

2004-2005 Activities

Program – I

Program: *A Special Lecture on Buddhism*

Venue and Date: Thra Mooler Conference Hall, Diamond Jubilee Building, Myanmar Institute of Theology, Seminary Hill, Insein on **Sep 4, 2004 (Saturday)**.

Theme: *The Buddhist Concept of Kamma*

Concept of Lecture: The primary aim of this lecture is to give theological students a general knowledge about the Buddhist concept of Kamma (Deeds) and to enable them to make a critical theological reflection on this Buddhist concept and worldview in relevance to their Christian faith and practice.

Resource Person:

Sayakyi Sao Tun Hmat Win: The Buddhist Concept of Kamma

Program Facilitators: Alan Saw Oo; U Aung Khin, Z. Kaw Mai.

Participants: Between 50 and 60 students from MIT and other theological schools based in Yangon are expected to attend the lecture.

Program – II

Program: *National Seminar on the Rights and Roles of Ethnic Minorities in Myanmar*

Venue and Duration: Thra Mooler Conference Hall, Diamond Jubilee Building, Myanmar Institute of Theology, Seminary Hill, Insein, from **September 24-25, 2004**.

Theme: “In solidarity with the least” (Matt.25:45)

Concept of Workshop: Of the estimated 300 million indigenous people who live in more than 70 countries in the world, Asia has more than 150 million indigenous people, including 10 million in Myanmar. These indigenous communities are known as Aborigines, Tribal, Natives, Ethnic, dialect groups, Hill peoples, Indians or First Nations, and they nevertheless share much in common. Historically they are the original inhabitants of a territory, which has been taken over by conquest of others; and they consider themselves distinct from other sectors of the societies now prevailing in those territories, or parts of them. They form non dominant sectors of society and are determined to preserve, develop and transmit to future generations their ancestral territories, and their ethnic identity as the basis of their continued existence as peoples in accordance with their own cultural patterns, social institution and legal system (cf. A definition used by UN’s Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities). The aim and purpose of this workshop is to bring all issues of the ethnic minorities

in Myanmar into open discussion and to explore critical theological implications for the future of the marginalized ethnic minorities in Myanmar.

Resource Persons:

Keynote Address: Dr. Wati Longchar – “Identity and Dignity: An Indigenous Peoples’ Vision of Mission in Asia”

Presentation – I: *Chin Ethnic Perspective*
Dr. Simon Pau Khan En

Presentation – II: *Kachin Ethnic Perspective*
Dr. L Zau Lat

Presentation-III: *Karen Ethnic Perspective*
Dr. Anna May Say Pa & Mr. Christopher Day

Presentation-IV: *Wa Ethnic Perspective*
Sayamah Aye Nwe

Presentation-V: *Shan Ethnic Perspective*

Participants: About 80 participants were invited selectively from 14 Baptist Conventions under MBC, from Baptist and non-Baptist theological Institutes and Bible schools, and some other were from NGO groups.

[Program- III](#)

Program: *A Joint-National Workshop on Dialogue Curriculum (JRC, ATEM, MCC)*

Venue and Date: MCC Conference Hall, 601, Pyay Road, from October 25-27, 2004.

Theme: *Theological Education and Dialogue*

Concept of Workshop: As the present-day forces of economic, globalization have made us closer and mattered to each other in many ways, no religious community can be an island today. On contemporary theological scene, no theology can be done responsibly without paying full attention to the fact of the existence of other religions and its implications for world peace, justice and solidarity of mankind. Together with Hans Kung, there is no world peace without peace among religions and no peace among religions without dialogue between religions. Engaging in dialogue with people of other faiths is also the profoundly expanded meaning of the imperative of Christians loving their neighbors as themselves. For the imperative of loving a person as he or she is inclines one to respect that person’s religion and culture. This reality hence necessitates the need for focusing theological education in the field of interfaith relations and dialogue. The objective of this workshop is therefore to promote theological education on inter-religious dialogue and to introduce teaching courses on interfaith dialogue at Bible schools and seminaries in Myanmar. This workshop is designed exclusively for theological educators and teachers in Bible schools and seminaries in Myanmar.

