



No. 1, Thit-ta-bway Quarter
Yenangyaung
Magway Division
Myanmar



Guest House +95 (0)60 88 21620
Mobile +95 (0)9 505 3342
ept.pet@gmail.com
www.leithargone-guesthouse.com

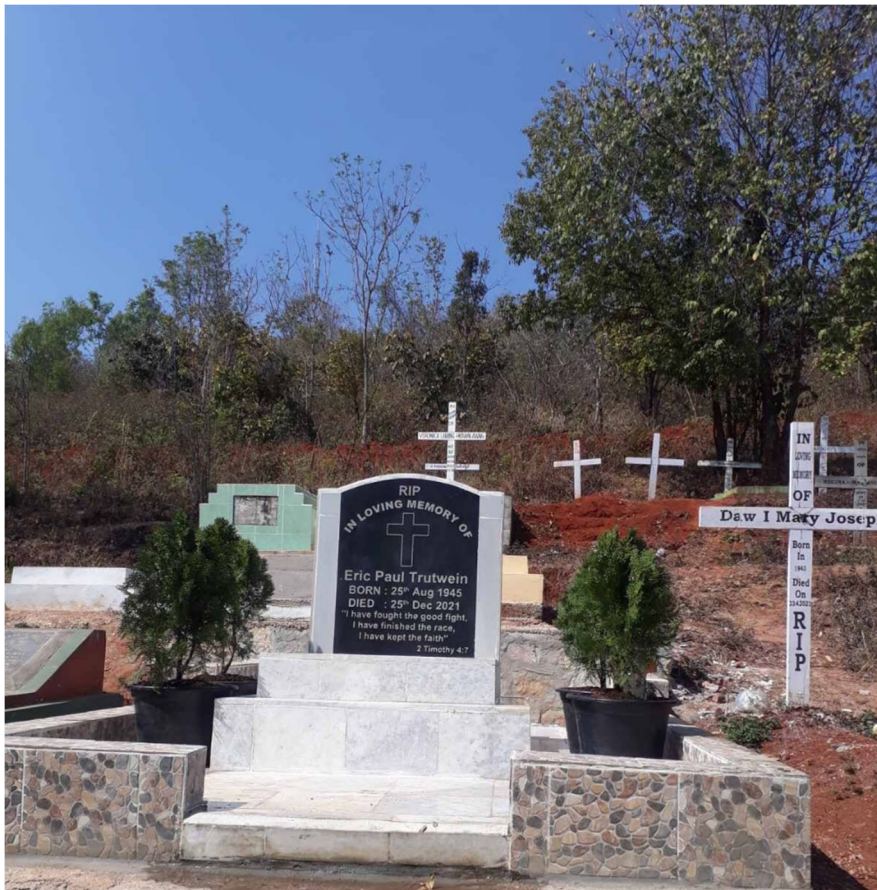
LEI THAR GONE
Guest House

May 8th 2022 / Trimester Report I / January – April 2022

Dear friends,

More than four months have passed since the death of Eric and we miss him daily, in countless ways, large and small! He is present in every step we take at Lei Thar Gone and Light of Love.

The final resting place of his mortal remains is in the graveyard of Pyin Oo Lwyin, whilst his soul smiles down at us from heaven:



However, life though challenging under the present circumstances, goes on...

Some interesting snippets of information from last year:

- Light of Love was forced to reopen on November 1st 2021. However, not a single student came. Pressure was constantly applied by the Ministry of Education in Magway, asking why no children came, trying to force children back to school. But parents/guardians were too afraid to let the children leave home.
- By November 19th, a total of 32 students were enrolled, although primary school remained closed. School open only mornings, no lunches, bus not running

- Lei Thar Gone officially reopened in September 2021. But because of Covid-19, every property was required to have a supply of oxygen on site. For Lei Thar Gone it was mandatory to buy 40kg, the cost was subsidized by the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism. Asked how this oxygen would be administered to staff or guests in an emergency, Lyon told me, that they had received lots of brochures to read about how much oxygen to give, how much pressure to apply and how long to administer it. I must honestly admit, that I had my doubts about the success of this venture. Thankfully the emergency never materialised, so the oxygen was never once used and is still stored at LTG.
- Lyon attended a four-week online course on Hotel Management and Employee Life Cycle. The course was given by Swiss Contact, a leading Swiss organisation in the implementation of international development projects, with the aim of promoting economic, social and ecological development in emerging economies. Lyon received full marks on the final test! Well done!
- In spite of the difficult circumstances, quite a few guests stayed at Lei Thar Gone during the Light Festival in October and generated a welcome income of \$500

The arrival of the New Year....

