

Western Reformed Seminary Professors Take the Classroom to Students in Myanmar

by Dr. Len Pine, Adj. Prof. of Practical Theology

One of the joys of the ministry is being able to partner with others of like mind to accomplish tasks that are beyond our individual abilities. Here at WRS, we were approached by Presbyterian Missionary Union a couple of years ago about joining with them to provide quality seminary education for prospective BP ministers in the country of Myanmar.



To bring this about, we've added some new adjunct faculty members, Rev. Ed Paauwe and Rev. Khawl Ro Kima, to assist current faculty members Pine and Backus in the training of key personnel in Myanmar who not only can be ordained themselves, but also be adequately equipped to train others in turn (2 Tim 2:2).

The three men in Myanmar are Mr. Pa Zar, Mr. Ye Aung Tun, and Mr. Soe Lwin. These men are all actively serving the Lord as lay pastors in congregations in the Shan State region. They have traveled down to Yangon on several occasions for training with Backus, Pine, Paauwe, and Kima, and Kima frequently travels up to the Shan State to do training on site there. The teaching is at seminary level, working within WRS' requirements, so that the men will earn a bona fide degree, learn what they need to be ordained, and be able to do the work of the ministry.

Most recently, Dr. Pine traveled with his wife, Karen, to Myanmar last October. Len taught a concentrated class in Hermeneutics (principles of Bible interpretation) on behalf of the Seminary. The students did exceptionally well in their studies before, during, and after the class. They were joined by two other non-degree students, Mr. Ro Nei Zauva, who is preparing to stand for ordination as an elder in the Yangon congregation, and Mr. Han Thurein Htun, a college student from the town of Taunggyi in the Shan State. While the men studied with Dr. Pine, the ladies studied with Karen Pine the Scriptural teaching concerning the roles of women in home, church, and society. It was a blessed time.



Left-Right: Prof. Kim, Ye Aung Tun, Dr. Pine, Han Thurein Htun, Ro Nei Zauva, Soe Lwin, Pa Zar

This training will take some time to finish, but the goal of seeing a well-educated ministry and a solid national church in Myanmar is well worth the effort and expense. Pray for us in this project, please.

Matters for PRAYER at Western Reformed Seminary

- Training faithful pastors in Myanmar
- Safe travel and open doors for President John Battle in his efforts to promote WRS and recruit future ministers
- Health and stamina for our aging faculty!
- God's wisdom for the seminary board
- God's grace and provision for our students, many who study at some personal sacrifice to prepare for Christian service



Matters of PRAISE at Western Reformed Seminary

- 43 students this year in local WRS classes and extension sites!
- Faithful and sacrificial donors
- Graduate John McCurley (class of 1995) is praising God for delivering him from cancer and is busy traveling and preaching

A year ago the pastors, elders, and deacons who make up the Board of Western Reformed Seminary asked your church to set aside the last Wednesday of January to pray especially for the life and usefulness of this ministry. The Lord was gracious to hear our prayers and to preserve His work in 2009 (Psalm 138:8). Thank you for praying!