



# THE BEACON

## Dear Praying Friends

Almost 2 months have flashed by since we last had opportunity to write and it's time to give you an update on developments in the ministry. As I write, I am conscious of many who pray so faithfully for us and who look forward to these updates. Thank you for standing with us.

## A Visit to Myanmar

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I headed to the country of Myanmar at the beginning of May. I flew into Yangon and then on to Loihaw in Kayah State on the border with Thailand. I was met by Rev Dr Khu Reh of the Kayah Phu Baptist Association who was to be my host and guide for the next 7 days. The purpose of my visit was to understand the situation in the Kayah Phu Association and to see what contribution we may be able to make to the life and ministry of their churches

Over the first three days we visited a number of village churches where I met with pastors and leaders. On the Saturday I spoke to a gathering of more than 80 pastors and their wives and had opportunity to sit and talk with some individual pastors. It did not take long for a sense of the underlying situation to form in my mind.

I had come to an association of 45 churches and 19 mission outposts that have a heritage going back almost 150 years. I found a well organized denominational structure with a complex array of departments responsible for almost every area of ministry one could imagine. I found more than 165 trained pastors, associate pastors, youth and childrens workers. At first glance, there seemed little for us to contribute.

As I asked questions about the spiritual life of the pastors and their churches the true situation began to emerge. All anyone could tell me was about how many years training they had or what certificates, diplomas or degrees they held. When I asked questions about their personal walk with God and growth in spiritual maturity, they did not seem to understand what I was talking about. I asked Dr Khu Reh if he knew of any pastors whom he could confidently say had an intimate relationship with the Lord or who spent regular time alone with Jesus in the 'secret place.' He looked at me sadly and said he did not know of any. I began to see why the Lord may have taken me to this place

On the final two days of my stay I conducted a seminar on personal spiritual life for some of the senior leaders of the association and their staff. I challenged them to consider that *who we are in God is more important than what we do for God*. Then I began to teach them about the importance of spending time alone with God as a personal priority. I shared with them some of our signature teaching on the *Disciplined Life in the Secret Place*. It was clear that most had never had such teaching before. It was life changing message for some of them.

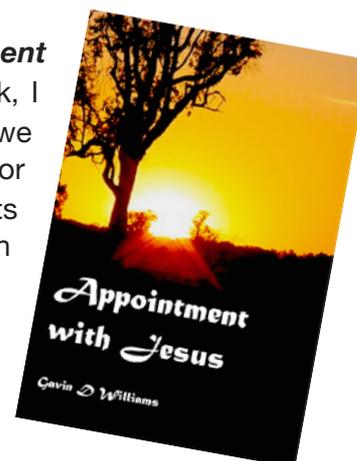
At this stage I do not know what might be the forward directions of our ministry to this group of churches. They have indicated a desire for me to return and give input to the wider ministry team. They have decisions to make about what are the priorities for their overall ministry and for their pastors and churches. We wait to see what further doors of opportunity God might open.



## Current Projects

Work continues on the second edition of our keynote book, **Appointment with Jesus**. When I decided to undertake this new edition of the book, I did not realize the amount of work it would entail or the obstacles we would have to overcome both practical and spiritual. We have faced major problems with computer software which even the product specialists have not been able to resolve. I still hope to have the new edition completed in time to take with us when we go to Europe in mid July.

Will you please pray for us especially in the remaining two weeks of June. I must have the printing and binding completed by the end of this month. Please pray that things will fall into place and I will be able to print sufficient copies to meet the immediate needs.



## Upcoming Ministry

On the 20th July, we will depart for a month long ministry journey to Europe. Our travels will take us to Norway, Romania, Macedonia and back for a brief stay in the UK. In each place we will be ministering to people in ministry and those to whom they minister. As is the case with much of our overseas involvement, mentoring people in active ministry situations is a significant part of our role.

The major ministry opportunity is in Romania where we speak to the annual missionaries retreat for the Romanian Pentecostal Missions Agency. Each year they gather their missionary team from around the world for a week of spiritual and practical uplift. We have the pleasure of being the main speakers at this year's retreat. Would you please pray for both of us as we prepare the messages God has on His heart for these dear folks. We want to bring spiritual and practical encouragement.

Only three weeks after we return from Europe, Gavin joins an international team in Egypt for a conference for pastors and emerging leaders of the evangelical church. This is an annual event organized by our apostle and mentor, Pastor Ben Gray. The challenge will be to recover from our Europe trip and finalize preparation for ministry in Egypt in the available time. Your prayers are so important.

## The Bottom Line

As the end of another financial year approaches, it is a good time to review the state of our finances. We are in a season when a number of generous supporters have retired from the regular work force or faced changing financial situations which mean they are no longer able to maintain previous levels of support. Our overall income for the ministry is down significantly from the last financial year. Please pray with us as we look to the future and the opportunities that are ahead. If you are able to assist us, we will be very grateful. The bank account details are in the blue box to your right.

## Thank You

As always, we are deeply appreciative of everyone who supports us financially or stands with us in prayer. The ministry into the nations still calls and the needs of many workers for a mother and father in God is very real. So long as God enables, we will continue to respond to these needs.. Thank you for your part.

In Him,

*Gavin and Glenda*

**LttN Ministries Inc**  
 14 West Kahala Avenue,  
 Budgewoi NSW Australia 2262  
 Phone: 0411351482  
 Email:  
[drgavin@ltnministries.org.au](mailto:drgavin@ltnministries.org.au)  
 Web: [www.ltnministries.org.au](http://www.ltnministries.org.au)

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