



## LEGACY INSTITUTE

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1 May 2011

Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

This year for the Passover and seven days of Unleavened Bread, Gloria and I traveled into the mountains near the Myanmar (Burma) border. The place we chose for our meetings was a very interesting town called “Khun Yuam.” This small village was on the little known Japanese Burma Road that wound its way from Chiang Mai, through the mountains, to the Burma border. This road was built by the Japanese Imperial



Thai-Japan Friendship Memorial Hall



Rusting Japanese military trucks

Army using conscripted Thai laborers in order to supply the Japanese soldiers fighting in Burma during World War II. One afternoon I visited the site of the memorial museum being built on the grounds of the old Japanese military air field. The new museum is next to the old air strip. The runways are now a soccer field and track, but one can still see the hulks of old Japanese military trucks rusting away into history. The site is also the location of an old Japanese military graveyard, and Japanese tourists visit to pay respects to dead ancestors and relatives still buried there.

We chose Khun Yuam as the place to meet for the spring Holy Days because it is not far from one of the refugee camps where Karen church members stay. We also arranged for another family of Karen members to come from a more distant refugee camp several hours away by four-wheel drive truck and bus.



Group photo all together for Passover and U.B. for 9 of the 10 days

It is always touch- and- go when we want to get our Karen brethren out of the camps for holy days. They must get permission and pay a fee to the camp soldiers to leave, then must travel at least part way in hired four-wheel drive trucks because these refugee camps are so remote. Every time there is some kind of border incident involving the Thai army or Border Patrol Police, the entire border area is put on alert and travel outside of the camps becomes very difficult



Special music by SawSeyHtoo with his wife NawMya



Sun NayPaw, Sun NayHtoo, and new student, SawWa

Of course they cannot afford to pay any fees, hire the trucks, or buy bus tickets. So we must always arrange transportation for them. But prayer works. All baptized Christians should not miss the Passover. All refugee brethren were able to come. We also had one student, two graduates, one Legacy teacher, and three Legacy church member employees all joining with us. We had another

COG member who is teaching in Chiang Mai join us for the Holy Days. We had a total of 16 take the Passover together under the full moon, 24 attend the first Holy Day, and 14 the second. Unfortunately, an incident involving a refugee attacking a Thai soldier caused the members from the closest camp to be called back into the refugee camp the day before the last Holy Day. It was disappointing, but their safety under the circumstances was important; so they had to go back inside the camp. I made an audio tape and special Holy Day food provisions to send with them so they could keep the Feast in the camp.

I gave a message every day for ten days. We also had an outing to a beautiful waterfall, a game night, and a movie night. We ate all our meals together and were able to arrange to stay together at a clean guesthouse built of teakwood. The rooms even had hot showers and western style toilets!

These COG members have no weekly Sabbath services, as I am not able to travel into the camps regularly. Our hope was that this intensive ten days of sermons and fellowship would encourage them and give them a spiritual boost. Sometimes we Western COG members fail to appreciate the years of regular Sabbath services, Bible Studies, magazines, and booklets we all have been blessed with. Each sermon was translated into Burmese by LaNunan, and we taped each one to send to our brethren in Burma.

We are busy translating booklets into Burmese as well. It is not easy to prepare



Family from MaeRaMoe Refugee Camp. L.to R: Htee Shee, Julius Ceasar, LayGayHtoo and PoHtoo



Church services with LaLuNan translating



Outing: L-R: SawWa, Japur, Atiwat, Julius, LaNunan



SunNayHtoo in Waterfall

material, because we have to understand the cultural context of the people we are trying to reach with the printed word. Most Burmese do not speak English at all, but our Burmese graduates understand and speak it fluently. So everything must be translated. LaNunan is a big help. He is a Kachin church member from Burma who has graduated Legacy and now is studying for a BA in English in an international program at Payap University here in Chiang Mai. He is doing well and so far his GPA is 3.75.

While in Khun Yuam, I got a surprise call from Jack Aungmin, a Karen COG member living in North Carolina. He told me that a young Karen man was waiting for me at a bus stop in a town about 1½ hours away by car. Passover was in the evening and I could not leave. So Gloria jumped in the truck about 1 p.m. with Paw Htoo (one of our Karen members) and Austin Mangels (a Legacy teacher), then drove the very curvy mountain road to the Mae Sariang bus stop. The young man, named SawWa, was waiting to be picked up and already had his bag packed to come to Legacy as a new student. It was a big surprise, since I didn't know anything about him until the

phone call from Jack! After talking to him, I realized that maybe God had His own ideas about this young man. He speaks and reads fluent Burmese, Thai, and Karen. He also surprised me by speaking a little English. He was happy and spent all of the Feast of Unleavened Bread with us. Now he is settled in at the school and already helping at the Legacy farm.

