



Faith, Hope, and Love

Global Ministries

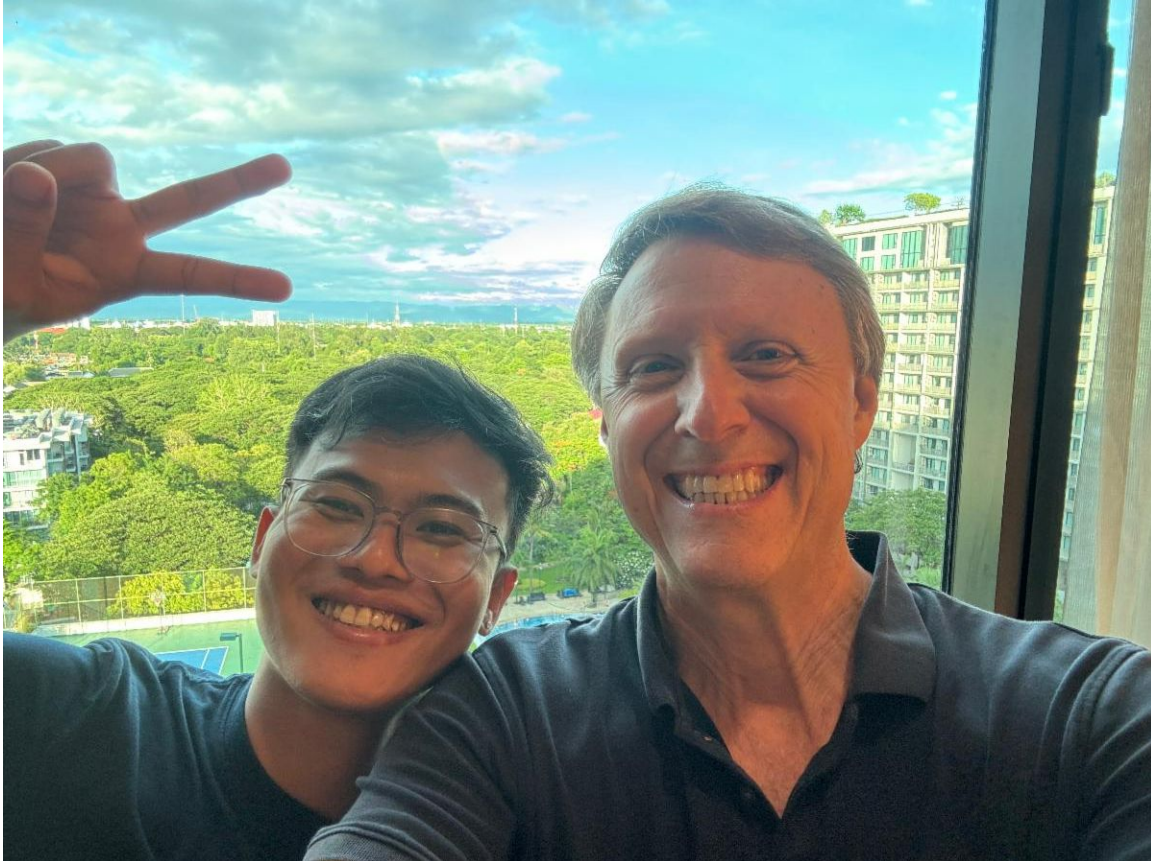
June E-Newsletter The Blessings of Seeing God at Work



Myanmar Institute of Theology students & faculty in Thailand with Tim

Dear Timothy C.,

I wish you could have joined me over the past several months in Thailand. You would have loved meeting and hearing the inspiring stories of many Karen leaders. They have devoted their lives to building schools, sharing the Gospel, teaching, planting churches, and pastoring, often with no or minimal compensation. I'm particularly moved by those risking their lives and sacrificing in order to provide food and medicine to internally displaced people (IDPs), most of whom have been forced to flee to the jungles due to incessant bombing by the Myanmar military—despite a supposed ceasefire promise.



Kyaw & Tim in Chiang Mai

Tragically, one of my young friends from Myanmar, Than Toe Aung, who had come to faith in Christ several years ago, was killed fighting for the Karen people this past winter, at age 27. He was the third former student or mentee of mine to die in the ongoing civil war. However, from the tragedy came an amazing opportunity to share Christ with his best friend, Kyaw (pictured above), a Burmese Buddhist, who recently fled Myanmar to avoid being conscripted into the Myanmar military.

