



# Myanmar Musings

## Unrest Amongst the Unreached

Dear friends, hello again and grace be with you as we approach that time of year when we celebrate the birth of Christ; the One in whom we have so much hope and eternal assurance.

I've been a Christian for many years and I have to confess that at times I've taken my salvation for granted and neglected to treasure this eternal gift. There are times when I neglect to treasure Christ too. I become far too self-focused as I go through life's different trials and it's at those times that I should be absolutely NOT self focused and entirely Christ-focused. It's only with my gaze set on the Shepherd that this little sheep will stand a chance. I must treasure all that He is and all that He's done. 2 Corinthians 4 is a very encouraging section of scripture and ends with "For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal." (verses 17 and 18). This instructs us to focus on Him and to think eternally. This comforts us and brings rest to our unrest.



But what about those who don't know Jesus? Where do they go, who do they turn to, what do they do during their times of unrest? I believe the answer to that can be seen, in part, in the uprising and disorder that recently swept through parts of Myanmar. You've no doubt seen some footage during late September and early October of the thousands upon

**“ If you know me you know my passion for the unreached, especially the unreached of Myanmar. ”**

thousands of people who gathered to show their dissatisfaction at yet another unjust and corrupt decision of Myanmar's ruling Junta (pronounced hoonta). Those who don't know Jesus don't have hope. They are the sheep that Isaiah was referring to when he wrote "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned--every one--to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6). Sheep are defenseless

and dependent, they wander helplessly without a shepherd and if startled they'll react, having a ripple affect on the rest of the flock. This is what we saw last month - great unrest amongst a flock without a shepherd; those who are yet unreached with the gospel.

If you know me you know my passion for the unreached and especially the unreached of Myanmar. Please join with me in regular prayer for the multitudes of people throughout that country who haven't yet heard about Jesus. Pray that the Lord would raise up men and women who love Him and who are willing to tell about the good Shepherd. Pray that the Lord would have compassion on the lost sheep and that He would extend His grace unto salvation. Pray also that we who live in relative ease and comfort would not neglect to treasure our salvation gift or the One who died to make it possible. John Piper says "He is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him". In other words, glorify God by treasuring Him. May our treasuring be wonderfully infectious for the sake of God's glory.

## Fashion Statement

Sorry folks. If you were hoping for an announcement that my dress sense had improved then I'm afraid I'm going to disappoint. Seems I'll always be a fashion tragedy. Instead, this is a reminder about how God, who has absolute control over all He encompasses, chooses to fashion us into the likeness of His Son. Recently I read a sermon of John Piper's on

[ continued on page 2 ]

## THIS ISSUE

- » Unrest Amongst the Unreached
- » Fashion Statement
- » In The Media
- » Visiting Myanmar Dec '07
- » Please Pray

Cut out below and stick on your fridge as a prayer reminder (or ask for a prayer card)

## CONTACT MARTIN

02 8011 3131 \*

[martin@malleebblue.com](mailto:martin@malleebblue.com)

c /- mission partners  
8 Sylvan Grove  
Picnic Point NSW 2213

\* Normal call costs to Sydney. Will find Martin anywhere in the world



Martin Eagle is a Partner Church missionary with **mission partners** The Australian Presbyterian World Mission



[ continued from page 1 ]

Romans 8:28-30 where, in closing, he said that we ought not make ourselves and our likeness to Christ the ultimate goal. The exaltation of Christ is the ultimate goal.

He went on to encourage us to be like Christ:

**Strong** - so that we can defeat every adversary that would entice us to settle for any pleasure less than admiring the strongest person in the universe, Christ.

**Wise** - so that we can discern and admire the One who is most truly and all-satisfyingly wise.

**Holy**: so that we can be free from all unholy inhibitions that keep us from seeing and savouring the holiness of Christ.

**Loving**: so that I will enjoy extending to others, even in sufferings, the all-satisfying love of Christ.

“ we ought not make ourselves and our likeness to Christ the ultimate goal ”

All of God's work, his choosing us, predestining us, calling us, justifying us, sanctifying us, bringing us to final glory - is designed by God not mainly to make much of us, but to free us and fit us to enjoy making much of Christ forever.

## In the Media

Excerpts from a news article titled “No compromise, says junta mouthpiece”

The press in Burma is completely controlled by the junta. All articles that appear in newspapers are only published by permission of the state authorities. Publishing without permission can earn those responsible up to 20 years imprisonment under Act 19/20.

Junta head Snr-Gen Than Shwe claimed that the economic and social standards of people in Burma had improved. He said that the literacy rate had increased to 94.75 percent and that life expectancy of Burmese people had risen due to the development of the military government's health care system.

However, UN agencies and experts say that up to 40 percent of Burmese children leave school every year to work for their family's welfare, because of poverty. And although hundreds of thousands of people are living with HIV/AIDS, the junta invests only about 2 percent of GDP for education and health. 90 percent of Burma's population is living on less than US \$300 annual income, the lowest rate among all Southeast Asian nations.

Full story available at and courtesy of [The Irrawaddy](http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=9357) ([http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art\\_id=9357](http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=9357))

## Visiting Myanmar Dec '07

My next visit to Myanmar came as a surprise when, in late October, I received a phone call asking me to accompany my pastor, Rev. Dr. Peter Barnes, on his scheduled trip to teach “Studies in Hebrews” to the students of the Reformed Bible Institute in Yangon. As his health is not 100% his congregation was wanting to have someone accompany him to keep an eye on him and to help out wherever and whenever possible. So I'm booked and ready to go on Monday Dec 10<sup>th</sup> and will return early on Dec 25<sup>th</sup> in time to spend Christmas day with my family. I'm looking forward to the trip and to catch up with my Christian brothers and sisters who I haven't seen in almost 18 months. Please pray for the safety and health of Peter and me, as well as the students as they learn more about Hebrews and the church leaders as their load increases with having overseas visitors.

## Please Pray

	Our Partners	Martin	Praise God
Monday	Sunday school ministries of ERC & FRCM around Yangon	Finish TESOL	People are being led to Christ through the outreach and evangelism throughout Yangon
Tuesday	Sponsors needed for the costs of printing translated books	Dec '07 trip to Myanmar	
Wednesday	The welfare of the country and for the Lord to reveal Himself and extend His grace to the leaders of Myanmar	Bible college - to understand and retain info	All students are supported through <i>mission partners</i>
Thursday	Students & staff of our partner bible colleges in Myanmar would be lead of the Lord in evangelism	To have more regular devotions & prayer times	Finances have been provided for special projects in Myanmar, eg. housing, printing, training, transport, translation work
Friday	Continued financial support	Boldness in evangelism	
Saturday & Sunday	For translation works and for the cost of publication of the Westminster Confession of faith (WCF)	Wisdom, patience, love, joy	God's providence in the short-term mission work so far

Please tell your friends and congregations about this newsletter and please encourage them to subscribe at [me.malleebblue.com](http://me.malleebblue.com)

**STOP PRESS !! Prayer cards now available. E-mail [martin@malleebblue.com](mailto:martin@malleebblue.com) if you'd like 1 or 100**