

**News and Current Events :: 12/27/2005: Words of Hope for a Weary Land**

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Dozens of villagers sit on the ground, eager to see what will flash across the big screen in front of them. The area is so packed that some people are watching from tree branches.

Such scenes are not unusual for Gospel for Asia native missionaries reaching out through the medium of film in Myanmar villages.

For people living under the rule of a strict military regime, watching a movie is a refreshing distraction. And at this screening, they are also about to encounter Jesus, the One who longs to bring them true spiritual freedom.

Waiting for the first show to begin, the people watch as familiar faces suddenly flash across the screen. At first they are surprised—then delighted—to see themselves onscreen. Knowing how enjoyable this "pre-show" is for their village audiences, the missionaries have made it a regular part of their program.

During the first film, *The Passion of the Christ*, many in the audience weep as they watch Christ being beaten before his crucifixion.

"Their hearts are deeply touched by Jesus' love and willingness to go through such terrible pain for the sake of another," writes one GFA worker.

Then a second film is shown—*The Ten Commandments*. This movie has a history of being used by God to touch hearts in Myanmar. People witness on screen the difference between Pharaoh's gods and the living God. When Pharaoh and his army are defeated, the audience applauds.

Once the program is over, the ministry team distributes Gospel literature throughout the crowd. It requires long days and much work to conduct such outreach events, but for this team it is worth it. They know that the people are hearing about Jesus and the healing balm He offers for this weary land.

more info: <http://www.gfa.org/gfa/latestnews>