

To Metta in Action,

After we visited and distributed the donation to *Apamāda Pyapon Nunnery*, we continued to Chan Myawady Nunnery School, which two head nuns manage. A smile ran across our faces as the Head Nuns greeted Daw Ariya as if she were still a nun. They explained to us that she is like an older sister to them. Yes, it's true. She had lived in this area for over 2 decades and it could be said that it's even more than two-thirds of my life. When I said this to her later on our return, she smiled admiringly.

As we entered the building, she pointed to a sign on the wall above the door that

reads "Merits of Mettashin Aphwe – Daw Viīrañānī and Daw Ariyañānī" – the donor plaque. From the conversation with the Head Nuns, I learned that there was previously an old deteriorating wooden house in this place of new building and Mettashin (MIA) mainly contributed to the reconstruction of the nunnery building where 52 nuns live. They



told me that they reconstructed the building step by step by saving the annual donations from MIA and finally, the building is now almost complete and completely new. I can apparently estimate their gratitude to Daw Ariya and MIA, as they were



calling her "Elder Sister" and caring for her with admiration. They also asked her about Daw Virañānī and others who we didn't know and never met. I guessed they had visited them and contributed to the nunnery, too. (Later, Daw Ariya told me that they were the names of other donors and yogis who paid annual visits there.) The two head nuns were originally from Ayeyarwady Region which my wife was also from. We all smiled together again when one of them said, "O. Relatives!" It is true that we meet here again as we met somewhere else in the past unknown to us. Only the Enlightened One and Noble Ones know!

I looked around inside the building: the building is now ready to perform or conduct religious events such as the donations of other people, the Dhamma talks, the nuns' exams, etc. I was imagining myself that the nuns would be studying here,



the nuns would be chanting Suttas, Patthāna and 7 Abhidhamma Canons there, and the Anumodāna (Rejoicing) Remarks for the donors would be done there. [Even now, they said that it was the same time they observed Patthana Chanting as Daw Ariya visited them every year.] I saw some iron suitcases downstairs at the corners so it looks like the nuns live there. I was truly happy to see it and it brought me to mind my past delightful efforts when I helped a village's monastic school in my home township to be able to replace an old, leaning wooden building where the novices and monks slept upstairs in the nighttime, and lived and studied downstairs in the daytime, with a new two-storied building through an international sponsorship before the pandemic.

After we came out of the building, we went to the school building which was sponsored by the same group of Japanese donors that we met in the first nunnery. We were surprised that the children came out of the classrooms when we were going there. In fact, the classes were dismissed and hence, the innocent children ran out of their classrooms



and the building. We were happy to see them running and we took photos there. We saw many young novices and nuns among them, and we affectionately noticed a



young novice, whom we estimated to be 5 or 6 years old, standing like a senior monk with his hands clasped in front of him. When we said bye to them, they and their teachers, the Head Nuns, were waving their hands. On our return to the monastery where we stayed as it was the last program for that day, I was reflecting on the day's precious memories and a thought came into my mind– I never expected I would be able to see the children's and young novice's and nuns' smiles again after my efforts for the monastic school in my village ended up after the pandemic and the coup hit. Through support from international donors, I could see the smiles of the

children, monks, and nuns shining through the dark clouds during this crisis, which I hope will be over in the near future.

I know I cannot express my gratitude in words but I'm sure the international support is a great means for the monastic



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## BETTER BURMA

communities and the vulnerable laity communities relying on the former. On the way back sending Daw Ariya to her host monastery, I said, "How would it be great \_ if the junta's leaders had one-tenth of all your compassion and care about their own people at least? Our country would be so much more peaceful, then!" and she agreed with a wholehearted smile.



Thanks a lot to all international donors on behalf of all the beneficiary communities.

May all these merits of yours bring you the fruition of good health as your merits helped the others obtain substantial food at this hard time.

May all your merits bring you happiness and peace as they brought the same to the



nuns and helped relieved them from worries and stresses.

May these merits bring you Noble Insights as you helped these renunciates perform their monastic duties and efforts to liberate from worldly pleasures and mental defilements.

May you all ever meet good and kind, wise ones as you all are kind and good to the nuns and our people.

Sādhu. Sādhu for all your rejoicing merits. We also share our *Veyyāvacca Dāna* that we cordially offered our voluntary service with rejoices from our deep heart.

Best regards with Metta, Zaw Win Htet from Burma. Monastic Support Team, Better Burma



Photos to the link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HggsldvTydvS3ymbv\_skc6mqwmUlRh1A? usp=sharing