

## ALOHA from Burma (Myanmar)

*September 6, 2003*

### *Mission Trip to Inn Ponya*

The breeze touching our faces as we were sitting on the roof of a truck on the way to Thone Ze was like a kiss from an angel. The morning was beautiful, neither raining nor hot. It was just perfect. Lwin Moe and the twelve apostles left for a mission trip to Inn Ponya village, 2 hours by boat from Thone Ze. To be eligible for the modern world of gender equality, the twelve apostles were comprised of six gentlemen and six ladies. ☺ We got to Thone Ze at about 8:30 AM and went to the house of Saya Pawlu's sister in Thar Yar Waddy. The lunch there was very delicious.

Heading back to Thone Ze at about 11:30 AM, we went to the bank of the river to wait for the boat. The boat had a broken engine and it needed to be fixed. So we waited from 11:30 till about 5:00 PM when we left for Inn Ponya village. To release the pressure of the long delay, we kept singing praise songs, gospel songs, love songs, rock songs, etc. until 5:00 PM when they finished fixing the engine. It was really fun to be kept in the sun and rain at the bank of a river on the ferry for about 5 hours even though it meant canceling all the programs for the night.

It was already late when we got to the village at about 8:00 PM to have any programs. Being tired from the journey, walking in the mud from the bank of the river to the church, we ate and slept that night without mosquito nets. Si Si Htun, Si Baw Mi, and Elizabeth led the morning devotion the following day. Naing Thit Sar, Stephen and Lwin Moe led the worship service. The Theology students sang that they wanted to be the Light of the world, the Salt of the world and the Witness to God.

Inn Ponya village is a small village about a 2-hour boat-trip from Thone Ze. The church is very small and it has about 40 members. The pastor of the church is an old gentleman who, because of a maxillofacial surgery, had a slightly malformed cheek. He has sacrificed quite a good chunk of his life in this remote and un-developed village. Other missionaries, who, because of the love for the needy, are serving there, are Saya San Oo and Saya Lar Shee.

The students had fellowship with the villagers, encouraging them spiritually and physically. We left for another village in the afternoon so we could have night programs there. The students had a testimony, presentations and drama to entertain the locals.

After spending the night there, we headed back to Yangon the following morning. By the grace of God, we got back to Yangon at noon. It was good to be back home, nice and cozy. We all learned a lot from the trip. Because of space constraints in this issue, I will write more about our experiences in the future. Our appreciation goes to Saya Pawlu and his brother who made this trip possible.

May God bless you all!

Love in Christ,

Lwin Moe

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The mission team in front of Inn Ponya church



Third Row L-R: Naing Thit Sar, Samuel, Si Baw Mi, Si Si Htun, Eh Paw, Sui Sui, Thet Su, Elizabeth

Second Row L-R: Thra Carry, Thra Lar Shee, Thra Khee Lar, Thra Kyaw Mye, Ahmoe

First Row L-R: Gaw Thaw, Bau La Doi, Saya San Oo, Lwin Moe, Myint Soe Win, Stephen