



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Dear Brethren and Fellow Laborers,

Here in Thailand we are getting ready for Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. Several days from now, Myo Zaw, the Church of God Deacon in Yangon (Rangoon), Myanmar (Burma), will arrive with his wife Tumar. They are coming for an intensive training program I am holding to teach congregational organization and administration, doctrine, homiletics, and other subjects. The seminars will be translated into Burmese by La Nunan, our Kachin graduate. Two students from the Lahu tribe—Worawete and Atiwat—will also participate. Atiwat and his wife Fon are our married students. The Lahu students speak and understand English because of their Legacy education, so it will not be necessary to translate into the Lahu language as well as Burmese.

The Work of God continues to grow. Myo Zaw and his family meet with about 15 people in Rangoon. Some of these are Chin people from the mountains of western Burma interested in Church of God doctrine. Another group of 25 ethnic Burmese have now asked him to teach them also. Myo Zaw told us that these 25 new people do not fit into his house all at once. Consequently, he has to divide them into several groups so they all can come to Sabbath services at least monthly. This is because this group cannot meet in their home area. They must travel one hour by train to Rangoon.

Myo Zaw feels inadequate to teach the Bible to them because he has never had any formal training. He is an educated man and a successful businessman whom I baptized (together with his wife) almost nine years ago. Myo Zaw feels his lack of formal training in Bible education and public speaking limits his effectiveness in preaching the Gospel. We will help him with that.

They should be arriving by plane from Rangoon any day now. Soon after their arrival, we will be traveling into the mountains to conduct the Passover and observe the Spring Holy Days with brethren from the two refugee camps. There are a few scattered brethren in Thailand who cannot travel to the mountains to meet with us. We are giving them instructions about how to take the Passover at home.

The Church in Southeast Asia is growing and so is the workload. We need more material translated into the Burmese and Karen languages. When preparing and translating doctrinal booklets, we have the advantage of help from long-time COG members who speak both

Burmese and Karen. They can check our translations for language and grammar, but—even more important—they can also check for **doctrinal accuracy**. We must be careful. When one translates something into another language, it is not just translating words, it is also translating IDEAS. This is where we need the assistance of well-grounded and faithful helpers who can evaluate the ideas given in translation as well as the correct words.



Legacy Grad, Fon

Jack Aungmin and Thaw Thi Ko, Karen COG members in North Carolina, have helped us from the beginning. Both of these men and their families were refugees from Burma who stayed in camps in Thailand before moving to the U.S.A. I was one of the first persons from the Church of God they met many years ago. When I met these men, it was clear that the Holy Spirit was working with them and they were eager to learn the truth of the Bible. We spent a lot of time together while they were in Thailand before they left to go to America. Jack even helped us at the Legacy Training Center for over a year. Their zeal and enthusiasm for the Word of God has been inspiring to me over the years. These two men and their families are sterling examples of the fruit born by God’s work in this part of the world.

LEGACY TRAINING CENTER NEWS



Student Body President & Grad, Worawete

We have two young people this year who have completed their three-year training. They are Fon and Worawete (Japur). We held a graduation party for them — but they will not “officially” receive their diplomas until next year when they participate in commencement exercises with next year’s graduates. La Nunan completed his Legacy training last year. He is continuing his education at Payap University here in Chiang Mai and is pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in English language. Last semester he worked hard and received a 3.75 grade point average. He helps us translate material into Burmese and helps interpret during Sabbath services. He will be helping me in the seminars we will hold for those coming from Burma. Fon and Worawete are employed by Legacy. Fon is our kitchen manager and Worawete is assisting at the

farm. Fon’s husband, Atiwat, is our garden manager. Fon just delivered their first child—a boy! Both Atiwat and Worawete help translate into Thai language at Sabbath services. Sometimes it is difficult to know where, when, and how fruit will be born. None of us know how God is going to accomplish His will among the young people who come to Legacy.

Sometimes fruit will be seen quickly and sometimes it takes time—maybe even years! But there is no fruit at all unless they are hearing the Gospel preached to them.

A wiser man than I once said:

Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

Ecclesiastes 11:1 ¹

The key to the success of evangelism today is—and has always been—**ACTIVELY PREACHING THE GOSPEL!** Many times it falls on deaf ears. But then again, some ears are open. We just do not know in advance which ears are open and which ears are closed.



Atiwat with four-hour old baby, BhumiTak

Jesus gave us the parable of the sower:

*Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; **which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.** Matthew 13:18-23*

When we interview these young tribal people for acceptance to Legacy Training Center, we cannot look into their hearts. We cannot see what God sees. All we can do is pray and do our best to select them and teach them the truth. God must do the rest. We start out with each class of maybe 10-12 new freshmen. We end up at the end of three years with sometimes just two or three and sometimes only one! It can be discouraging at times, but God tells us that it is the FEW who find the way—NOT the many.

Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. Luke 13:23-24

¹ KJV unless otherwise noted.

If we are doing our jobs to the best of our ability, then God will surely bless us and guide us to give those He brings to us the choice of Eternal Life.

Please remember us in your petitions to the Almighty. We are preparing for another year at the Legacy Foundation Training Center. New trainees will arrive and we will begin teaching them to seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness as well as learn what we call “life-skills” that make them successful contributors to their society. Erika Pedersen will return for her fifth year as a Legacy volunteer teacher. Erika has been the longest serving volunteer teacher in our history of 12 years. She recently finished her thesis work for a Master’s degree in “Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages.” She was able to complete her degree while teaching as a volunteer at Legacy. Austin Mangels is staying for another year. He will be teaching the Beginner’s Bible class and help us in the administration of our garden projects. Joining us in a few weeks will be Nathan Albright from Tampa, Florida. He will help us with computer, Bible classes, and leadership training.

