

Myanmar F.C.

Brief Summary of the Team: More Than A Game (MTAG, www.weplaysotheycan.com) hosts soccer tournaments throughout the United States, and recently started a soccer outreach to the local Burmese refugee children here in Tulsa. ORU Outreach has partnered with MTAG to reach out to the 3,000+ Burmese refugees in Tulsa by providing life coaches who mentor and coach the Burmese refugee children through the sport of soccer. Modeled after developing the whole person, the coaches not only help develop the children as excellent soccer players, but they also speak life into each child's life by educating and discipling them. The Burmese team started back in the Spring of 2013 with a consistent group of at least fifteen children (ages from 10-14 years old) showing up each Saturday. Since then, the children have begged to play on a real organized team, and now they finally have the opportunity to!

Age of Players: 10-14 years old

Financial Background: Many of the families are still trying to find jobs in this new country of theirs, and thus donors are needed to help sponsor this team. They need uniforms, registration fees, and insurance to be covered by generous donors.

Language: Most of the parents do not speak English, whereas many of their children have become grasped the English language remarkably well. As coaches, we try to incorporate English-teaching into our curriculum to help the children become better at it. Most of them mainly speak Zomi as their primary language.

Cultural Background: Most of the children are Zomis from the Chin state in Myanmar. The Zomis are one of several ethnic groups in Myanmar. Myanmar (once known as Burma) is situated between China and India, and until two years ago was under 50 years of a military dictatorship that isolated it from the rest of the world. Many of the current families in Tulsa are political refugees who fled during the political turmoil, whereas many of the newer refugees are looking for a better economic situation in American, compared to earning around \$1 per day in Myanmar.