Resource Persons:

Keynote Address: Theological Education and Dialogue - Dr. Samuel Ngun Ling

<i>Biblical Foundations for Dialogue:</i>	Dr. Mary Dun
<i>Ecumenical Perspective on Dialogue:</i>	U Aung Khin
<i>Theological Perspective on Dialogue:</i>	Dr. Simon Pau Khan En
<i>Issues/Problems in Dialogue in Myanmar:</i>	Sayama Ring Diki
<i>The Buddhist Problems of the Christian Message:</i>	U Kyaw Nyunt

Participants:

MCC members Regional Council:	20
Evangelical Schools	5
Catholic Seminary	1
ATEM members Institutes	27
MBC Theological Education Dept.	2
MBC Dialogue Committee	2
Other Participants	3

Total Participants	60

Program – IV

Program: *Interfaith Symposium on Poverty, Violence & Peace*

Venue and Date: Thra Mooler Conference Hall, Diamond Jubilee Building, Myanmar
Institute of Theology, Seminary Hill, Insein from **November 25-26, 2004.**

Theme: *Building a Peace Community of Faiths in Myanmar*

Concept of Symposium: One of the common issues that confront increasingly religious communities in Asia today is none other than the issue of “poverty & violence.” Together with the stormy wind of economic globalization that has blown severely through all sectors of human life, poverty and violence go hand in hand, threatening peace and security in human society, and victimizing innocents in the unjust way and exploited manners. It is therefore imperative for all religious communities to come together and to seek common solutions to such issues that are rampant in our community. It is time for religious communities to respond meaningfully to these issues of poverty and violence, and take common actions toward building a peaceful community of faiths in Myanmar and Asia. The aim and purpose of this symposium is to religiously explore a variety of human violence and its related issues from different religious perspectives and at the same time, exchange one another with different views, visions and concerns for nurturing peace and security in Myanmar society.

Resource Persons:

1. From Islamic Perspective: Al-Haj U Aye Lwin, The Islamic Center of Myanmar, Yangon, Myanmar
2. From Hindu Perspective: Dr. Thet Lwin, All Myanmar Hindu Central Board, Yangon, Myanmar
3. From Buddhist Perspective: Sayadaw Bannanda U Kaw Tala, a venerated Buddhist monk
4. From Christian Perspective: Ms. L. Ja Nan, Shalom Foundation, Yangon.
5. Responders:
 - Rev. Edmund Za Bik Response to Islam's presentation
 - Rev. Dr. Maung Maung Yin.....Response to Hindu's presentation
 - Father Henry Ei KleinResponse to Buddhist presentation
 - Leader from Islamic Center.....Response to Christian presentation
6. Program Facilitators:
 - Rev. Dr. Samuel Ngun Ling
 - Rev. Dr. Si Khia
 - Rev. Dr. Zau Lat
 - Saya Alan Saw Oo.

Participants: About 100 participants, including regional peace activists, Secretaries of Christian Associations from different regions, selected church leaders from Yangon, interested individuals and seminary students based in Yangon.

Program – V

Name of Workshop: *Environmental Crisis and Ecological Education*

Venue and Date: Thra Mooler Conference Hall, Diamond Jubilee Building, Myanmar Institute of Theology, Seminary Hill, Insein from **Jan 31- Feb 2, 2005.**

Theme: *That the whole creation groans in travail (Rom.8:22)*

Concept of Workshop: God created everything in order, whereas human beings made them confused and degraded their eco-values and systems to the point of extinction. The more humans develop technologically, industrially, and economically, the more the environment becomes devastated. Environmental threats to human existence today are already beyond one government or nation alone can handle. Environmental and development policies must therefore be integrated at national and regional levels, for which any religious community plays a crucial role.

Resource Persons:

- Bible Study-I; *Creation, Justice and Peace* – Dr. Maung Maung Yin
Bible Study-II: *Building an Eco-just Society* – Dr. Simon Pau Khan En
Presentation-1: *How to Overcome Environmental Crisis: Focus on Agriculture in Asia* – Dr. Koa Tasaka, Director, Asian Rural Institute, Tokyo, Japan
Presentation-II: *Modernization in Asia: Ecological Crisis and Alternative* – Mr. Paracha Huntanuwatr

Presentation-III: *Environmental Issues in Chin Region*: David Mang Hit Lian, Pastor of Zion Baptist Church, Hakkha, Chin State, Myanmar.

Presentation-IV: *Environmental Issues in Kachin Region*: Jangmaw Naw Hphung, Pastor, Myitkyina, Kachin State, Myanmar.

Participants:

More than 70 participants from churches, Bible schools and seminaries, NGO groups, organizations based in Yangon and outside Yangon.