



Faith, Hope, and Love Global Ministries

June E-Newsletter

Finally Teaching MIT Students in Person Again!



Master of Theology Biblical Students from MIT

Dear Timothy C.,

I had no idea how wonderful spending 40 hours studying one short book of the Bible with a group of Burmese graduate students could be. But our week together exceeded my expectations. By far!

As an experiment, we flew six Master of Theology (MTh) biblical students from Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT) from Yangon to Chiang Mai, Thailand, to participate in an intensive educational experience. For five full days, we studied the book of Philippians together. I worried ahead of time that the schedule would be too exhausting for us, or that the students would grow weary from focusing so intently on one book of the Bible day after day, all day long, 8 a.m.-5p.m., for five straight days. But that was not the case. Not at all.



Each day, the time flew by as we read each text carefully, verse by verse, in both the original Greek and in English. (This way of studying the Bible is called "exegesis".) As the week went on, the discussions naturally flowed back and forth between the academic and the personal. As ministers, the students were eager not only to study theology but also to apply what they were learning to their ministries.



The more we explored Paul's teaching in depth, the more we could see how relevant it still is today, especially in the war-torn Myanmar context. Just imagine how important it might be for Christians gripped daily by fear or who are living in Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps to hear Paul's exhortation to stand firm amid opposition and danger. Amid mounting pressures with the Myanmar churches, sometimes causing divisions among them, Paul's teaching on unity speaks loudly. He taught believers to put others' interests ahead of their own and to serve Jesus Christ above all others. Spiritually, he urged the Philippians to seek to know Christ more and more and to reach out to God for peace and joy when they felt anxious or afraid. No teaching could be more encouraging or helpful.



This is the first time since I fled Myanmar due to COVID (March 2020), followed by the awful military coup (February 2021), that I've been able to teach MIT students in person. As great as I thought the experience might be for the students and for me, it turned out to be so much more.



Grateful students displaying their free copy of Tim's book, What We Can Expect from God Now: Seven Spiritual Truths for Trusting God in Troubled Times

Meanwhile, back in Myanmar, the situation continues to deteriorate. More and more young adults (aged 18-35) have gone into hiding, joined the resistance movement, or fled the country to avoid mandatory conscription into the military. Daily, I receive reports of new bombings, destruction, people being maimed by land mines, and other atrocities.

Thank you for your continued concern, prayers, and support. Our troubled, beleaguered brothers and sisters in Christ in these hot spots draw so much encouragement from you whenever they hear of your love and kindness toward them through our ministries.

Gratefully, in Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Timothy C. Grathoff'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President, Faith, Hope, and Love Global Ministries
Visiting Professor in Myanmar (MIT) and Thailand (KHTS)

Testimonials

"I am so blessed that God's wonderful plan in us is more than expected." -
-Samuel ThangPi (MIT graduate student and pastor reflecting on his week studying with Tim in Chiang Mai)

"[The students] arrived back in Yangon on Monday, and yesterday four of them came to see me and told me about their experiences in Chiang Mai... They all were very satisfied and grateful for the opportunity to learn a lot from you. They said you were a father-like professor for them. For them it was enriching exegetically, theologically, and spiritually.... Their time with you will continue to help them become good exegetes and scholars in the future. In addition to educating them and walking them through the book of Philippians, from which they have learned a lot, your concern and generosity for our students have shown us how much you love God and MIT and are committed to training men and women for God's ministry." --Rev. Dr. Thomas Cung Bik, Dean of Students, MIT



Read Tim's Recent Blog Posts

"To Speak Up or Not?" What Jesus's example teaches us about integrity and courage



Sometimes what other people think, say, or do is very upsetting to me. But I don't always know how to handle the situation. Should I say something? Should I ignore them? Do I dare risk their criticism or some other kind of backlash? I want to have the courage to speak up, but I don't want to say or do something that I will regret later.

[Keep Reading Here](#)

"Grieving Our Losses"

Serving victims of oppression, brutality, and destruction in Myanmar, Thailand, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo has forced me to grapple with unimaginable trauma and despair afflicting those living in or fleeing war zones. Their suffering and losses are often unimaginable to someone like me, who grew up in a comfortable, relatively safe, Midwestern town in the United States. Yet, there they are. Right in front of my eyes.



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Current Prayer Requests

After spending a short summer season in Minnesota, I will return to the Congo in September and then Thailand in October and November for more teaching and ministry. Please continue to pray for the Congolese, Myanmar people, and refugees in Thailand. Please also remember me as I use this time to prepare a new series of teachings based on my book, *Saying Yes to God*, for my ministry trip to Goma, DRC, in September. I will also be creating a second English edition of *What We Can Expect from God Now*.

Your Donation Would Be Greatly Appreciated

God is blessing our teaching and ministry with students from Myanmar, refugees in Thailand, and pastors and chaplains in the DRC. Please consider making a contribution now to keep our work and ministries going and growing.

Thank you for caring and for your support.

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