

I WILL never look at the Gospel the same again. Growing up in America in a charismatic or evangelical church, it is easy to develop ideas about how we must do certain things to encounter Jesus: the atmosphere must be just right, the worship a certain length and style, and hearts must be prepared to receive through personal effort of pushing through for your miracle. And of course, we must be "Christian enough" to receive blessings and healings. Not so according to the Gospel!

The Gospel has power because of one name: Jesus. Burmese Buddhists experience this first hand, as the name of Jesus impacted thousands in Mandalay night after night. Our mission was simple — to lift up Jesus so that God's indiscriminate love would be shown to all people, regardless of ethnicity or religion. When Pastor Peter preached the name of Jesus, not the religion of Christianity, people from all religions and cultural backgrounds received.

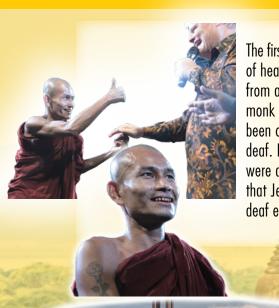
Night after night, Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims traveling from all over the area filled the large venue to hear about the love of God. I will never forget the first night when a Buddhist monk came to the platform to share how Jesus healed his deaf ears! Immediately it was clear to everyone that God's love would be shown, regardless of religion. This is the true Gospel. In the nights to follow, multitudes began to respond the salvation, trusting Jesus with their lives. Pastor Lars from Norway paints the picture, "It was amazing to see Buddhist monks with their hands lifted high, calling on the name of Jesus during the prayer of salvation."

Such glorious moments don't come without a fight. Behind every great step forward in the kingdom of God, there is a tenacious faith of people who are willing to put in hours upon hours of hard work, going against all odds. In fact, when our team departed from Canada several days before the Festival, there was still no Festival to be had, we were waiting on the long promised, final permissions from the government. Believing that God was at work, and that we were in the center of his plan, we boarded the plane ready to see Myanmar impacted!

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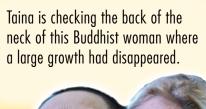
## "It makes a deep impression in a Buddhist culture when a monk openly acknowledges Jesus Christ" - Pastor Tha Hla



The first testimony of healing was from a Buddhist monk who had been completely deaf. People were astounded that Jesus opens deaf ears.



Buddhist nun received healing from deafness.





Another man excited that Jesus had open his deaf ear.



Dew Che Che, had cancer of the blood. She attended the Friendship Festival in Yangon 12 months ago and now she came to testify that Jesus had healed her cancer. She shouted to the audience "I was a Buddhist my whole life, but now I'm a Christian!"



Dean Morris, who wrote the article from Mandalay, is pictured here rejoicing with a woman whose blind eyes had opened.



Tania and I with Pastor Lars Kraggerud from Norway together with Buddhist leaders. Notice the pagoda in the background. Pastor Lars helped teach in the Pastors' Seminar.



More than 40 people received healing from deafness, this young lady was one of them.



There were powerful testimonies of people who have been healed of cancer last year in the Festival in Yangon, Burma.

We arrived on Friday, and immediately I visited the stadium with Jakob Wendesten, WIM's Gospel Festival coordinator. There were just 48 hours before the first Festival night, and the final permission was still needed. For several months we had been promised, "you will have it next week", or "in a few days", and here we were still waiting. The large platform was ready, advertisements were happening all over the city, and volunteers were being trained ... but without the permission there would be no Festival. That night Pastor Peter met with us, and simply said, "We have done all of the work we can. We need the Lord to help us, and all I can tell you is that He has helped us many times before."

I couldn't help but think that the Lord has never failed anyone, and He would not fail us now. Saturday morning came with glorious news... we had received the permission. The Festival was going to happen after all,

WIM's coordinator Jakob Wendesten carrying packages of books for new believers.

the name of Jesus was going to be lifted up and lives and families were going to be changed for eternity. God gave us the faith and that's what made the whole team work so hard.

The fight was real.

It wasn't easy.

Jakob commented,

"Opposition came
against us from every
direction, the resistance

was unreal, but we kept going forward regardless. It looked hopeless and dark but by the grace of God we had a fantastic festival."

