



မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ ခရစ်ယာန် အသင်းတော်များ ကောင်စီ

**THE MYANMAR COUNCIL OF CHURCHES  
ECUMENICAL SHARING CENTRE**

**601, Pyay Road, University P.O., Yangon 11041, Myanmar**  
e-mail: oikom@yangon.net.mm Tel. (95) 01-513579, 537957

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## The New Year Greetings

Dear Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Greetings in the name of Christ Jesus.

Under the Guidance and Help of our Triune God, we had come across the year of 2011 with much blessings and might deeds provided by almighty God. Thus we had now entered into the new year 2012. When we recalled the days, we had come across the events that were favorable and beneficial, and issues that were critical and desperate. Nevertheless, we experienced the everlasting love and the Grace of God throughout the whole year.

Moreover, by the favor of God, we had been provided what we needed to serve God's people and to do the unity of the Church, unity of humankind and unity of the whole universe through programs of mission, education, service and development, empowerment to women and young generation. We had various kinds of helps from our friends, partners, Churches and organizations within our country and abroad, such as finances, suggestions and participations. Thus we had overcome all the varieties of circumstances through trust in God and trust in each other as partners. By the care of God and the power of partnership, we had strong unity, close understanding and mutual cooperation, and firm determination. We never lose our destination, we ever look up for the future with optimistic anticipation. Our goal is "Ecumenism", and we are moving forward to strive for that goal.

Myanmar is now striving for authentic democratic country with our own ways and means to be suitable with our society. Our country has many changes in socio-politico-economic situation and the international relation, bilateral economic cooperation and social complexity are now manifested as new chapter. In this context, Churches in Myanmar are facing new challenges that to be dealt with new phenomenon in ecumenical concept and prophetic function.

We do not know what the future holds, but we do know that who holds the futures. God whom we know is everlasting God, and creator of the end of the earth. God does not faint or grow weary. God's understanding is unsearchable. Thus, it is understandable that, we can rely and have confident in God in whole heartedly. We remember that what God had said to Joshua before he and his people got into the land that God had covenant to give chosen people. In Joshua 1: 9, "**Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**"

In conclusion, as Paul says in Philippians 3:13-14, "**But one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**" We all look ahead and search the will of God and do it with firm determination and conviction unceasingly and steadfastly.

On behalf of the Myanmar Council of Churches, I personally want to express my thanks ;

- To CCA general secretary and the staff for taking care and giving necessary provisions when I was sick in Chiang Mai.
- To NCCA-Act for Peace, Churches and Organizations, friends and relatives in Australia for their warm welcome, love and generosity.
- To WCC and its members for having remembrance to Myanmar in every aspect.
- To our Asian Churches and organizations such as NCCB, NCCI, HKCC, NCCK, NCCJ, PCTaiwan, PROKorea, PCKorea and CCThailand for their concerns.
- To our Round Table partners for their helpful spirits.

In the coming year you may all have joy, satisfaction and prosperity in your lives all the time.

May the blessings of our Lord be with you abundantly and Blessed New Year be yours!

In God' s Service,



Saw Shwe Lin  
General Secretary