

## **ALOHA from Burma (Myanmar)**

*August 17, 2004*

It was raining heavily outside. I was on a bus on the way back home from downtown. When I got off the bus, it was still raining and I didn't have my umbrella with me. I thought "Well, I should wait for the rain to stop at the teashop." I went into a teashop near the bus stop. Sitting in the teashop, I finally had a chance to do some thinking.

First of all, it was by chance that the rain started right after I got off the bus. It wasn't planned either that I would go into the teashop to get shelter from the rain. It was just a coincidence.

Accidents happen all the time in our lives. I had a car accident. Accidents happened and we broke our legs while playing football, right? Coincidence is just like events that happen at the same time by accident. Even in the history, a lot of great things have come out because of accidents. Alexander Fleming invented Penicillin because of an accident. He left the old food on the plate.

Besides, think of Issac Newton. He thought out the law of gravity because an apple fell onto the ground. A cartoon said he was able to figure out the law of gravity because it was an apple that fell on his head. An apple! If it were a fruit from the tree in front of our house that fell on his head, he would be dead before he could write up the law of gravity. You know what that fruit is? It's Durian. It has all the prickly rinds. Therefore, Newton would probably be dead if it were Durian that fell on his head. Anyways, this example taught us a lot.

In addition, accidents, coincidences and small things later tend to become important in our lives. Accidents will happen in our lives. We just can't avoid them. Small things that we wouldn't even notice might have some big impacts on somebody else's lives.

Moreover, I would like to tell you one example. It was six years ago. I was about 20 something at that time. I had to speak at a church in Michigan. It was like a month after I got to the States. I was so scared and nervous. My listening skill was great. But my speaking skills? It was lousy. Even in Burmese, let alone in English. I think I did quite a lousy job that Sunday. But after the service, an old lady came to me and said "Lwin, wonderful, you were doing a great job!" You know how much it had helped me at that time. I was afraid to speak. But after that, I wasn't afraid any more. I spoke again and again and again. I still do a lousy job but I am getting better ☺ ☺ What I am getting at is that small and kind gesture from the old lady has helped me move on. That's how a small thing has done to somebody's lives in a good and positive way.

However, there can also be negative things. To illustrate that, I would like to tell you another story of my own. I usually walked home after my classes at the Myanmar Institute of Theology. The buses were usually crowded. I chose to walk for exercises and for doing deep thinking while walking. One night, it was really dark because there was no electricity. About half way home, I stepped on a frog and it was dead. I thought to myself. Well, I didn't mean to step on that frog. Yet, it was dead. Was it my fault? Or was it its fault? I don't think it was mine because I didn't mean to kill it and I didn't mean to step on it. I just didn't see it because it was dark. It was just an accident but I killed the frog.

Eventually, accidents will happen in our lives. Those accidents or small things will have impacts on others either in a positive or negative way. The frog that I stepped on was dead even though I didn't mean to kill it. It was just an accident. We won't just know the consequences of an

accident because two people can look at the same thing and see it differently. All we can do is pray and hope for the best. Whatever you do, please ....

1. Do it with love for God.
2. Do it with love for the people around you
3. Do it with love for yourself.

In conclusion, please remember accidents will happen. It will lead to positives or negatives. Yet, please do everything in love.

*Fig. A university in Mandalay on the water because of the recent flood.*



*Fig. A beautiful scene of the moat around the Mandalay palace.*



May God bless you all!

*Love in Christ,*

*Lwin Moe*

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