

ALOHA from Burma (Myanmar)

January 5, 2004

The cold air outside touched my feet because the blanket was not long enough to cover my whole body and I woke up at 5:00 AM. It was still dark outside. The open and invisible wall exists between the outside world and us. Houses in villages had no walls in the living room and you can see through to the trees and mountains around.



Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies (BARS) students from Myanmar Institute of Theology and I went on a mission trip to villages in Southern part of Burma. The trip was rough and we had to use bullock carts as in the picture to travel from one village to another. It was also quite an experience to learn to walk for about an hour and a half to get to a village. Walking was the most reliable means of traveling. Students all had fun even though the trip was tiring.

The night programs were wonderful according to the villagers. The songs, dances,

fashion show, the Christmas drama and magic show were all great. The worship services were full of testimonies and inspiring sermons. Students all had wonderful experiences. They all treasured the memories.



In front of the houses in Karen and Mon states there were big pots of water to wash the visitors' feet. It was the tradition of most village houses. It would not be strange to see one of the students washing her faces using that water. Students were so tired from home visits that they just used any water they can get hold of to wash their faces.

It was amazing to see how people live in remote places without electricity, phone or e-mails. Life is completely different from what a

city dweller would call normal. Life in the show "Survivor" is nothing compared to the real stuff. These are real people living real lives. Nothing like a Television show! The following picture is a primary school without any dividers between classes. It is just an open hall.



I hope to write more about stories from the trip next month.

May God bless you!

Love in Christ,

Lwin Moe

<http://dmw.mine.nu/~lwinmoe/lwinmoe>