

IMPACT ASSESSMENT



The Anglican Relief and Development Fund®



MYANMAR: EXPANDED SEMINARY OFFERS THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

SEMINARY WILL EQUIP CLERGY, SUPPORT THE CHURCH, AND PRESERVE ANGLICAN ORTHODOXY



In August 2022, The Anglican Church of Myanmar dedicated a new 29,450-square-foot, four-story Anglican Training and Resource Center at Holy Cross Theological College in Yangon, Myanmar.

PROJECT UPDATE

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

The Anglican Church in Myanmar is at crossroads in a battle for orthodoxy — its practices, theories, and doctrines — with those seeking to make cultural accommodations to a secular and even anti-Christian culture. Clergy must be trained to defend the church's historic doctrine, before it is perceived as moving in a more liberal direction. Founded in 1934, Holy Cross Theological College 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 needed to expand.

To meet this need, Holy Cross Theological College constructed a new 29,450-square-foot, four-story Anglican Training and Resource Center, equipped with an elevator and 45KVA generator for back up power. The new building features an upgraded library that provides more learning materials with multimedia facilities, as well as archive facilities for the Anglican Church in Myanmar. It also created space for several classrooms, study rooms, an office, guest rooms, a graduation hall, and an apartment for international visiting professors. The expansion helps to ensure that the college will not have to turn away applicants because it lacks space, as it has done in the past. This is important as it is the only Anglican Theological College in Myanmar.

The expansion was expected to allow the enrollment of an extra 75 students. In fact, a total of 125 students, both clergy and lay leaders, were admitted at Holy Cross Theological College after the expansion was finished. A wide range of courses are offered, including a bachelor's degree in theology, liberal arts, and English and Japanese.

PROJECT PROFILE

ID: ARDF-420-Myanmar

Lead Ministry

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF MYANMAR



Requested amount	\$115,000
Amount spent	\$116,998
Expected cost per beneficiary	\$1,533
Actual cost per beneficiary	\$936
Location	Myanmar
Sector	Christian Education
Evaluation date	February 2023
Researcher	Frederick Barasa

PROJECT PERFORMANCE

BELOW

ACHIEVED

EXCEEDED

DEFINITION OF RESULTS

Exceeded	Implementer exceeded goal by more than 20%
Achieved	Implementer solidly achieved the goal +/- 20%
Below	Implementer partially achieved the goal
Not achieved	Goal was 100% not achieved

ASSESSMENT & RECOMMENDATION

Holy Cross Theological College expanded its facilities to ensure space for a strong seminary education with an authentic theological foundation that will help strengthen the church and quash some of the conflict among faith communities in Myanmar. The seminary will help resolve conflicting theological training and doctrinal systems that are hurting local churches and resulting in congregants seeking only those most like themselves. Holy Cross Theological College is a school where the true gospel is taught, which will help shape and grow the Anglican Church in Myanmar. As it is one of the few theological colleges promoting orthodoxy through its theological training, the expanded Holy Cross Theological College can address the need for solid theological training for clergy and catechists. Although Christians are a minority in Myanmar, robust theological training plays a critical role in outreach, discipleship, and evangelism.

The new Anglican Training and Resource Center building at Holy Cross Theological College is an historic building. According to the Rev. Dr. Paul Myint Htet Htin Ya, principal of Holy Cross, completion of the building is proof of Christ's favor because of the many unforeseen challenges that could have seriously curtailed the project. A military coup on February 1, 2021 caused some delays when democratically elected members of the country's ruling party were deposed by the Myanmar's military. This led to unstable and rising prices in materials, yet construction went on. COVID-19 caused work to stop temporarily, but ultimately, the building was dedicated on August 27, 2022, with all Anglican bishops from the Province of Myanmar in attendance.

During these challenges, some people thought the project couldn't be finished. But staff and students who prayed fervently for the project now see the new building as the work of God. This was one of the few construction projects that the military government provided construction permits for, allowing the Anglican Relief and Development Fund to transfer funds unhindered.

