

ALOHA from Burma (Myanmar)

September 3, 2004

Start With Yourself

*When I was young and free, and my imagination had no limits,
I dreamed of changing the world.*

*As I grew older and wiser, I discovered the world would not change,
So I shortened my sights somewhat and decided to change my country.
But it, too, seemed immovable.*

*As I grew into my twilight years, in one last desperate attempt,
I settled for changing only my family, those closest to me,
But alas, they would have none of it.*

*And now as I lie on my deathbed, I suddenly realized
If I had only changed myself first,
Then by example, I would have changed my family.
From their inspiration and encouragement
I would then have been able to better my country.*

And, who knows, I may have even changed the world.

Anonymous

The above poem has a lot of meanings in my life. I am just an ordinary and regular person like the poet. When I was young and free at 20, I thought I would change the world. I went to the States to study at a prestigious university. I graduated with the highest distinctions, full of hope and energy of youthfulness. However, all of a sudden, I realized that the world is full of injustice and it was out of my control. I decided to change my country and came to BARS to teach computer science. I got involved in all of the activities and all students – religion majors, business majors, and even English majors. I went on trips with religion students and had some unforgettable moments. I became an advisor at the BARS newsletter. I have encouraged the students to write what they think is right, promoting their confidence in themselves.

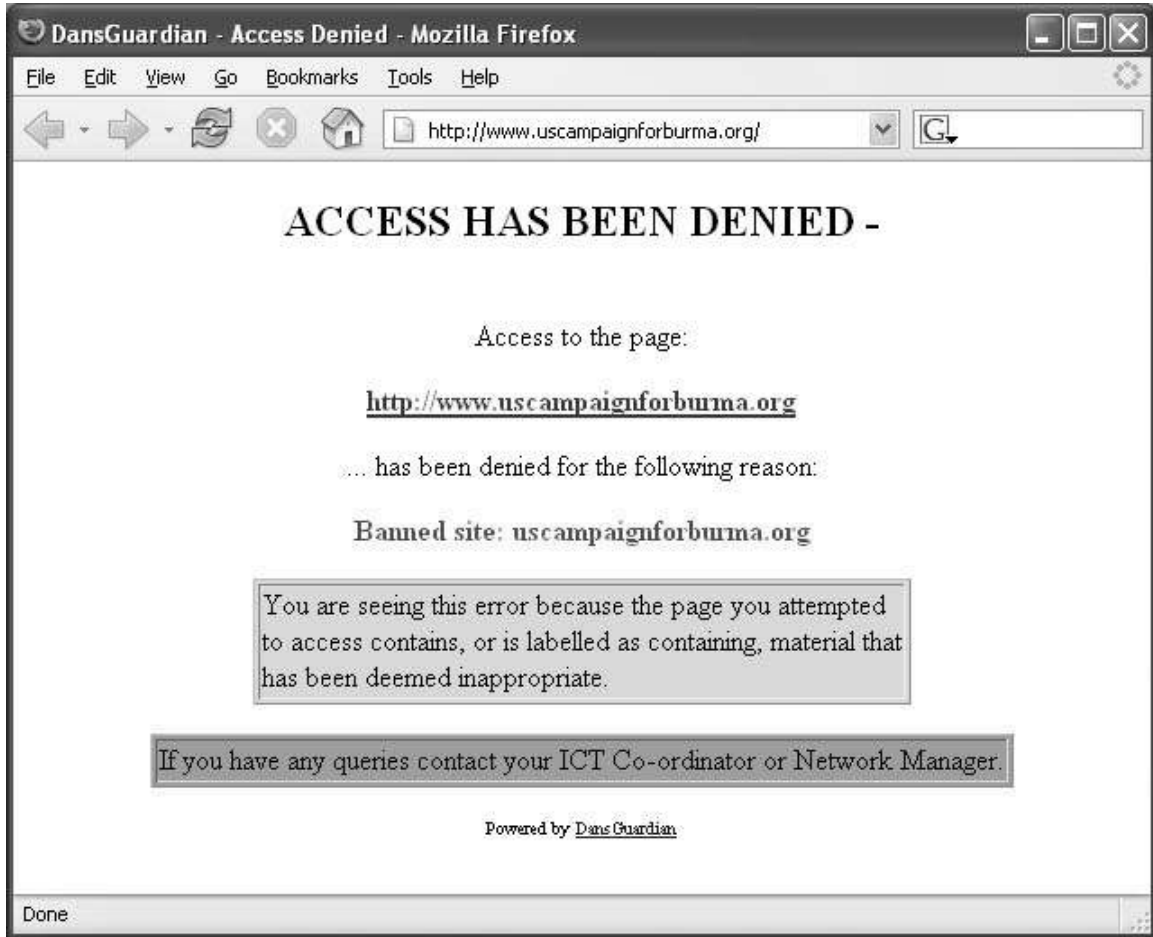
Nevertheless, just like the poet, I am now at the stage that I have discovered my country *seemed immovable*. Now in my last desperate attempt, I am going to try to change my family and those closest to me by working outside of Burma. ☺ To change myself seems the hardest thing to do. I would regret that I haven't when I lie on my deathbed. ☺

In my desperate attempt to change my family, I have requested leave of absence from the Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT) for about six months. ☺ I have been offered to train the staff of Digital Divide Data, an NGO based in Laos. www.digitaldividedata.com

Honestly speaking, I just want to gain some experiences. I need to breathe the air of freedom again to keep me fresh and give me new and dynamic ideas. It has been an honor to serve at MIT where I can exercise academic freedom and freedom of thoughts.

At the same time, I need some financial assets and want to be free again. My academic training in the States have changed me so much that it's been challenging to surf the Internet here in

Burma with so many “Access Denied” message. However, I have enjoyed it so much being a part of BARS (Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies) program and MIT community.



Unfortunately, I would like to feel what it is like to be free again. I will try my best to come back to Burma. Even though I cannot promise them, those words came from my heart.

Please pray for me and all of the MIT programs.

May God bless you all!

Love in Christ,

Lwin Moe

<http://www.michaelstoehr.de/lwinmoe>

Fig. Bob Winter, an English professor and me at the BARS graduation



Fig. MIT principal, Dr. Anna May Say Pa (left) with the dean of BARS, Pawlu (right) with students and teachers at the graduation.

