



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Bangkok, Thailand

Dear Friends,

I have in front of me several clippings from the Bangkok Post. Things are heating up inside Burma. August 8, 1988, now over 11 years ago, marked the height of the pro-democracy demonstrations against the military junta that runs Burma. Thousands of protesters were killed in a ruthless crackdown. That date was 8-8-88. Pro-democracy demonstrators want to organize another protest on September 9, 1999 which is 9-9-99 (2 days before Trumpets.) The Burmese people are very superstitious and place a lot of value on numerology. The government has already begun arresting certain key individuals and is warning the populous not to create a disturbance they will regret.

Recently, several thousand Christian Nagas (a minority tribal group) from Eastern Burma fled across the border into India reporting persecution by the military and the Buddhist clergy. Reports of religious persecutions against Christians are on the increase. Burma is a seething pot that may blow up around the Feast of Trumpets.

But what does this have to do with the Work of God? Well, we have hundreds, if not thousands of brethren living in very difficult conditions in this country. Many of the roads are right out of the dark ages. The police or the military controls communications, where it exists. If there is a pro-democracy uprising of any kind in Burma, the military could shut down the whole country. Having a Feast of Tabernacles there would prove to be almost impossible. So far, the last two trips I have taken into Burma to visit the brethren there have been peaceful and somewhat uneventful. This could change overnight. The spreading of the gospel message needs relative peace to go forth. This was the case in the first century when the "Pax Romana" combined with a network of well built Roman roads and pirate-free shipping lanes allowed the Good News to spread rapidly and freely throughout the empire. We are just beginning to be able to provide support for the Church of God in Asia to really start to expand its mission of spreading the Gospel message in Northern Burma, Northern Thailand and the border regions of China and India.

Several days ago I purchased 2 well-made mountain bikes for Kachinland pastor Lazum Brang and his assistant to be able to travel more readily over mountain trails. Thaw Thi Ko, a Karen refugee church member recently moved to Raleigh, North

Carolina has translated our Annual Feasts literature into the Karen language. Lazum Brang is doing the same in the Kachin language.

Jack Ang Min, a Karen church member living in Chiang Mai, Thailand, will Computer typeset the translations and we will then print booklets in these two languages. These booklets can be put together very cheaply by the local people themselves and will be distributed throughout Northern Thailand and Burma. The first Karen language booklet should be complete by Feast of Trumpets. We have other translations in the works. So things are really beginning to happen.

Brethren from England, America, Australia and even Spain are starting to send their support to Legacy Institute for these projects. With all of us pulling together, we can do a lot. But if Burma erupts into another bloodbath like it did in September 1988, it will most assuredly affect travel and communications. Gloria and I probably would not be permitted to enter Burma, let alone go to Kachinland for the feast. So, the bottom line is this -- it is up to God what He wants. We are ready and willing to go. We wait for God to show us His will.

Please pray that a peaceful atmosphere will prevail in Burma. Please pray that God will work things out for us to go. Please pray that God's Work will not be impeded. The effectual fervent prayer of God's people accomplishes much. Collective prayer is the power of God's people. Gloria and I rely on all of you and your prayers. And please pray for the protection of our scattered brethren so far away.

LETTER FROM LAZUM BRANG

I received a letter from Lazum Brang with updated news. Here are some excerpts from that letter. He talks about the church hymnal we will help him to print and the general health and news of the Kachin brethren:

" Regarding of church hymnal in Kachin-Jinpho, we will select the most suitable songs for the church for 100 numbers first. We aim to print 100 copies for the first edition."

He goes on.....

" Now in Kachinland, it is heavy rained every day. So many children and adults are died by the fever of malaria. But, by the blessings of God our family and church members all are very quite well now. My mother, Shadan (Princess) Htu Shan is now living in Myitkyina. She stays with my younger brother family since last week ago. Pastor David (COG7 Pastor who was in jail for debt) and his wife are now at home in Yangon. They arrived home on July 7. They are released from jail on the first week of July. Yesterday, I received a letter from him."

So, the Work of God continues under difficult circumstances. I will meet Pastor Brang in Mae Sot on the border. It will take him about 5 days of travel from his home village to the border region. He will meet our Karen brethren living in that area and we will confer about the situation inside Burma. Please pray for Brang's safety when he

travels. We will also discuss future plans for the Kachinland Church of God's evangelistic efforts.

KAREN BROTHERS & SISTERS NOW IN AMERICA

Two Karen families left Bangkok for America last week. I saw them all off at the airport. Several days before their departure, they were released from the detention camp and came to Bangkok. We got together in a little one-room apartment in Bangkok and had a going away party. One family is Thaw Thi Ko, his wife Ester and their 5 children; Josiah, Magnolia, Michelle, Melissa and little Joseph Eric. They are now in Raleigh, North Carolina. Hillier Bellock, his wife Thi Mu, and their two teenage children; Washington and Daffodil are being settled in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

They were so excited. They had many questions about life in the USA. America is not the kingdom of God. It is not paradise. But it's still the land of freedoms and opportunities unheard of in many parts of the world, especially for these families who have lived most of their lives as refugees. They will miss friends and relatives they must leave behind, but they are excited about meeting new friends, especially those of the household of faith.

This is about all for this letter. Because of the Feast, we will not be sending out a letter at the end of September. I look forward to writing you once again in October when I hope to have many more exciting and encouraging things to talk about after, God willing, our trip into Burma.

As always, we need your prayers for God's guidance and protection. Best wishes to all for a happy and safe Fall Festival Season,

In Our Lord's Holy and Gracious Name,



Leon Sexton

WHAT IS LEGACY INSTITUTE?

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