

MAUREEN BARTLETT

Graduate, Educational Leadership
Myanmar: Service Learning | July 2019



IMPROVISATION

The people of Myanmar are irrepressible. The teachers have done wonders with limited resources. And the young people are so engaged and hard working. As an educator of 30 years, I learned that we have things pretty good in the US and that many countries around the world would love the resources we have at hand. I also learned that teachers can be extremely resilient and resourceful, even in the most confined situations. I learned that the desire to learn, to grow, to give back, to make things better is universal.

I learned that, even in my 50s, I can have adventures, make use of my experiences to help others, and gain a 'world picture' of what I have spent my career doing in one rural American location.

SERVICE LEARNING

I have spent 20 years teaching Creativity Skills in the career and technical education field. In Myanmar, I provided five workshops in vocational training centers, focusing on 21st Century Skills. Specifically, I trained teachers and students for the National League for Democracy Education Network, a free system of schools and training centers located in neighborhoods. Most of my students were studying English intensively to prepare for university or employment. It was enlightening to see a system that had been underfunded for decades work towards modernization, and to learn about the many people and groups that have rushed to fill the gaps.



LEADERSHIP CONFIDENCE

After 30 years as a teacher, I am now preparing to become an educational administrator. This experience gave me confidence for running an American school and has made me feel that our schools are like paradise with regard to opportunity, resources and support! If you want to feel like you can handle ANYTHING, go on this trip. See how the desire to learn and teach cannot be extinguished, even in the harshest of situations.

