*FLC Coranto - November 2019*  
Updates On FLC's Key Ministry Events

## Class of 2020

The **Barefoot Doctors Program** is an effective and tested means to provide health care for people in rural Burma (Myanmar). Over 150 village health workers continue to provide life-saving care and open evangelism in regions of Burma where there is no other or limited medical care. They are selected for their leadership qualities and faithfulness to the Gospel.

*On February 28th, 2020, the current class will graduate* and consists of twelve men and seven women, from seven different states and ten different language groups. Most reside in the least resourced areas such as the Kachin, Shan, Rakhine, and Chin states.



They learn from medical professionals to diagnose and treat a variety of common tropical and majority world ailments. The program places significant emphasis on empowering local communities in preventive medicine, to live healthier lifestyles, and multiplying these health principles to others.

All the students profess a committed relationship with Christ and love being able to help people both physically and spiritually. Before treating people, Barefoot Doctors pray with the patients. They often see families and communities accept or show more openness to Christ after the medical treatment and direct evangelism.

Dr. Bjorn Nilson continues as the Medical Director for the program. Dr. Bruce Gross stepped in as the Academic Dean for Rick Astone last year, and continues that role.

*Luke 9:6 - So they set out and went from village to village,  
preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere.*

# Balanced Education



Lynda Audia, RN (left), teaches about nutrition and how diseases and health problems can be reduced through a healthy diet. Betty Reid-White, RN (right) instructs about pregnancy and warning signs of complications.

Over the past two years of Bible and medical training, and active field work, the village health workers have gained incredible experience. The text for the course is the renowned book, ***Where There Is No Doctor*** in a Burmese translation.

The students receive over five hundred hours of practical medical instruction and one hundred twenty hours of Bible teaching during the three years of training. The students receive a total of three weeks of CHE training. **Community Health Education** empowers local communities to seek solutions to their unique health issues. CHE training helps address local superstitions, such as beliefs that a mother's first milk is bad for her baby, or that twins are evil.

**Pastor Jon Ulm** leads the pastoral team and organizes the Bible teaching each year. We are grateful for caring pastors who come each year to teach our students the Bible and Christian ministry. Some, like Simon Percy, come almost every year. Our students would not be properly equipped without the balanced teaching of practical medical skills and biblical foundations. It's in this dual-approach to service that God's love and grace are powerfully shared.



Jon Ulm bridges together many who are involved with FLC and the Barefoot Doctors Program. In the photo above, student Tin Hnin Nwe stands with Pastor Simon Percy (left), Pastor Paul Bergquam, and Pastor Dan Radke (far right). In 2020, Pastor Rich Peterson (not shown) will help provide Bible education.

# Team Effort



Timothy (left) and Abraham (right) stand on either side of Jon, with Jung (far right).

Timothy Changkhum and Abraham Garu are essential for the success of the Barefoot Doctors Program. Both men work in Burma fulltime for FLC, and graduated from the program.

Church leaders and other associates recommend potential students to Timothy and Abraham. They interview and select the best applicants, arrange all their travel to and from Chiang Mai, and commit two months away from their homes to work as translators during the training.

Jung Dangshing and Sarep Pung work full-time with FLC in Chiang Mai. They organize and coordinate the communication with teachers, finances, accommodations, food, activities, acquiring medical supplies, translating written material, and leading worship. Their behind-the-scenes efforts ensures the teaching goes smoothly and is of high value.



Sarep Pung (left) translates during an event. Dr. Susan Parker (middle/right) instructs about risk factors and symptoms of diabetes and preventative treatments. She also demonstrates ankle pulse to assess peripheral circulation.



Dr. Bruce Gross (left) demonstrates palpation techniques of the abdomen on student, Ying Sau. Dr. Susan McDowell (right) shows Wan San Htina how to splint a broken bone using improvised materials. All of the teachers give their time and pay their own expense to travel to Chiang Mai.

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## *Bringing God's love and better health to Burma*

To the right, **Dr. Nilson** projects the tooth extractions on the overhead monitor. The students train with and receive professional equipment: CPR mannequins, otoscopes, stethoscopes, dental extraction tools, wound care material, twenty-three medications, and much more.



Rick Astone (middle) stands with the CHE trainers (L to R) David Crist, and Eric & Shannon Wiederholt with five women students. Other CHE facilitator, Kelli Keenan is not pictured.

The students received a mini projector pre-loaded with the **Jesus Film** in local languages. Aungkyaw Oo (right) expressed great thanks for this resource.



Integrated into the overall teaching is **creative problem-solving** to accompany book and procedural knowledge. Access to high-speed internet, quality displays, and an audience response system improves the classroom training. The students learn many skills including: giving injections, suturing, and addressing mental health issues. The village health technicians combined see hundreds of patients annually, documenting their treatments with log books and photos.

[barefootschool2.blogspot.com](http://barefootschool2.blogspot.com)

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effective service.

Dr. Jove Graham (left) teaches about abdominal pain and a variety of other subjects, including: wound care, the digestive system, malaria treatment, and numerous other subjects.