

Ellen and I completed our delightful trip to Yangon, Myanmar. It gave us great joy to meet our Free Methodist family in Yangon as well as our Light and Life Bible College. We were met at the airport by Superintendent Pakep Thang and his daughter Rebekah, who presented Ellen with a bouquet of roses.

The unexpected timing of this trip allowed us to be present for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Commencement Ceremony of the Bible College. And with our presence I was invited to don academic regalia, process in with the faculty and students, assist in the presentation of their diplomas and offer the commencement address on Saturday. A truly humbling experience.

We found an unusual level of dedication and commitment by both faculty and students at this Bible College. Their facility is incredibly limiting, almost “third world like.” Yet their vision is divinely inspired and bearing fruit with each passing year. They accomplish so much with so little resources. Again, a truly humbling experience.

Earlier on Thursday and Friday we met with the Bible College Principal and his assistant as a part of our consultation. We found them very eager to engage with us in a review both of their curriculum and their strategic vision for the future. We are in the process of drafting modest revisions for their curriculum that will at their request incorporate portions of the Free Methodist World Missions in Asia strategic plan for leadership development and ordination.

On Sunday we had the great joy of worshipping with the Free Methodist Church of Yangon, a young and most dynamic congregation. I was invited to speak once again although I am most confident that they blessed us far more than any blessing I may have been able to leave with them. Sunday afternoon after dinner with Superintendent Pakep and his wife Nu Hta and other leaders we returned to the airport for our return flight to Chiang Mai.

Since that time, we have been prayerfully and carefully developing our consultation summary report for Area Director Rev. Eric Spangler and Assistant Area Director Dr. Darin Land.

A few thoughts about Myanmar. An acknowledgement – as this is “a creative access” country – I must write very carefully. Anyone can quickly research online the struggles that the Christian church in Myanmar faces. We can assure you that this peril is quite real. One can also quickly research the challenges and struggles of this nation both internally and as a part of the global community. I should not comment further in that regard.

What we found and experienced once again was a kind and gracious people. We were given a tour of the National Museum where we learned more of the story of this diverse and proud yet humble nation. In the midst of it all we found our brothers and sisters in Christ to be faithfully and fruitfully advancing the Hope of the Kingdom.

Ellen and I continue to most sincerely thank you for your faithful prayers and support allowing us to follow God’s leading to serve here in SE Asia.

A friend,

Roger and Ellen