I am re-evaluating and re-structuring our curriculum so that the most important things are emphasized. First is God’s Law and how it applies to living a moral and productive life. God and character development must come first. Then we emphasize leadership skills. There are principles of leadership that can be learned and practiced that will bring success in family life, the workplace, and in the community.



Sala with corn in foreground



LaNuNan L.& Worawet sorting seeds under sala

The next area of training must be in agriculture and how God’s laws apply to growing food. The Bible is a book about agriculture. The annual Holy Days revolve around the harvest cycle and many of the parables used by Jesus and the Apostles are drawn from agriculture. If push comes to shove, we want our graduates to know how to use the natural resources God gives us to produce food for themselves and their families. Finally we will continue to emphasize the teaching of English and Basic Computer programs, which will provide basic skills for employment or future education and help the students learn better, since all of our classes are taught in English.



Zenias and Marigolds



Bananas and Corn

LEGACY'S GARDEN

We have two garden plots under cultivation at this time. The first one we have had since we opened the training center. At the moment, it is producing an abundance of tomatoes and green, leafy vegetables. Last year before the Feast of Tabernacles, we observed the Biblical land rest. Since the Feast, we have been cultivating this small plot with good success. One thing I teach the trainees is to tithe on the produce, no matter how small the harvest for the day might be. I then raise the tithe to heaven and thank God for His blessings of food. I ask Him to recognize that we are honoring Him with our tithe and request that He open the windows of Heaven and give us abundance. Well it works! We now have tomatoes coming out our ears! We are getting so many tomatoes that the school can't possibly use them all! Gloria and I actually did a little tomato canning. Once again God's covenant promises prove out!



Cherry Tomatoes

This year we were able to plant a second plot of about half an acre with corn and beans. We also planted marigolds. Austin, Worawete, and several trainees built a strong "sala" on the new land. A Thai sala is a type of gazebo built of bamboo that gives field workers a place to rest out of the sun. It turned out to be such a nice sala that Austin likes to go there to spend quiet time in the middle of the corn and bean patch.

We have also planted marigolds and zenias, which are naturally insecticidal. God has provided us with every resource to grow food without chemicals. We just have to learn how to manage what He has given us in His wondrous creation. Austin reported seeing a couple of ladybugs in the new plot, so we have our natural bad bug-fighters now coming to help us.

BURMA EARTHQUAKE

The world is spinning increasingly out of control. Japan, a close neighbor to Thailand, has four nuclear reactors facing meltdown. This is a horrendous ecological disaster! Our hearts go out to the Japanese who are suffering from earthquakes, tsunami, and now nuclear radiation. May God have mercy upon them! Right on the heels of this terrible disaster, we experienced an earthquake ourselves here in Chiang Mai on March 24th at 8:25 P.M. Our son Bronson was visiting us with his wife, two daughters, and son. We were sitting and talking. My chair began to sway. At first I wasn't sure what was happening, but it began to sway even more! Having lived in Southern California for many years, I realized we were having an earthquake. It seemed like it lasted for at least 20 seconds. Gloria grabbed our granddaughters and headed outside. The rest of us followed. After it stopped, Bronson got on the internet and looked up USGS (U.S. Geological Survey)². Very quickly they reported a 6.8 size earthquake with the epicenter about 140 miles north of Chiang Mai, across the border in Burma.

It took a while for the reports to come in, but we later found out that the quake happened in a more remote area. Nevertheless it was felt in Rangoon and Bangkok, and throughout all of Southeast Asia. 74 people were killed in Burma and one in Thailand as a result of falling buildings and debris. No COG members or their family members were hurt.

We are not used to earthquakes in Thailand. Japan is famous for earthquakes because it sits upon what is called "The Ring of Fire" (a circle of volcanic and seismic activity that surrounds the Pacific Ocean). Going through one here in Thailand makes me remember the prophetic words of Jesus:

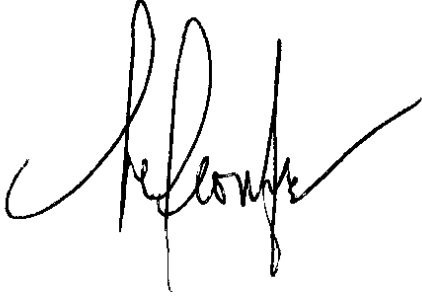
*For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers {different} places. **Matthew 24:7***

Things are getting closer and closer to the time of the Great Tribulation, when darkness descends and we can no longer work the works of God. We have no time to waste. All of us—no matter what fellowship we might belong to—must renew all our efforts to preach the Gospel to all the world as a witness. There are many hungry sheep out there. How many belong to the King of Kings, only He knows. Meanwhile, we need to GO—PREACH—BAPTIZE—and TEACH. Let us, each and every one, renew our commitment to Our Lord and let's get the job done!

So until next letter,

² <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/recenteqsww/Quakes/usc0002aes.php#details>

In Service to Our Savior and King Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Leon Sexton', with a stylized, flowing script.

T. Leon Sexton

P.S. I wrote in my last letter that we needed to buy six new computers for classes next year. Some of you have already sent funds to help us with this need. I want to thank all of you for your quick and generous response. We have enough now to purchase at least two new desktop computers. Thank you!

Notice: Feast of Tabernacles in Chiang Mai, Thailand

Plans are underway for the 2011 Festival of Tabernacles in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The Thailand Feast is mainly for the benefit of local brethren, but international visitors are always warmly welcomed. Services are held all eight days and are in English, with Thai and Burmese language translations. For further information, please write to us at the address at the top of this letter or email us at: **mail@legacyinstitute.org**.

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