- brought much bureaucratic hassle with the challenging task of obtaining a death certificate, updating all contracts, licenses and bank accounts to the new situation.
- Light of Love also lost three teachers – KG teacher Daw Khin San Yee retired, U Khin Mg Myint, a high school teacher, teaching Myanmar and U Khin Mg Myint (same name), the middle school Math teacher passed away. We are sad to lose these dedicated staff members. Our sincere condolences to their families.

But there were also positive, hopeful events...

- With a letter of acceptance dated January 4th, Zoe's dream of attending Pyinya Sanyae Institute of Education (P.S.I.E.) for a two-year teacher training course became a reality! Congratulations! A graduate student of LOL, Noe Zin Nwe was also accepted, which is a perfect setup as they can study together. Currently classes are still held online, so that Zoe can stay in Yenangyaung. <https://www.infantjesussisters.org/myanmar>
- In January, two graduate students of Light of Love, Htet Htet and Cho Cho Nwe, who have already attended P.S.I.E. for two years, arrived at Light of Love as trainee teachers, teaching English, Physical Education and supervising the Learning Corner. It was indeed a historic event! Their assignment was successful as we saw a definite improvement in the classroom environment. The children participated enthusiastically - in class as well as during the activities and we saw positive changes of personality in the children, especially in the Primary Classes. Thank you to Htet Htet and Cho Cho Nwe!
- The Board of the Light of Love Foundation was restructured and we were able to recruit several new Board Members. A new license has been issued.
- Final exams were held in March. Grade 8 had to attend the Government School to take the Government Exam, all other Grades took their exams at Light of Love, with exam papers prepared by our teachers. We recently received a letter with the results: all students, without exception, passed their exams. On the face of it, this seems like good news, but actually many students are struggling because they have missed most of the past two years of schooling. Unfortunately, the MOE (Ministry of Education) prefers

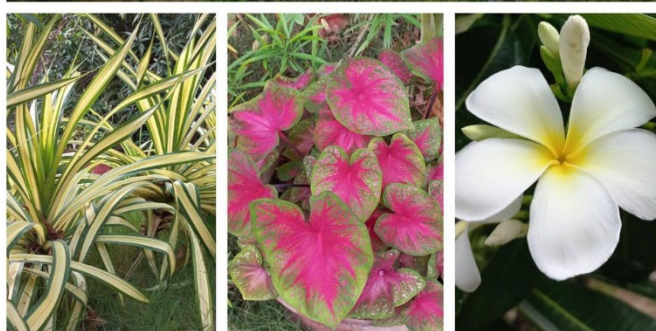
quantity over quality. Wanting to boast that all is in order in the country and that the education system is functioning, they let everyone pass.

- Patrick Pesenti and his Association Solidar’Birmanie rebuilt the house of Mg Tint Lwin Oo and donated a month’s supply of rice for the children of LOL. Thank you for your generosity.
- The children at Light of Love are generally healthy, with no major issues.
- For the entire time since the military coup on February 1st 2021, all the Light of Love children have received their monthly rations, regardless of whether they attended school or not. For many families, this has been a huge blessing because now more than ever the economic situation is incredibly challenging for so many.

Meanwhile at Lei Thar Gone Guest House

- The situation at the Guest House, where Lyon is responsible, is very challenging – mainly due to the absence of guests, otherwise said – the absence of income - while operating costs are still being incurred.
- Although the Government officially reopened the borders on April 17th, there are, so to speak no foreign guests. (no tourist visas are available yet) And if any foreigners do come, the Ministry of Immigration and the Police Department make it very difficult for them to stay, requesting additional documents that they usually don’t have.
- There are some local guests, the problem however is the dramatically increased price of petrol (which was under 1000ks/litre and is now over 2000ks) This makes traveling for leisure all but impossible.
- And when, as for the Water Festival in April, we had reservation requests, we had to cancel them because of the lack of electricity. Power cuts are frequent and always without a timetable, but usually at night-time. Without government power it is impossible to use the air conditioners in the guest rooms, which with current “feels like” temperatures in the forties Celsius is a must. We do run the generator, but this only provides sufficient power for 3, maximum 4, rooms but the high fuel cost makes this an uneconomical solution.
- In spite of the difficult situation and many challenges, we are looking after Lei Thar Gone, watering plants, painting rooms, renovating terraces – in short keeping this lovely home ready for future guests, convinced that one day they will come!

The view, the grounds, the flowers... ready & waiting, as beautiful as ever!



*This report was written by Therese,
in collaboration with Zoe & Lyon*