With completion and commissioning of the new Anglican Training and Resource Center, the college has started new programs and offers quality education to young people who want to serve the church in Myanmar. The center has cemented Holy Cross Theological College as the theological power bank for the Church in Myanmar. The training center is not only seen as a luxury, but essential to the future of the Anglican church in Myanmar.

In its effort to provide a safe environment and authentic theological training that strengthens the church in Myanmar, this risk should be considered:

External. Although external factors had a bearing on project implementation and timely completion, the ongoing conflict and instability in parts of the country can negatively affect the long-term future of the college and the church. However, projects like this create hope in the midst of trouble. The college's commitment to serving should be considered when seeking funding in the future.

Recommendation

Demand for theological education is high and Church of the Province of Myanmar leadership and Holy Cross Theological College understand the changing needs. This college is committed to providing vital training that promotes sound theology, which will help the Church in Myanmar grow. The Anglican Relief and Development Fund should consider using this project to encourage other Anglican congregations and partners in the United States to support the Church in Myanmar.



The first floor of the Anglican Training and Resource Center has classrooms, a study room, an office, and a community center. The second floor houses an upgraded library with multimedia and archive facilities. The third floor has classrooms and guestrooms. The fourth floor will have a graduation hall, community hall, and mini-theater.

ANTICIPATED

75 ADDITIONAL STUDENTS will be trained and equipped with a quality and advanced theological education rooted in Orthodox Anglican theology

ACTUAL

125

EXPECTATIONS/COMMENTS

[++] EXCEEDED A total of 125 students, both clergy and lay leaders, were admitted at Holy Cross Theological College to pursue their theological education upon completion of the expansion project.



Upon completion of the almost 30,000-square-foot expansion, Holy Cross Theological College was able to host its 25th graduation ceremony on the fourth floor of the Anglican Training and Resource Center.



FINANCE REPORT

BUDGET ITEM	ARDF FUNDS BUDGETED	ARDF FUNDS SPENT
Elevator	\$46,428	\$46,688
Transformer	\$21,428	\$21,975
Generator	\$25,000	\$26,129
Research and evaluation	\$15,000	\$15,000
PA system, interior decor, and lighting for the multi-purpose hall	\$7,144	\$7,206
TOTAL	\$115,000	\$116,998

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

“I am studying at Holy Cross Theological college as a second-year student. I come from Mae Ra Moe refugee camp, which is located along Thailand and Burma border. I grew up in Mae Ra Moe refugee camp. I am glad to be a student at Holy Cross Theological College because this college equips good ministers for Anglican Church in Myanmar. When I was a child, I wanted to be a good minister. Therefore, I decided to attend this college with many challenges. After I finished my first year, I received many things concerning my future ministry. At first, I would like to thank God for the opportunity to see the full structure of Anglican Training Resources Center. This building is very important for our college because it will meet the physical needs for our theological education. Moreover, this building is not just for our college, but also for the province. There are many challenges to complete this building such as finances, COVID-19, and political issues. However, we are very encouraged to move forward because of your support. I pray God to abundantly bless all of you and your family.”

— *Saw Dani Aye La Daniel, second-year student seeking his bachelor’s degree in theology*

“As an ordained minister and secretary of the Yangon Diocese, I am convinced that the Anglican Training and Resource Center is one of the most important and significant projects of the Church of the Province of Myanmar. Despite the difficult situations and challenges, the project was successfully accomplished beautifully and brilliantly as visible proof of our Christian faith.”

— *The Rt. Rev. Samuel Htang Oak, Assistant Bishop of Yangon*



With the new space, Holy Cross Theological College hopes to launch a master’s of ministry and divinity programs.

PROJECT RECAP

ID - ARDF-420
Timeline - 18 months
Requested - \$115,000
Modified - 021723

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