By God's grace, Kyaw responded to the Gospel with his full heart and mind, began attending church with Saw Newton and myself in Chiang Mai, and already is making new Christian friends. Just before I returned to Minnesota, he took communion for the first time during the Sunday morning worship service. Afterward, when I asked him about his experience, he tapped his chest, and, with a big smile on his face, told me that he felt something warm in his heart when he took the elements, confessed his sins, and thanked God for his love and forgiveness. It is such a blessing to see God at work in someone's life in such beautiful and life-changing ways.



Master of Theology student reading his translation of a verse in Greek

I also wish you could have met the 10 students and one faculty member from Myanmar Institute of Theology (MIT), who flew from Yangon to study the book of Philippians with me in Chiang Mai. The week exceeded everyone's expectations (which were already quite high). When they arrived, I could see so much pain in their faces, but as the week went on, their eyes softened, and bit by bit, joy emerged. By the end, according to the Dean of Students, who wrote to me afterwards, the students were gushing with gratitude and appreciation. He wrote:



- They could follow your lectures because you were patient and simplified concepts in ways that were understandable to them, despite their weak English and Greek.
- They learned a great deal from the class and believe they are now better exegetes because of it.
- They see you not only as a teacher but also as a caring parent, mentor, and spiritual coach.
- They said they would forever be grateful for this time spent with you.

When I'm serving in Thailand, I see beleaguered people suffering more than any human being should have to suffer. Yet, at the same time, I also have the privilege of witnessing the love, joy, and wonders of God at work in many beautiful and encouraging ways. That's what I wish you could have seen and

experienced with me. And our hope in sharing these stories, testimonials, and photos, is that you, too, may be inspired and encouraged by what God is doing around the world amid so much evil and pain.



Tiberius Church Youth Program where Tim taught Karen young adults from Myanmar, now living in Thailand, on coping with anxiety and trusting in God

Thank you for caring about your brothers and sisters in Christ, who are suffering disproportionately in places like Myanmar, Thailand, and the Congo. Your prayers and financial support enable the ministry to continue to thrive and grow, touching theological students, pastors, and Christian leaders around the world.

Gratefully, in Christ's service,

Comments from MIT Philippians Course Students

I am really blessed with this course. I learn a lot more than what I have expected before. I most appreciate about Dr. Tim. Sir, your concern about for Myanmar and our colleges. I got a lot from this course. If I have a chance to learn in this way, I want to learn all the whole books in the Bible. I really appreciate about the encourage of Paul to Philippians to stand firm in very difficult situation. I learn how to work as a pastor.

~Min Yawng

This course was a blessing to me. I felt spiritually refreshed and more confident in reading and interpreting the Bible. The fellowship with classmate was meaningful, and I am thankful for the opportunity to learn in such a supportive environment.

~Na Moo

First of all, I am very grateful and I give thanks to God for giving me this great opportunity for this course. I have learned how to do exegesis properly from this course, which will be helpful for my future study. I have learned that I need to work hard for the Gospel through our professor who is truly working hard. For the last, but not the least, I will always remember this memory of this course in a positive way.

~Lalruatsanga

Tim's Most Recent Biblical Reflection

The Journey to Joy



Right before he was crucified, Jesus said to his disciples, "You will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will grieve, but your grief will turn to joy.... Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy" (John 16:20, 22, NIV).

What a wonderful and hopeful promise. Yet, we all know that the journey to joy is not always an easy one. Sometimes, the pain of the world feels overwhelming. Yet, for the believer, a joy is still possible. The journey begins and ends with Jesus. So, keep your eyes on him.

[Continue Reading Here](#)

Update on the Crises in Southeast Asia and the Congo

Along with humanitarian aid distributed to earthquake victims in Myanmar and food provided for refugees along the Myanmar-Thai border, FHLGM has also been actively providing assistance in Goma and Bukavu (two provincial capitals in Eastern Congo). Staff there identified 80 pastors who are in critical need of aid due to the devastating effects of M23 seizing their cities and creating an atmosphere of fear and insecurity. Along with \$50 to purchase food and other necessities, each pastor receives a free copy of Tim's book, *What Can We Expect from God Now? Seven Spiritual Truths for Trusting God in Troubled Times* (in French). Some of them have been robbed by bandits, others are sick, all of them are barely surviving from day to day. When they were visited by our

Congolese staff (several of whom are pastors themselves), their joy and gratitude overflowed. Thank you to all of you who contributed to help make these gifts possible.

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

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](#)



FHLGM Program Coordinator for Myanmar and Thailand, Saw Newton, with his wife, Treasure, a precious little son, Gabriel (born 12/1/2024)

"For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy

given by the Holy Spirit" (1 Thess. 1:4-6, NIV).

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