

Whom Shall I Send?

For Myanmar publisher Jacob Mung (clcmm@mptmail.net.mm), the answer was, "Send me!"

My life shows the power of Christian literature," says Jacob Mung, managing director of the Christian Literature Centre in Yangon, Myanmar.

In this primarily Buddhist country, which expelled all Protestant missionaries in 1966, Mung says, "My father became a Christian reading *Pilgrim's Progress*. It changed his life. Whenever he has free time, he reads. That is how I learned that books are important.

"I became a Christian at 19 by reading the Bible," adds Mung. "Two and a half months later, the Lord called me into ministry. I was reading Isaiah 6:8: "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'" The question touched my heart. I asked myself, what am I going to do with my whole life? Before that, I wanted to go into business. I saw that no pastor had the means to live the good life. It is true that money does not bring happiness, and when I read the Bible I saw that I needed to think of eternal values." Mung enrolled in seminary and studied for five years, without knowing exactly what ministry God had had in mind for him.

"When I was near the end of my seminary studies in Bangalore, India," says Mung, "I was also a member of a quartet, singing bass. I visited a CLC bookshop, Evangelical Literature Service,



Jacob Mung, shown above with Sandar, his wife, and John, their son, attended Cook's September 2005 International Christian Publishing Institute on strategic leadership.

and the manager, C.D. Abraham, knew me. I began to visit his store more often. He eventually encouraged me to write to Benjamin Gnanamanickam, the CLC General Secretary, about a job. I worked with him in Chennai for one year. My passion for literature work really began in 1991."

"I wanted to start a Christian bookstore in Myanmar," says Mung, "but there were few books to distribute in my country. My translation and publishing work started in 1992. I started with nothing and worked alone for a long time. Now we are self-sufficient, despite inflation. The official exchange rate has been 6 kyats to one U.S. dollar. The unofficial rate in 1991 was 40:1, and now it is 1,200:1.

"I am very satisfied with the work I have been doing, despite the hindrances and limitations. I always want to do what God wants me to do. The government now allows us to print two books per year, and most of my books are

translations." CLC specializes in books that teach on theological issues that every Christian can understand, such as prayer.

"We do something for God that changes many lives," says Mung. "With our own eyes we have seen many conversions. We receive letters and hear from our readers. One man, over 60 years old, had been in prison for over three years. He had no hope and wanted to die. One of our books helped him.

"My own wife was a Buddhist," says Mung. "In 1994, before I knew her, she read a tract and her heart was touched, but she had a hard time believing in God. Later one of my books came into her hands. She prayed about the conflicts she and her family were experiencing in their business. The Lord heard her and the situation was completely changed in seven days.

"When I met her, about a year later, I was single and didn't have much time to talk. Whenever I saw her I would give her a book. The Lord used books to help her grow in Christ. She was baptized in 1996, and in 1997 we married."

"My life is a testimony to the power of Christian literature," says Mung. "God used books to reach my father, to speak to me, and to disciple my wife. Now we have a beautiful son and I pray that one day he will understand the ministry God has given me."