



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Dear Friends,

I am writing to you from Bangkok, the Capital of Thailand. This week I will travel to the North to visit scattered Karen brethren who are refugees from Burma. I will also have the chance to talk with Mrs. Hla Thoo. She is the Karen lady who was supposed to get the heart operation but was too scared to go through with it. Instead, she Requested that her brethren from around the world pray and ask God to heal her.

What a difference prayer can make when we all join hands in humble petition! Her health has changed dramatically! The doctor put her on a rigid diet for cholesterol reduction and with the intervention of God, she is a new person. Where once she was confined to a bed in fear of another heart attack at any time; she now moves around quite freely without assistance. Her blood pressure has come down and is almost normal for her age. And it appears that her CLOGGED arteries have now become UNCLOGGED! The doctor in Chiangmai is scratching his head. I am looking forward to visiting her and seeing these miraculous results for myself. A BIG thank you to all of you for your prayers to God on her behalf.

I spoke with Juliana yesterday by phone. She has no telephone but Thaw Thi Ko was able to arrange for her to return my phone call. Good news. Her youngest son Ne Ne Poe, who recently had Dengue fever, pneumonia and the hernia operation is now improving and is allowed to go home. He still suffers from tuberculosis which keeps him weak, but he is out of danger with his other problems. We have also found a sponsor for his education for one year. We still need to find sponsors for 3 more Karen children ages 8-12 and one Kachin boy aged 12. These children have many problems attending Buddhist schools. They are taught to pray to the Buddha, are discriminated against and have trouble getting off on the Sabbath day. The only solution is to send them to a private school which their parents cannot afford. It costs about \$30 per month per child to feed, clothe (school uniforms) and pay for tuition in a private Christian school. So we are seeking individuals who would be willing to sponsor one or more of these children for one year.

KAREN REFUGEES COMING TO AMERICA

As I write this newsletter to all of you, I have Thaw Thi Ko, our Karen brother, here with me. He received a pass from the authorities at the refugee detention camp to come and see me in Bangkok. He and his family are doing well and God has protected

them in the camp and provided proper food for their needs. Now he has received the news that he and his family are scheduled to fly to America on August 20. They will be settled in New Haven, Connecticut.

They are looking forward to their new life in America where his children can grow up free from fear of arrest and persecution. Thaw Thi Ko tells me that the most important thing is to be near brethren in God's Church. He says that he misses very much the Feasts held in Thailand when he and his family got to meet so many brethren from all over the world. He wants to be with his church family again. I don't think we realize how encouraging and important it is to our scattered brethren to know that they are not cut off and alone, but are part of a bigger spiritual family that has not forgotten them.

PALACE VOLUNTEER

While here in Bangkok, I will visit Michael Elliott, a church member who is working in Thailand as an intern for the Crown Property Bureau of King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Mike volunteered to serve in the palace for one year to gain experience living and working in a foreign culture. Legacy Institute helped Mike by arranging this with the king's Grand Chamberlain. I look forward to visiting with Mike and hearing about the things he is learning.

Gloria and I had the privilege of working closely with Herbert W. Armstrong in Ambassador Foundation and helping get the Ambassador College student projects started in Thailand, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Over the course of nearly 10 years that these projects existed, we saw literally hundreds of young peoples' lives changed dramatically after spending 6 months to a year; even sometimes 2 years or more, helping and teaching thousands of refugees and the underprivileged in some of the poorest nations on earth. These young Ambassador students were willing to sacrifice the luxuries of our Western society and live in very spartan, 3rd world conditions to bring hope to those less fortunate. So, we must ask ourselves the question; who gained the most from the experience? The refugees and poor children? Or the Ambassador student volunteers?

Now Ambassador College is no more. Those projects are long gone. Even though Mike is not working in a refugee camp, the opportunity to help place him in a service position in Thailand gives me Deja Vu. It brings back many fond memories of what God can and does achieve in small, seemingly insignificant ways through His faithful people. Who knows what the final fruits of Mike's serving in the palace and setting a personal example of what God's people are like will be? Remember, the prophet Daniel also worked in a palace.

THAI CHURCH MEMBER LOST IN CRACKS

We have received an email message about a Thai church member named Uthaiwan Han. Uthaiwan used to live in Pasadena. She is deaf. Gloria and I first met Uthaiwan at the Thai Buddhist Temple in North Hollywood. She was homeless, destitute and pregnant. So we had Uthaiwan live with us while we helped her get aid from welfare and find her own place. She was a Buddhist, but was curious why we always left her alone on Sabbaths to go to church. One question led to another, and she

started attending Sabbath services. She lived and worked in Pasadena for many years and then we lost touch with her after moving to Dallas. Now this letter tells me she returned to her home town in Udon, Thailand and as a result, has lost her US residency status. Not only this, but her father died, and she has been kicked out on the street by the young second wife. This is all I know but I will go to her last known address and try to find her.

This is another example of how some of God's people have gotten lost in the cracks because of all the confusion in the church today. Please pray that I am successful. Thailand has no welfare system and handicapped people are looked down on because of the belief that they must have sinned in a former life and, as a result of Karma, are now cursed with blindness, deafness, crippling disease, etc.

THAILAND FEAST OF TABERNACLES 2000

While here, I plan to investigate the possibility of Legacy Institute sponsoring a Feast of Tabernacles site in Thailand for the year 2000. We have had many people tell us they are excited about the idea. This will be an "open site" and not restricted to any single church organization or fellowship. So, if you would like to see a Feast set up in Thailand next year, please let us know of your interest by letter or email.

Well, that's all for now. I want to end this newsletter by thanking all of you once again for your kind support for our efforts in Asia. One of the lessons of our church experience is that we cannot achieve our goals alone. It must be a collective effort. Can the hand say to the foot, "I don't need you?" I Cor. 12. It is ONLY because we join hands together that we can serve and help people, as God wills and directs, in these remote corners of the earth. I find it interesting that prayers, letters of support and encouragement, and financial donations for our efforts in Asia come from brothers and sisters who may meet in different fellowships; but, share a COMMON SPIRIT to support preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God by the ACTIVE EXAMPLE of giving and sharing with those less fortunate. Is there a lesson in this somewhere for all of us? We thank you all for your faithfulness.

Until next letter, In Christian service,
Leon Sexton

WHAT IS LEGACY INSTITUTE ?

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