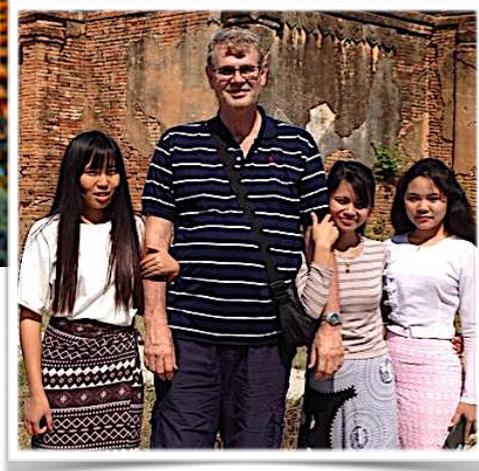


Virtual Guest Speaker
Gregory Sheath



This is a SPECIAL REPORT by 'Meader Debra Sheath.

'Meader Gregory Sheath, a retired educator, and my husband, felt inspired to travel to Myanmar to help young children learn English. His daughter, in particular, was excited to know her father considered such a volunteer activity now that he was retired. Melanie, along with her husband and a team of other doctors, had experienced a month in remote areas of North Vietnam giving medical aid to the village people. She told her father that it was "the most rewarding thing I have ever done."



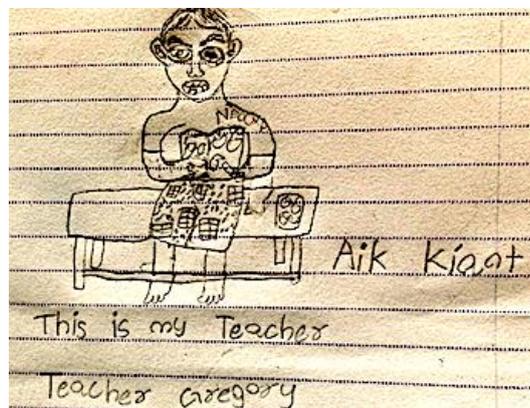
Gregory felt challenged and excited by the idea. He tried his best to get me to share the journey, living in various monasteries for a month, sleeping on mattresses on the floor and eating local street food. I elected to remain at home, sending Gregory off on his own.

Gregory spent four weeks teaching English, or indeed Aussie, to both adults, including the local monks, and children as young as six.

Two weeks of training began in Yangon. Eventually, Gregory boarded a bus 'on the road to Mandalay'. After 8 hours of bumping along, he arrived and entered his *residency* - a monastery. His day would start a 4am. Musical gongs assured that he did not sleep in.

Morning sessions of teaching ended with walks to historical sites of amazing beauty and age.

He would be accompanied by the Monks and (chuckle) 'his



harem' of young ladies.

Gregory returned home with wonderful stories about the beauty of this country: ancient pagodas decorated with golden stone carvings, the amusing thievery of monkeys, the love and fun of teaching Aussie English to such happy children and the joy of being a volunteer in this third world county.

And yes, he **was** happy to come home - headed straight to our spa and asked for a steak for dinner.

