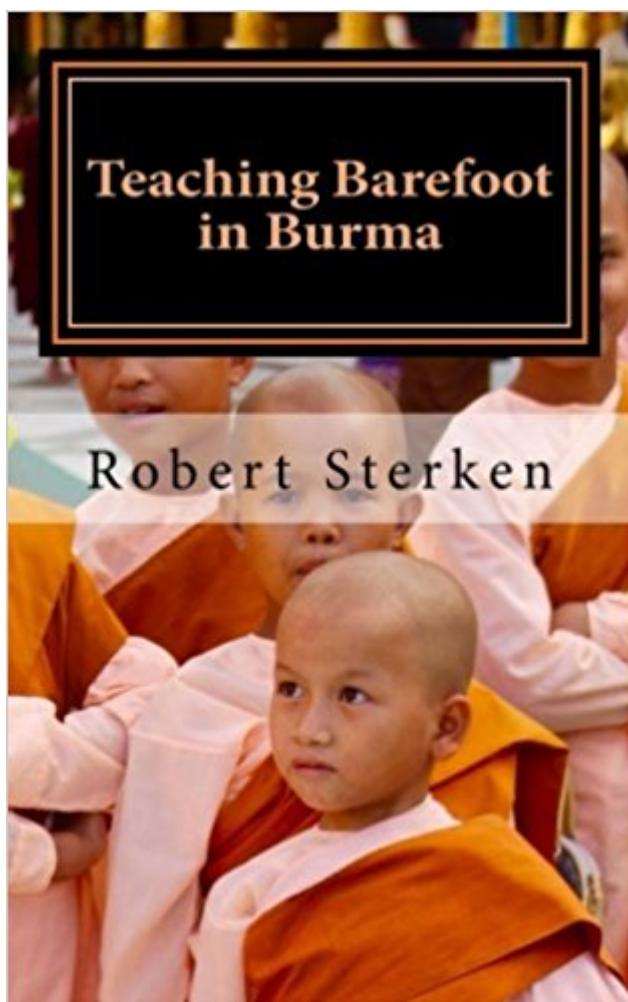


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Teaching Barefoot In Burma: Insights And Stories From A Fulbright Year In Myanmar



Synopsis

Teaching Barefoot in Burma is tale of a less trodden path through an ancient and long isolated land. This a story is about living and teaching in a land like no other. Senior Fulbright Scholar, Robert Sterken, spent a year conducting research on Buddhism and politics, teaching, and learning about suffering and the dance of life among the most generous people on earth. His travel memoir paints an unusual, intimate, and unique personal picture of the Myanmar people, government, Buddhist monks, racism, political prisoners, students, struggles, festivals, education, hardship, and he reveals his personal struggles, insights, lessons, and joys. The author taught hundreds of Myanmar and Thai students, delivered many public lectures, consulted with governmental and academic leaders, gave workshops to members of the Myanmar Parliament, and interviewed many former political prisoners. He spent many hours sitting on mats interviewing Buddhist monks. He meditated, spent time in monasteries, and learned life lessons from the Myanmar "grass roots people." He struggled, suffered, and changed. He also enjoyed fine celebrity-chef prepared dinners with ambassadors, generals, political leaders, university presidents, and even the Princess of Thailand. This book not only provides a unique view of Burma, but will inspire readers to journey beyond their own comfort zones and find their own Burma. In the end this is a story about connection, biases, sacrifice, struggle, kindness, and the full dance of life.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

For anybody who has ever wondered what mindful living in a deeply foreign land might feel like, there's no better testimony out there than Dr. Sterken's "small book" and what it offers any lover of learning and cultural exchange as a tour de force argument for why we should all "lean

in" and teach barefoot. ~ This amazing memoir is nothing short of a clarion call from the hard and lovely land of Myanmar for all of us to turn ourselves upside down and feel God fall from our pockets." ~ Douglas Mackaman Distinguished Visiting Professor of Global History and International Education, The University of West Florida Robert Sterken's book is compelling, enlightening, and immensely enjoyable. ~ More importantly, it is a thoughtful examination of his experience in Myanmar/Burma, and also a sensitive meditation on intercultural awareness. ~ Jill E. Blondin, Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University I started reading Robert Sterken's book over the weekend and couldn't put it down! It's the type of book that I love -- the kind that draws you in and makes you feel like you are there, sharing the author's experiences. In a sense, I feel like I've been to Myanmar! Beautifully written! Bob and Alison are both outstanding writers! ~ Emily Battle, The University of Texas at Tyler

Robert Sterken is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Texas at Tyler. Professor Sterken is a Senior Fulbright Scholar who has taught politics in many places around the world, most recently in Burma/Myanmar, Thailand, and Cambodia. He has been teaching and writing about politics and power for twenty plus years. Sterken is an avid runner, yogi, reader and writer, traveler and global soul who lives mostly in Tyler, Texas.

I started reading this book out of some vague curiosity about Burma, and the title was catchy. But I ended up turning pages late into the night, unable to put it down. It is really a quick read at that pace, but there is a lot of meat to this work. I found myself pulling for the people of Burma, and enjoying the diary-esque musings of the author. It is not often that a person can step out of their own environment so completely, much less enjoy the journey. Burma is not really a place I long to go, but I was really glad to read this little book about the country. I highly recommend it.

This is an enjoyable and very readable memoir about the year, 2015, the author spent as a Fulbright in Myanmar/Burma. Sterken writes glowingly about the the most authentically generous people on earth without glossing over many of the hardships and challenges the citizens face. Thanks to this guide, I will be traveling to Burma next week more informed and insightful about the Burmese people, their land and culture. I also appreciate how the author reminds the reader to be humbled by the opportunity for the gift of travel, especially to such a vastly different place on earth.

This book badly needed a proofreader, an editor, preferably both. Although there is some useful

information in the story of the author's year in Myanmar, I have never seen a book with this many missing words, extra words, mistakes, etc. Very annoying to read! And the author is an academic. Go figure.

This is a very interesting, well told story of living and teaching for a year in Burma. I found it to be a wonderful blend of history, cultural insights, and the professor's experiences. It was very enlightening. Reading it has strengthened my resolve to travel and experience other cultures.

Robert Sterken taught as a Fulbright Scholar in Burma for a year. His recounting of his experiences during this year are riveting. So glad to read this book as it helps me understand the many cultures of that area. I read it the first time very quickly, and then I reread it slowly to appreciate it even more. I have known this author more than 16 years as a professor at University of Texas. Tyler. He is very thoughtful and thought-provoking in his search for truth and understanding. Read and enjoy his experiences. katheryn hetherly, Tyler, Texas

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