



Myanmar Musings

What's All This Then?

Dear Friends, the first newsletter is finally here and it's full to overflowing, so grab a cuppa and muse along with me.

Why "Musings"? Well all the other missos (pronounced mish-oes) have their titles beginning with the same letter (Thai Times, Nerida's Nyuuusu, Simmo's Story) so I thought I should follow suit. Plus, musings means "to comment thoughtfully or ruminate upon" and I reckon that's what we'll be doing a lot of.



What you'll find here are some thoughts and comments on what's happening in my life, and as I move into ministry that'll feature more. I'll also be sharing information on our partners in Myanmar and some interesting bits from the media on Myanmar.

If you haven't spoken with me or visited my website lately then you may not be aware that I've been officially accepted as a partner church missionary with **mission partners** (The Australian Presbyterian World Mission), however it's pending 12 months of bible college and the completion of my TESOL course. A couple of years ago when being a missionary all started to take shape and become more of a reality than a dream I thought I'd be on the mission field in Myanmar by now, if not very soon, but all things happen in the Lord's perfect timing and I'm comfortable with how they're progressing and I'm quite looking forward to full-time bible college which should start in July this year. At this stage it looks like I'll be doing it at **Sydney Missionary & Bible College (SMBC)** but that's yet to be confirmed.

This does however push the date of being on the field back to around November 2008 (Lord willing) but I'm completely ok with it. It will be invaluable for me to do the study, and the fellowship and discipline will also be a big plus. As a full-time student I won't be able to afford to pay rent where I'm living so I've been looking for alternate accommodation but it's not looking good, so if I'm accepted at SMBC I'll just live there. Whether at SMBC or some other accommodation it means lightening my load regarding my possessions. I've started selling off all non-essential furniture and so far have sold my bed (don't worry, I have a spare), my dining table, coffee table, chest of drawers and a couple of other bits. All I'm hoping to be left with soon is a fridge, washing machine, bed and a desk. Then, when it's close to the time to leave I'll sell those things too.

“ all things happen in the Lord's perfect timing and I'm comfortable with how they're progressing ”

In another area of preparation I've been trying to think of the best way to get my face and my details "out there" so people can pray for me. Some people use business cards, others use colour or black and white leaflets, others use postcard, and some use fridge magnets.

What do you think? Please e-mail me your thoughts. At this stage I'm leaning toward fridge magnet as they're often in people's faces, though I know of a couple of pretty full fridge fronts so that may not be the best after all. I'll keep thinking it through.

I thought I'd share my schedule for the next 12 months so you know what's ahead for me:

- Continue to study evening bible college subject until June
- Continue to work through TESOL
- Leave work late June
- Start full-time bible college mid-July
- Go to Myanmar for 4 weeks, late November to late December (Lord willing)
- January '08: Melb for 6 weeks doing a language course, then back to bible college

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Our Myanmar Partners

It's holiday time for the bible college students in Myanmar and usually they'd head off to their homes in Chin State but this year all but one of them has remained in the capital. This is great news for their ongoing ministry as they'll be able to continue to engage in daily evangelism.

The Evangelical Reformed Church (ERC) are having their ministers from Chin state down to participate in a missions class during April which will be a great time of fellowship for all.

Bill and Jenny Lutton (mission partners Director and wife), Peter Barber and Paul Reilly (Presbyterian church parishioners from Victoria) will all visit Myanmar this month for various reasons and enjoy time with both ERC and FRCM (Free Reformed Church of Myanmar) congregations. The heat will be especially challenging for them all so remember to pray for their safety and overall wellbeing.

Rev James Mang Khen Thang, Pastor of FRCM and principal of Grace Bible Seminary (GBS) wrote to me last week and I'd like to share a small part of his e-mail . . .

Praise the Lord and thank you very much for APWM and everyone for your financial support till this day. Thank you very much to APWM and you for your fellowship and conducting one week or two weeks Bible teaching Seminary every year. We are very grateful to every church members under APWM, who were participated in offering for us. Praise be the Lord. May God bless them every one more and more.

They're always so tremendously grateful for all that we do for them, yet when we visit I always feel like we've come away far more blessed than we've been a blessing. I look forward to being able to bless them more and more as I serve them full-time. Remember to commit them to the Lord in prayer always and to seek God about how you can help with His ministry in Myanmar.



(L to R) Thawng Lian Mang, Andrew and Van No from Grace Bible Seminary (GBS) enjoy some time of fellowship singing to the Lord

“ when we visit I always feel like we've come away far more blessed than we've been a blessing ”

In the Media

Myanmar learns to live with the lights out

Chronic power shortages in Myanmar are leaving cities in the former Burma shrouded in almost permanent blackout, driving its citizens to despair and crippling an economy reeling from decades of military misrule. As with other problems in the once-prosperous ex-British colony, there is little explanation in the state-controlled media, which abound with pictures of generals inaugurating new hydro power projects and promising sufficient power "next year" ... few people believe them.

"We haven't been able to use the washing machine for ages as the power never lasts long enough. It now serves as a laundry basket," said Yangon housewife Hla Myint, adding that all her other electrical goods were virtually worthless. "We recently decided to retire the rice cooker and we use the fridge as a cupboard. We've unplugged the cable and keep the crockery and glassware inside."

Many in Yangon believe the blackouts are a deliberate ploy to make the city so insufferable that government workers and others will be happy to move to the new capital.

Full story available at and courtesy of Burmanet.org.

Please Pray

	Our Partners	Martin	Praise God
Monday	Sunday school ministries of ERC & FRCM around Yangon	Finish TESOL by August	People are being led to Christ through the outreach and evangelism throughout Yangon
Tuesday	Sponsors needed for the costs of printing translated books	Preparations for bible college & next trip to MM ¹	
Wednesday	Chin state ministries to Buddhist families	Bible college - to understand and retain info	All students are supported through <i>mission partners</i>
Thursday	Students & staff would be lead of the Lord in evangelism	To have more regular devotions & prayer times	Finances have been provided for special projects like housing, printing & transport
Friday	Continued financial support	Boldness in evangelism	
Saturday	Student's learning and health	Financial support	God's providence in the short-term mission work so far
Sunday	Church leaders, especially Thang Bwee and James	Health - need to exercise	

¹ MM = Myanmar