



Myanmar Musings

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The mission field love affair

Is there a scandal afoot? Has Martin finally found someone who can put up with him? Well, rest assured, there's no scandal, and as far as I'm aware, the scope isn't showing any signs of life regarding "that special someone" either.

According to www.dictionary.com a love affair can mean either...

1. a romantic relationship or episode between lovers; an amour.
2. an active enthusiasm for something.

So yes, this article is about number 2. I've come to realise that I love the mission field - not just a feeling of happiness about it, but a real love for the people and the work the Lord is doing with them. As a student at bible college (SMBC) we hear about all kinds of different mission work each week through visiting missionaries, and when they share about the work the Lord is doing in and through them it makes me want to "go into all the world" as soon as possible and embrace all the opportunities and challenges of the mission field. I find her wonderfully needy and it doesn't matter where she is or what her needs are I just want to be there helping out. Now you might be

" I find her wonderfully needy and it doesn't matter where she is or what her needs are I just want to be there..."

thinking "he's carrying on a bit isn't he? I can understand he's enthusiastic but there's no need to go on like a school boy in love". But that's exactly what it feels like! Whenever I hear of a need on the field or every time I visit the field I feel the Lord causing in my heart a tremendous desire to "go" and help with meeting the needs.

Please don't get me wrong, I'm not telling you all this to blow my own trumpet or to have you think I'm wonderful. Rather, I'm telling you this so that you can know a little of my heart and to feel comfortable that the the Lord has burdened the right guy to head off to the mission field.

"So what's triggered this burst of love" I hear you ask. The blessings of 2 recent mission trips is what.



RBI Students and lecturers

Back in December Peter Barnes and I went to Myanmar for 2 weeks of

teaching, and although we were there to be a blessing, we came away richly blessed by their passion and enthusiasm for the Lord. They're a terrific group of guys at the Bible College and so hungry for the great teaching of Hebrews which Peter took them through. And as always, our time with them outside of class was refreshing. Their servant hearts and genuine love for others is testimony to the truth of scripture which says "we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him." (1John 4:16).

The second mission trip was part of my Bible College course which required me to go to a culture I've not previously been exposed to and observe the ministry of Australian missionaries. Those missionaries were Ron and Jean Lyons up in Weipa (far north QLD) and the culture was Indigenous Australians. I arrived on December 29th and was there until January 28th during which time I was able to get involved in the ministry Ron was doing with some of the Indigenous folks from nearby towns. We shared bible studies with some, and with others we took them through a Bible overview and Christianity Explained. Many of them were very young in their Christianity or were suffering from a lack of good biblical teaching in their churches. There's a big need for good reformed teaching so it's terrific that

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Cut below and attach to your fridge (see reverse for prayer points)

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Ron and Jean are there doing a great job of discipling, teaching and encouraging the folks they meet with.



Some of the folks Ron and Jean meet with on a Monday night for fellowship and teaching.

Please keep Ron and Jean in your prayers as they have a big job to do, both in distance to cover as well as people to share the message of Christ with. A big thanks to them for sharing their lives with me for the month and teaching me much about Indigenous Australians and the Lord's work in those communities.

Some new stuff on the web

During some of the quieter moments I had between mission trips and bible college I took the chance to make a few changes on my website (<http://me.malleebblue.com>). I've added a few new things and also made a couple of small changes. Here they are in brief:

ADDITIONS:

- » [Home page](#) - now has some Desiring God blogs by John Piper
- » [Christian Resources page](#) - A very functional version of the Shorter Catechism (in modern English and with scripture references)
- » [Those 'Other' Pages](#) - Some random books from my library collection

CHANGES:

- » The [Photo Gallery](#) has some new photos AND a new interface
- » [Prayer page](#) updated with new prayer points

Tend my sheep (John 21:17)

Thang Bwee is a man of small stature but he has a big heart for the Lord's work. He has many projects going at once to meet the needs of his family, the students and the church, and recently he's taken on the responsibility of supporting



an orphanage he came across during a recent trip back to where he was born and raised in Chin State. Here are some photos of the children and the orphanage.



Please also keep these children and this work in your prayers.

In the media

Sat Feb 9, 2008 : **Burma sets date for referendum and general election** - In a move that caught people by surprise, Burma's ruling military junta on Saturday announced, it will hold a referendum on the constitution it is drafting, in May. It will be followed by a multi-party election in 2010.

The announcement, which came in the form of a statement signed by the junta's Secretary (1) Lt Gen Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo was read out in the state-run television. A referendum on the constitution, which is being drafted by a 54-member committee, will be held in May, the statement said.

"Multi-party democratic elections will be held in 2010, according to the new constitution," the statement added. "It is suitable to change the military administration to a democratic, civil administrative system, as good fundamentals have been established," the junta said.

"The country's basic infrastructure has been built, although there is still more to do while striving for the welfare of the nation," added the statement.

Full story available at and courtesy of [Mizzima News](http://www.mizzima.com/MizzimaNews/News/2008/Feb/24-Feb-2008.html) (<http://www.mizzima.com/MizzimaNews/News/2008/Feb/24-Feb-2008.html>)

Please pray for...	Our Partners	Martin	Praise God
Monday	Dormitory building for students.	Finish TESOL	People are being led to Christ through the outreach and evangelism throughout Yangon
Tuesday	Teaching seminars in March and April on Eschatology.	Bible college studies & next trip to Myanmar (Dec 2008)	All students are supported through mission partners
Wednesday	2 students hope to be able to do further study in India starting July 2008	To have more regular devotions & prayer times	Finances have been provided for special projects like housing, printing & transport
Thursday	Colleges require additional theology lecturers for the coming academic year (June '08 to Feb '09)	Boldness in evangelism	God's providence in the short-term mission work so far
Friday	Student's learning and health. Church leaders, especially Thang Bwee and James	Financial support	