



LEGACY INSTITUTE

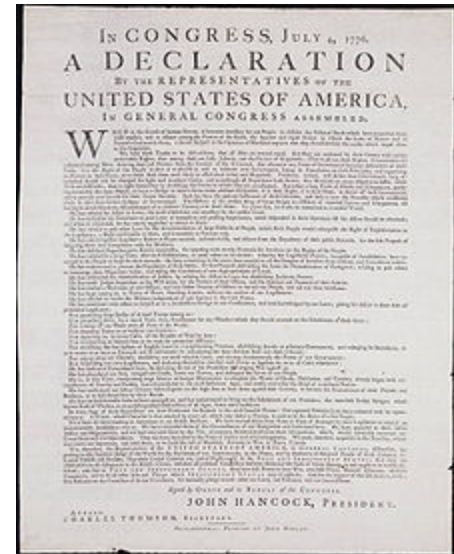
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The Declaration of Independence

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”



In Congress, July 4, 1776

4 July 2011

Dear Brethren and Fellow Laborers,

It is not the government of men that will give you these things. It is God. Human governments are supposedly formed to protect your rights to these things. But few do. When Israel rejected God as their king and pressed Samuel to provide a human king, God told them what a human government would do.

I Samuel 8:5-18

And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint *them* for himself, for his chariots, and *to be* his horsemen; and *some* shall run before his chariots. And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and *will set them* to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. And he will take your daughters *to be* confectionaries, and *to be* cooks, and *to be* bakers. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your olive yards, *even* the best

of them, and give *them* to his servants. And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put *them* to his work. He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants. And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day. ¹

Human governments end up as self-serving instruments of repression, not freedom, because human governments, by their nature, reject the rule of God and replace it with the rule of themselves.

Samuel warned them what would happen if they rejected God and started looking to a human ruler to provide protection and guarantee their freedoms and happiness. The same is true today as much as it was in Samuel's day. The people end up serving the human government instead of the government serving them. This is true everywhere in the world. We Americans pride ourselves on the freedoms of our republic. However, the further we get away from God, the less freedom we enjoy. The more we take God out of government, the more intrusive the government becomes, and the less freedom we possess.

The founding fathers did their best to draft the Constitution in such a way as to guarantee the freedoms of the ordinary citizen. Most of them were God-fearing men who recognized the necessity of seeking God's involvement in government. But they were men, none the less. They tried to build checks and balances into the system to prevent one branch of government from gaining ultimate power over the other branches. They instituted a Bill of Rights to preserve the rights of every citizen and prevent the rise of tyranny. For instance, an armed populace prevents the rise of dictatorship. Free speech allows ideas of freedom and individual liberty to thrive.

These men had come out of the repressive European systems of tyrannical and self-serving rulers. They had experienced the lack of freedom and human rights. They wanted to form a new government based on freedom of the individual and on the foundation of a constitution that would guarantee those rights.

As long as God was encouraged to be a part of that government, then the republic had a chance to be largely successful. Their intentions were good. But they could not guard against the human nature of avarice and the lust for power over other men. Only God could do that.

¹ All scriptural references from the KJV unless otherwise noted.

The more God is kicked out of the system, the more it becomes the possession of self-serving human lust and greed. And the people become enslaved as a result.

Who can guarantee life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? Humans cannot. Only God can! God is the life-giver.

John 10:9-10

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

“Going in and out” represents freedom. Finding pasture represents an abundance of the things needed to sustain life and well being. These things only God can guarantee.

The only real liberty for man is in Jesus Christ. Real liberty comes from God and is guaranteed by the kingship of Jesus Himself.

Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

It is Jesus the Messiah who brings real liberty and sets free those in bondage to sin and human nature. The founding fathers were idealists and understood that the laws of God brought liberty. Many of the laws we still have on the books in America are founded on the laws of the Holy Bible. For instance, the law of bankruptcy is based on the law of the seventh year of release. Look at the inscription on the Liberty Bell that still hangs in a bell tower in Philadelphia:

“Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof”

This is a quotation from Leviticus 25:10 where God outlines the law of the 50th year Jubilee when all families return to their family possessions and all debts, including the debt of slavery, are released. No matter how bad things got financially; no matter whether or not families get so debt ridden that they have to sell their family property or even themselves, in the 50th year, the family land is returned to them. This means future

generations have the ability to start all over again and freely grow food and raise livestock to feed their families. God's law is real freedom. The more we remove Him from our law-making process, the more enslaved we become.

What really makes us happy? Is it our government? Human government can provide for our happiness—only as long as that government seeks God's guidance and blessings.

The Queen of Sheba was told many things about Solomon before she visited him in Jerusalem. But she was not told the half of what she eventually saw with her own eyes. What did she exclaim after visiting Solomon's court?

I Kings 10:6-9

And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen *it*: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard. Happy *are* thy men, happy *are* these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, *and* that hear thy wisdom. Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice.

Solomon performed righteous judgment and enacted just and equitable laws as long as he remained under the hand of God. But when he left God and pursued after the gods of his Gentile wives, the people suffered under unjust taxation and repression. He became just like the Gentile kings around him. Eventually he died and the majority of the kingdom was torn from the hands of his unrighteous son.

The nation prospered and remained happy only as long as King Solomon and his government remained faithful to God.

This is as true today as in Saul's day or in Solomon's day.

God's way produces happiness and prosperity. When a people can no longer make ends meet and find themselves in the throes of depression and unhappiness, the reason is crystal clear: they have no longer felt the need to keep God in their lives and have chosen leaders who have removed God from government and pursued other gods.

"Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness" is only guaranteed by worship of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of the Abrahamic covenant. The further away we get from our God and the covenant He made with the patriarchs and their covenant descendants, the more we will see our liberties taken away and our prosperity turn to poverty.

We must return to our God and put Him back into our government, our schools, and our homes. That is the only way we will survive. What happened to the nation of Israel and the nation of Judah once they turned their backs on God and His covenant? They were led away into slavery to Gentile nations and all their freedoms were lost.

That is the road we are on now. The only way to reverse direction is to repent and restore the high and lofty position of our God in our society.

II Chronicles 30:7-9

And be not ye like your fathers, and like your brethren, which trespassed against the LORD God of their fathers, *who* therefore gave them up to desolation, as ye see. Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers *were*, *but* yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you. For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children *shall find* compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God *is* gracious and merciful, and will not turn away *his* face from you, if ye return unto him.

What is the way out of our financial woes? What is the way out of our political woes and the snares of multiple foreign wars and entanglements? What is the key to life, liberty and true happiness?

The key is repentance and a return to the God of our fathers.

Now what I have said may not be “PC” (politically correct), but it is the truth. The lessons are clear and open to any wise enough to open their Bibles. A call to national repentance is needed. We need more days of prayer—not cancel the ones we already have!

Return to God and He will return to you.

LEGACY INSTITUTE THAILAND UPDATE

Periodically we are able to send our volunteer teachers out to perform outreach service. Sometimes this is in a refugee camp or an orphanage; sometimes in a mountain hill tribe school. Recently, Erika Pedersen, a current teacher, and Nathan Kimmons, a former teacher, were given the chance to go into the mountains to a remote school to teach for several days at an English Camp. Following is a report from Erika Pedersen about the experience:

On May 30th and 31st a Legacy team got together to help with an English camp at Banhuaypooling school in Om Koi (located in the mountains southwest of Chiangmai). One team member, a former employee of Legacy Foundation, Kuhn Saow, is currently a teacher at the elementary school. Also, another team member, a Legacy graduate named Khun Jeh, had attended the same school as a child. A former volunteer Legacy teacher, Nathan Kimmons, was also invited along with me, Erika Pedersen, to help with the English camp.



Om Koi school with water buffalo in foreground



Karen' village home

The drive from Chiang Mai city center to the school in Om Koi takes approximately four hours. The roads are mostly good except perhaps the last half an hour. The school is situated in the mountains. On the way one passes gorgeous views from the tallest point in Om Koi down to the valleys below with mountains lingering in the background. The school is nestled in one of these mountain valleys. There are classroom buildings, a house for the female teachers, and a boarding



Legacy-sponsored lunch for hill tribe students

house for about 20-25 young students. There was also a beautiful Karen style home that was situated along the stream that flows near the school. We relaxed on the porch of that house for a brief time when we arrived; drank water, talked, and listened to the stream flow past. On the evening of our first day we were treated to a wonderful meal provided at Jeh's parents' home.

The next day we spent helping at the English camp. The camp was for students in grades 3-6. After an introduction by the staff of the school and opening comments by the director, students were split into 3 groups and were rotated through three stations named Greetings, Animals, and Fruits and Vegetables. At each station students learned some vocabulary and also learned songs to help them remember.

Legacy school provided the funds for students to have a delicious lunch, after which they had more activities in the afternoon. These activities were meant to enforce the vocabulary learned earlier in the day. The different groups competed with each other and individual students volunteered to sing songs or answer questions.



Group photo. Back Row: Nathan Kimmons (far left); Khun Saow (center); Erika Pedersen (right).

By the end of the camp the children had smiles on their faces and there was a lot of laughter. This interaction of Legacy teachers with the students gave them exposure to native speakers of English and provided them with the opportunity to view English as fun. By giving them this outlook, hopefully their motivation to learn English will increase, especially when they find themselves singing one of the catchy English tunes we taught them.

WAR IN BURMA

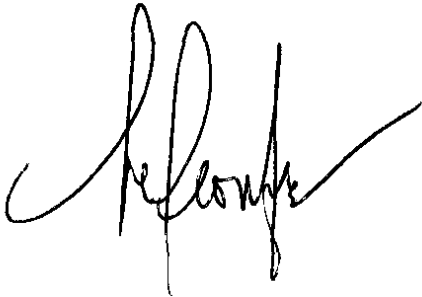
Fighting has once again erupted between the Burmese Army and the Kachin Liberation Army and Shan State Army along the border of Burma and China. This affects Church of God members as well as families of some of our Legacy students and graduates. This is a continuation of the over 60-year-old civil war between the central Burmese

government and the various ethnic tribal groups that inhabit the mountainous border areas. One of our Kachin tribal graduates asked that we pray for people along the border because China is not accepting refugees unless they have relatives in China. This means that thousands are hiding in the jungles, and the monsoon season has already begun. The UN is fully aware of the refugee situation but does nothing because China and Russia block any move that might embarrass Burma.

Please remember this escalating trouble spot in your prayers. God's Word is going forth in this area of the world, and more who live in this remote area are listening.

Also, please pray for Legacy's income. Over the past six months our income has dropped 30 to 40 percent. That is a real blow when we operate with a bare-bones budget as it is. May God bless all of his people in these difficult times.

In Our Lord's Service,

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

T. Leon Sexton

Notice: Feast of Tabernacles in Chiang Mai, Thailand

Plans are still underway for the 2011 Festival of Tabernacles in Chiang Mai, Thailand. International visitors are always warmly welcomed by the local church of God members in Thailand and surrounding countries. 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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