

Notes & Quotes – March 29, 2009

Psalm 57

Psalm 57 – Prayer of Escape

Context for the Cave of Adullam...

- 1 Sam 16 – anointed as king
- 1 Sam 17 – defeats Goliath
- 1 Sam 18 – Saul's jealous mounting
- 1 Sam 19 – Saul tried to kill David
- 1 Sam 20 – David asks Jonathan for help
- 1 Sam 21 – David flees to Abimelech @ Nob and King Achish @ Gath
- 1 Sam 22 – David enters Cave of Adullam

1 Samuel 22:1-2

1 David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there.

2 All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.



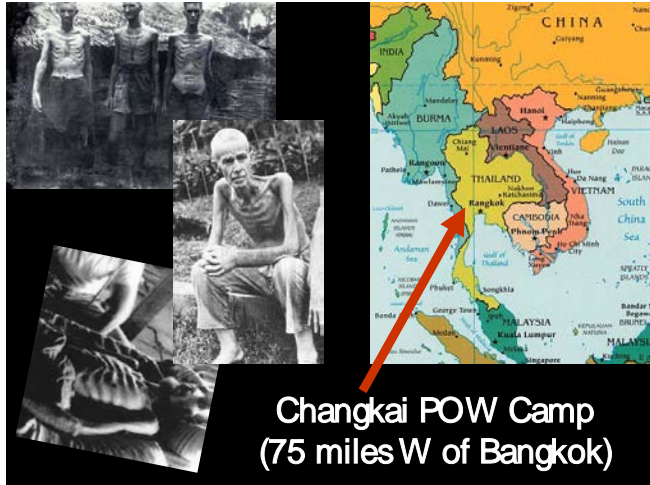
- **Leaning into the character of God** (v. 1-3)
-- mercy, sovereignty, love, faithfulness

- **Defining reality** (v. 4,6)

“This life, therefore is not righteousness, but growth in righteousness; not health, but healing; not being but becoming; not rest but exercise. We are not yet what we shall be, but we are growing toward it. The process is not yet finished, but it is going on. This is not the end but it is the road. All does not yet gleam with glory, but all is being purified.” – Martin Luther

- **Worshiping thru the circumstances (v. 7-11)**
-- offering a steadfast "I will" when ever fiber of your being says "I can't"

Chungkai POW Camp (Ernest Gordon story)



**Chungkai POW Camp
(75 miles W of Bangkok)**



**Ernest Gordon
w/
film director**



**Chungkai
Chapel**

Christmas Day 1943, Ernest Gordon writes these words...

I went early to church, as I wanted a few moments of quiet. I sat on the ground with my back against the trunk of a bamboo...Others had also come for those moments of hallowed quiet and private prayer. Men entered softly...some were sitting on the ground, some on bamboo benches, some on home-made stools. But most were standing along the sides and at the back or front...Over 2000 POWs filled the area...the first hymn was sung, 'O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.'...We sang a second carol, 'The First Noel.' Then Padre Webb gave a brief sermon on the hope of Christmas. We came to the closing hymn, 'Good Christian Men, Rejoice.' We had hardly begun singing it, when we heard the almost-forgotten wail of air-raid sirens. It rose to a shriek, then gradually died away. Far off we could hear a rumble. We exchanged glances. This could not be Japanese. We kept on singing. In the blue sky over our heads we could hear a four-engine bomber flying confidently in the direction of Bangkok. We put all our feeling into that hymn. More lustily than ever, we sang 'Rejoice! Rejoice!' Indeed we sang so lustily that the prison guards came charging into the church shouting the Japanese equivalent of 'Shut Up! They'll hear you.' I had known of the power of praise. But I was not aware that it could soar ten to fifteen thousand feet and be picked up by a bomber crew above the engine noise.

[Ernest speaking to fellow POW named Bill]

'We're not out of the woods yet – not by a long chalk. But now there's hope. That's the thing – there's hope'. 'There's something else, too, Bill', I said. 'There's a new spirit in the camp. Have you noticed how, with many of the men, it's 'You first' now instead of 'Me first'?'

50 years later...