We wanted to bring several Church leaders over from Burma for an intensive Bible training course, but that didn't work out. One of the men had trouble with his passport paperwork and Tumar, the wife of our deacon in Rangoon, came down with a serious kidney problem. They had to cancel the trip. We were very disappointed, but always remember that God is in charge and knows all things. Maybe the timing was not right, or perhaps He is steering us in a different path



Members headed back to Surin Refugee Camp a day early. Utaiwan Han in front with NawMya.

for educating the Church leaders in Burma. I certainly can no longer travel into Burma like I once did. My health has taken a beating, so we rely on God to show us the best way to carry forth His work there.

### SPEAKING TOUR IN USA

Gloria and I will be flying back to the U.S.A. She will leave early to help her mother sort through various items left by her father after his death. Gloria has been given things belonging to her father, including some old books written in High German. Her father, Werner Jebens, was a translator for the *The Plain Truth* in German (*Die Reine Wahrheit*). During his life, he accumulated many books and files, which have become precious heirlooms for his descendants. Gloria wants to keep most of his library.

I will follow in June and travel with Gloria to Texas for Sabbath speaking engagements and an informative presentation about Legacy's work in Asia afterward.

|                       |                                                       |                                                                                          |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25 <sup>th</sup> June | Tulsa Church of God<br><b>TIME: 1:00 p.m.</b>         | 14509 East Marshall St.<br>Tulsa, OK 74116<br>Pastor: Lawrence Gregory<br>(918) 622-3448 |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> July  | Central Texas Church of God<br><b>TIME: 1:00 p.m.</b> | Call Ben Mauldin<br>(254) 721-8330 for location                                          |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> July  | Church of God Big Sandy<br><b>TIME: 2:00 p.m.</b>     | 1106 West Broadway<br>Big Sandy, TX 75755<br>(903)636-4600; (903)636-5043                |

We look forward to seeing many of you at these Sabbath services. It is always good to get back to the States and see family and old friends. We just can't do it as often as we would like.

I hope all of you at home are surviving the terrible gas prices. Gasoline and diesel fuel have sky rocketed here as well. I stay up on the news from the U.S.A. and I am appalled at the increasing price of foods and fuel. Within a very short time, China will surpass the U.S. in Gross National Products (GNP) and become number one in the world. The Chinese are on fire and are making deals all over the world to corner future supplies of REEs (rare earth elements), oil, and gas to fuel their exploding economy. The Chinese have just acquired their first aircraft carrier and are building attack aircraft to fly from this offensive platform. They plan to defend their rights to a number of disputed islands in the South China Sea and elsewhere. They are quickly becoming a world power to be reckoned with.

The Chinese are also making moves into the world financial arena by proposing the International Monetary Fund (IMF) issue, "Special Drawing Rights," as a form of world currency to replace the U. S. Dollar as the world's reserve currency. Even America's fair weather allies seem to be joining the Chinese move against the Dollar.

*France seized on a proposal made two years ago by People's Bank of China Governor Zhou Xiaochuan to build up the special drawing right (SDR), the International Monetary Fund's unit of account, into a global reserve currency that would eventually displace the dollar. In an essay that garnered much attention at the time, Zhou said the objective was to have a super-sovereign currency, one that is "disconnected from the economic conditions and sovereign interests of any single country." Laying out his G20 priorities, Sarkozy said in December that he wanted to look at widening the SDR's role and reducing reliance on the dollar.<sup>1</sup>*

Never forget the end time prophecies of Daniel and John that speak of a great army coming into the Middle East from the north and east (*north and east of Jerusalem*):

*But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. **Dan 11:44***

*Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. **Rev 9:14-16***

*And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared. **Rev 16:12***

Things are happening so fast it is hard to keep up. The King of the South is rising quickly and the United States continues to decline as a great power. Geopolitics hates a vacuum. As the U.S. declines, others will rise to fill its place. The Bible prophesies that at the End of the Age, a 200 million man army will cross the Euphrates River from the east and march toward Jerusalem to make war with the Beast power. China is now flexing its military muscles and is already active in the Middle East because of its economy's reliance on oil.

We all need to get on our knees. We are going to need God and each other more now than ever before.

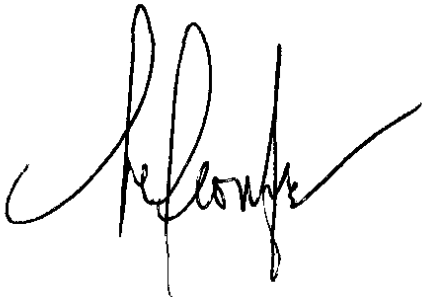
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<sup>1</sup> **G20 meeting in China**, REUTERS, March 30, 2011

The U.S. economy is getting worse every day and God's people are suffering. I can tell because the downturn in the American economy has affected Legacy. We are not connected or supported by any large COG organization and rely completely on the Spirit inspired help of individuals and small congregations to accomplish the work God has given us to do. Donations have recently dropped off dramatically. But we give our concerns to God who can multiply loaves and fishes.

Pray for us over here. We are praying for all of you back home.

In King Jesus service,

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

T. Leon Sexton

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