

ALOHA from Burma (Myanmar)

Dear Friends,

May has been exciting for me because BARS (Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies) classes began the first week of May and Neil and Diana Sowards, my host parents from Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA are here to teach at BARS for four months. I moved into the Myanmar Institute of Theology's Jubilee Hall with Neil and Diana. I feel like I am in the States being with them. ☺

It's been very busy the first few weeks of school. A lot of things need to be done at the computer lab and also at the library. It was an interesting experience to interview students who went on internship trips to various parts of the country. Here is one of the interviews that I have done.



A young English major student, Naw Peace, went to Bamaw area in Kachin state, northern Burma, for her internship trip. She went to Loi Jeh on the Chinese border. People speak mostly Kachin and some Chinese and Myanmar. Her group had one Kachin member and except for him, everybody else had language problems with the locals. But the locals loved them and invited them to come back next year. Naw Peace taught music to over 300 children and youth at several villages in the area. Other members taught ecology, gender and society, mission, health (HIV/AIDS), communication, and bible. They learned a local superstition concerning funerals. An egg is thrown at several places to look for a place to bury the dead body. If the egg is broken, that is the place for the dead body. If not, the egg kept being thrown.

I am also volunteering at the Karen Baptist Clinic as a facilitator trying to make the communications between the local people here and the volunteers in the States smoother. I myself had a hard time communicating with the people in the States because I am living on campus with Neil and Diana and the phone lines at MIT are not very reliable. The phone is either always busy or dead. It's funny that the phone line is dead if there is no electricity. We don't have electricity all day sometimes. MIT, the biggest seminary in Burma, has two phone lines.

Now I know that I need to concentrate my studies on communication technology because it seems to be what is needed the most here at MIT and Burma. I think I need to figure out a cheap way to go on the Internet. Wireless Internet access is still expensive. My idea and dream is to make that technology cheaper or completely find a new technology so most ordinary people here will be able to cruise the Information Superhighway. I need to go to graduate school in America to do research in that field.

Amidst the hassles preparing for a new semester and communication difficulties, we are blessed in several ways to know that God has been watching us and giving us our daily food.

Love in Christ,

Lwin Moe

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