

Myanmar Project

June 10 – July 1, 2016

Several days have passed since the successful completion of the first CrossTalk residency in Myanmar. Over the course of two weeks, I experienced firsthand the promise of equipping biblical communicators so that the people of Myanmar can hear God's voice. Such a promise is best seen through the lives of two young people.

The first is a little girl I met while touring the Golden Pagoda, Yangon's most sacred Buddhist temple. This girl, who couldn't have been more than three years old, was eating lunch with her mother and grandmother. When I caught her eye, she smiled and began throwing pieces of her lunch at me. I waved and smiled back at her. But then I began to weep at the realization that she would grow up in a Buddhist household. Truly the gospel is the power of God unto salvation, but I had to reckon with the fact that I'd likely never see this girl again or have the chance to share Jesus with her. This is the promise of CrossTalk. In training local pastors to effectively communicate God's word, little girls like this one have an ever-increasing chance of knowing Jesus.

The second young person who demonstrated the importance of biblical preaching was the nephew of one of our students. Although I never met him, his story greatly affected me. According to his uncle, this young boy was very receptive to a group of preachers who came into his town. These preachers, intending to win souls for Christ, exhorted the youth of the town to come out to their crusades. So severe was their exhortation that they advised anyone whose parents might hinder attendance to commit suicide. Listening to the words of these preachers, the young boy ended his life. Here again is the promise of CrossTalk. Had these preachers been properly trained, this boy would still be alive because he would have heard God's voice rather than man's.

In light of these stories, I thank God for the eighteen students who have committed themselves to growing as biblical communicators. During the two-week residency, these men and women wrestled with Scripture, readjusted their preaching paradigm, and submitted themselves to evaluation so as to allow God's voice to reverberate throughout Myanmar. As such, I cannot wait to see what God will do through this first group of students as they unleash the transforming power of God through the proclamation of his word.



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