

Myanmar

The National Lutheran Church of Myanmar (NLCM)

STATUS

In Fellowship ☒

STATISTICS

Ordained Pastors	<u>1</u>	Congregations	<u>1</u>
Pastors in Training	<u>1</u>	Preaching stations	<u>3</u>

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Pastor Charles serves one congregation and three preaching stations on a weekly basis. Pastor Charles' son Sam has begun CLC Online Theological Studies as he prepares to assist his father in the ministry.

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

As far back as 2008, the CLC Board of Missions chairman, Pastor Todd Ohlmann, had correspondence with at least five inquiries from Myanmar. One that continued was with Pastor Charles Edwards in Yangon. Initially, the correspondence with Pastor Edwards was through CLC President John Schierenbeck. In September 2010, Missionary David Koenig took over correspondence with Pastor Edwards subsequently meeting with him and his congregational leaders as well as holding a two day seminar. He was trained in-country by the LC-MS and ordained by them in 2000.

In 2013, Pastor Edwards requested fellowship. In April of that year, under the CLC President Eichstadt's direction, the CLC Board of Doctrine carried out extensive correspondence with Pastor Edwards.

By May of 2014, the last of the responses to the questions submitted to Pastor Edwards were sent in his own words. He also allowed for any follow up questions. President Eichstadt declared fellowship writing Pastor Edwards,

"I send you heartfelt greetings from your fellow saints in the Church of the Lutheran Confession and fervent prayers for your safety and wellbeing as you carry out our Lord's commission to preach the good news to all creation. I am happy to report that the CLC Convention, held on June 16-18, 2014, gratefully acknowledged our agreement with you in the doctrines of Holy Scripture and declared our fellowship with the National Lutheran Church of Myanmar. May the Holy Spirit continue to bless our fellowship in the kingdom of our Savior Jesus Christ."



CHALLENGES

The big challenge for Pastor Edwards is to make the rounds to his far flung preaching stations as one can see below:

Hlaing Thar Yar is where he has his home and church building. Attendance is between 70-100 each Sunday.

Bogalay is 180 miles away and he preaches there once every two months.

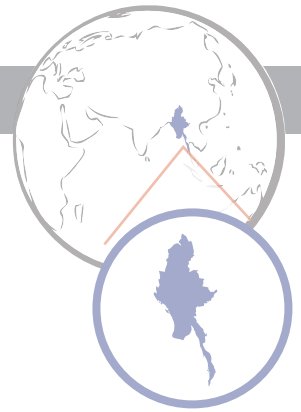
Oakan is 80 miles away and he preaches there once every two months or more if he can.

Shwephyther is where he preaches twice a month.

Kyawin's house is where he preaches twice a month.

86th bus gate is where he preaches weekly. Pastor Ohlmann baptized some from there last year.

Thingangyum is where he preaches once a month.



SCOPE/FOCUS OF MINISTRY

Pastor Charles Edwards is Tamil (his family originates in India) and he seeks to reach out to all ethnic groups. While he has one congregation, he has many preaching stations. In visits to individuals and preaching stations, opportunities were afforded to share the encouragement of the Gospel with many individuals in need of their Savior.

PERSONNEL

Pastor Charles Edwards



FUTURE PLANS

Outreach efforts among the Buddhist population in Yangon and the surrounding area continues to be a priority in this heavily populated area of Myanmar. As Pastor Charles ages, it is also important to begin training men to assist him in the Gospel ministry.

