



**LEGACY TEACHING INSTITUTE**

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**COMPLETION LETTER**

TO: Girl Scouts of America  
FROM: Gloria Sexton, Project Advisor to Kyaut Tai School, Myanmar  
DATE: 18 March 2021  
RE: “**Books for Burma**” by Lauren Sheets and her Team

Dear Sirs or Madams,

I, Gloria Sexton, Project Advisor, am confirming the completion of Lauren Sheet’s project named “**Books for Burma**”.

This project was an amazing addition for our “Kyaut Tai School”, and so timely for our under privileged youth from pre-school through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in Myanmar (Burma).

For a little background: Literally there is no electricity in this small town. They have no running water. Most baths are taken in the nearby river. There are no paved roads. They cook with wood fires. They get much of their produce right out of the rich jungle from trees or what we would call weeds (they are really healthy vegetation and herbs). Some are able to raise a few chickens, ducks, and if fortunate a goat or cow.

Most of the villagers are “day-laborers” and receive about 3,000. Kyats (\$2.15) a day in pay. It takes about 60,000 Kyats (\$43.) to feed one person a month.

Many families have 5 to 7 children and live in mostly bamboo shelters with teak-leaf roofs. It is a beautiful setting and for the most part the people are quite happy and are able to get enough rice—their staple as we in the west eat bread, potatoes, or noodles.

Of course, they see the western movies and pics which can cause a wantonness—a desire to have the same.

There is so much to say since this project from Lauren and her team started with a BANG and then suddenly there came the worldwide pandemic of Covid-19. Then almost exactly a year later—right on the heels of Covid, the military junta COUP!

I am going to explain a bit more of this small village that I have been visiting for more than 10 years (and before that just 30 min. from there for over 20 years — since foreigners were never able to see or go into certain areas while the military dictatorship was still in control. Sadly, now, as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2021, it has begun all over again!

Through all this Lauren and her team have astoundingly continued to come up with ideas to continue to help the children’s “Books for Burma” program which included, due to circumstances, a reading program! The challenge alone of dealing successfully in a foreign country throughout Covid and now the Coup, was quite the superb feat!

Books only arrived one time just prior to Covid. After that plans of shipping came to a halt due to closed borders, and now worse the corruption of the military evils.

The Kyaut Tai School began with Lauren's idea, myself, and the Head Mistress, Jum Seng Pan teaching English and computer classes. The timing of the "**Books for Burma**" project could not have been more perfect when schools went online. Only the government schools did not go online. They no longer had any school. Since the Coup things are becoming more drastic, as we take one day at a time.

Jum Seng Pan hired two more teachers (Hser Nay Paw with a Certificate of Nursing and Khawn Ye a graduate of a Myanmar University) that came to help teach the English classes which include reading, writing, speaking, and grammar. And as mentioned before, suddenly, as classes started again, on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, the military coup ousted AungSanSuKyi.

All the while the school continues!

Videos of the books (that could not be shipped) were taken as pages were turned and the book reading was done by Lauren's team. The kids could hear exactly how to pronounce the words correctly. YouTube and ZOOM were the applications used to log on and share this amazing tool, until the 17<sup>th</sup> of March when the military régime shut down the internet for all. In the big cities Wi-Fi is a possibility for the more elite or wealthy, until maybe tomorrow—then it's over.

Kyaut Tai School had bought a router at the beginning of the school year, and were helping as many students as possible. Even one private school teacher came to our school to help their own on-line students.

Government schools are still closed and not online, which is most discouraging for the parents knowing that their kids are not receiving any education. So, the Kyaut Tai School offered the English class of reading, writing, and speaking. Their parents are not educated and therefore they are grateful for this opportunity—which included all the help from the Girl Scout "**Books for Burma**" Project.

We have been and continue to be most grateful to see our student's improvement and for Lauren and her team's hard work in making this a real possibility—one that they created!

We are still waiting for an opportunity to have the books shipped, or brought over by travelers. I believe we have now collected 6 boxes, AND, THE FUNDS THAT WERE DONATED TO SHIP THEM.

The challenges were met with another BANG! Lauren and her team have jumped over obstacles and complications and turned them into workable successes—VICTORY!

The best part of Lauren's book project is **THAT IT IS NOT REALLY OVER!!!**

Lauren and her team have completed their part **and have passed on this project to be continued by other competent individuals.** Now that is forward thinking by Lauren's team for a small village school in need of better education and for a better future hope. The Kyaut Tai school will continue to build up a library of books and the reading of online videos. How very wonderful!

I, we, congratulate, and thank the Girl Scouts of America to give these wonderful opportunities to their scouts which they in turn pass on to others half way across the globe!

Very sincerely,

Gloria Sexton  
Advisor to Kyaut Tai School

*P.S. Please see photos of our two new teacher assistants, their classes, and a photo of Gloria and her husband Leon with their Karen' hilltribe friends in the next pages.*



*L to R: Hser Nay Paw and Khawn Ye.*



*Teacher Assistant Hser Nay Paw in class with younger students.*



*Teacher Assistant Khawn Ye (right) in class with older students.*



*Gloria and her husband Leon sharing a fruit snack with our Burma Karen' tribe friends.*