



Faith, Hope, and Love
Global Ministries

May E-Newsletter
Crisis in Myanmar and the Borderlands
(Part 2 of 3)



*Kawthoolei Hope Theological Seminary (KHTS) Graduates celebrating the
"Spiritual Strength under Stress" seminar*

Dear Timothy C.,

Amid so much chaos, distress, loss, and uncertainty, God continues to work through our ministries in profound and life-changing ways. Every day, we see so much that is outside our control and problems we cannot solve. But what we can do, and what we do best, and what God has called us to do—teach, inspire, and encourage current and future Christian leaders—is making a significant difference for the refugees and many others we serve, who are struggling to survive in Myanmar and in the borderlands.

Being the keynote speaker, who was scheduled to give the **charge to the**

graduates at the Kawthoolei Hope Theological Seminary (KHTS) commencement, I was also invited to conduct a special two and half day seminar for the 33 MDiv. and Master of Ministry students (pictured above). At the request of the school president, Dr. Wado, my topic was "Spiritual Strength under Stress." He wanted me to spiritually prepare the graduates in anticipation of the many, many challenges and hardships awaiting them once they dispersed to their fields of service.



I had no idea that the seminar would turn out to be one of the most powerful experiences I've had as a teacher since I started serving in Thailand three years ago. Session after session, I could see in their faces, hear in their voices, and perceive in their questions and responses that God was touching them in deeply meaningful ways. They were receiving something their hearts and minds were thirsting for, and their joy and gratitude spilled out into every conversation.

- *I will actively involve in seeking out the opportunities to serve and engage rather than waiting for things to happen in ministry works. (Saw Lei Htoo Lei Say, Church Secretary, New York, USA)*
- *I love to listen our professor Tim's pilgrimage journey. He motivated me to start my journal writing. (Saw A Du, USA)*
- *We are blessed through this seminar for having our Spiritual Father Rev. Dr. Tim.... Your wisdom, insight, and passion for God's Word were truly inspiring. Thank you for creating a safe and sacred space for us to explore, reflect, and grow in our faith. Your dedication to nurturing our spiritual growth is a blessing, and I'm so grateful to have been a part of this seminar. (Paw Eh Blute)*



Separately, I was also invited to teach New Testament Theology for 19 Kawthoolei Karen Baptist Churches (KKBC) Bible school teachers from multiple schools along the Thai-Myanmar border. Nearly every one of them is ill-prepared to teach their assigned courses due to little or no opportunity for advanced level academic training. Thus, they deeply appreciated studying in such depth, even for such a short time, and getting access to the 170 page, single-spaced, Student Guide and my books, some of which have been translated into the Karen language.

Here are a few of their comments:

- *[This seminar] strengthened and encouraged me to work harder for theologizing the message of Gospel into my context. (Saw Plar Shee, Mae Ra Moe Karen Baptist Bible School)*
- *I have learnt many things: critical thinking, challenging things in my teaching. This course was really helpful for me. (anonymous)*
- *I get to know clearly about NT theology as much as I can. Thank you so much for your time that you have bestowed for us. (anonymous)*
- *From now on, I will love New Testament Theology more. (Doh Tar Gay, Ban Don Yang Bible School)*



KKBC Bible School Teachers

I cannot overstate the tremendous value of these kinds of seminars for the refugees, especially for those who serve as community leaders, ministers, and teachers in the Bible schools. This is not me saying they need it. It's them saying, verbally and nonverbally, over and over again, **"We need and want to learn more about God, to be better educated, and to know how to apply the spiritual truths of the Bible to our personal lives and communities more effectively."**



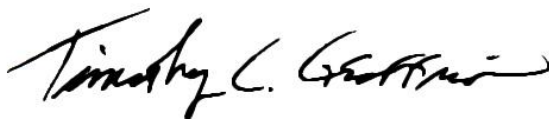
The three young adults pictured above serve as teachers at the smallest refugee camp with the fewest resources. They valued the opportunity to learn so greatly, they were willing to sneak over the border at night, pass through multiple military checkpoints, and ride motorbikes for two days each way.

Sadly, during one of the break times, I learned that, after a year of being extensively vetted, the two Karen men had been approved for resettlement to the USA, only to have their permission suddenly and inexplicably revoked in January. Saw Lwei (on the far right) actually had a plane ticket in his hand when he got the news not to go to the airport. When he told me, I felt sick to my stomach and could barely stammer out, "I'm so sorry that happened to you." Surprisingly, he brushed it off with a shrug. No big deal. "God has a plan for me," he told me with confidence.

Wow. This guy's attitude is amazing, I thought! But then it hit me. His, "It's OK. Everything is going to work out," attitude wasn't just faith. I'd heard it before, in fact many times among the Karen people. It's a coping mechanism. They are so used to the rug being pulled out from under their feet, protecting themselves from the pain of their losses, betrayals, and powerlessness is how they survive.

Thank you for caring about all the oppressed, abused, and disadvantaged people we are serving in Myanmar and Thailand, especially among Karen and Karenni refugees. God has uniquely positioned us to teach, inspire, and encourage these brothers and sisters in Christ in many life-changing ways. Together, we are making a difference. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Gratefully, in Christ's service,



Tim's Most Recent Biblical Reflections

A Time to Grieve



As Mary grieved over her son's death, there are times when weeping is exactly what you most need to do, too. (April 16)

[Read Here](#)

The Journey to Joy



It might not always be easy, but the journey to joy begins and ends with Jesus. Keep your eyes on him. (May 1)

[Read Here](#)

Update on the Crises in Southeast Asia and the Congo

Due to uncertainty over the future of US AID support for food, medicine, doctors, clinics, and hospitals, administrators in the nine refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border were forced to slash monthly rations once again, this time by 75% in some of the camps. In Mae La, the largest of the camps, the rations went from 310 Bahts (\$9.25)/month to 77 Bahts (\$2.30)/person/month.

Meanwhile, in Eastern Congo, millions of people are still coping with the fall of Goma and Bukavu to M23 rebels this winter. During the day, life is somewhat back to normal, but residents are living with a tremendous amount of fear and uncertainty. Every night, lawlessness returns and violent thieves break into homes, stealing and sometimes killing randomly.

Thanks to the generosity of FHLGM donors, we have been able to deploy thousands of dollars of humanitarian aid to the refugee camps, to earthquake victims in Mandalay and surrounding regions, and to Eastern Congo. We are also distributing free books to pastors where possible, who will in turn pass them on to others who can most benefit from them. Separately, Tim's biblical reflections, translated into French and Swahili, are reaching hundreds of thousands through Facebook.

For those wishing to specifically address the humanitarian crises in Myanmar, along the Thai-Myanmar border, and in Eastern Congo, please choose one of the options below. **100% of contributions given for crisis relief go directly to those in need.** Non-designated contributions go to supporting staff in Thailand and the Congo and literature distribution and other operating expenses.

Faith, Hope, and Love Global Ministries Current Funding Priorities:

1. Humanitarian support for war victims in Goma, DRC. (\$50/pastor). Mark your gift "**Congo Crisis**".
2. Humanitarian aid and medical supplies for those struggling in the refugee camps along the Thai-Myanmar border or other severely affected areas within Myanmar. Mark your gift "**Myanmar Crisis**".

Donate Now

"So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:11-3, NIV).

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something to help you grow closer to



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