



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

Gloria and I have just returned to Thailand from the U.S. It was a very successful trip. We were able to visit with friends and relatives, as well as speak before five different congregations of God's people. Each time we met with church brethren, we got the same feeling. They all want to do God's work on Earth. They want to get the Gospel out to the nations. They understand clearly that this is the purpose of the church.

Why did Jesus found the church nearly 2000 years ago?

To do the Work!

It was not formed as a social club. It was not created to be a fraternity of those being saved. People chosen then to form the church were not better than others or more righteous. The same is true of those chosen today. The Bible says that God chooses the weak of the world to be His messengers of the Gospel of the Kingdom.



Above: Dallas brethren fellowshiping after services. Left: L. to R.: Anita Showers, Leon and Gloria Sexton in Big Sandy, Texas COG.

But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:
1Corinthians 1:27-28

I spoke to different fellowships affiliated with different church organizations with different leadership styles. All the ordinary members share a common goal and all share the Holy Spirit which sets them apart for God's holy use. This shared goal is not the Kingdom of God. Does that surprise you?



Leon Sexton explains current events in the Middle East and North Africa in the light of Daniel 11. Central Texas COG

The shared goal is to DO THE WORK OF GOD! The end reward of those who are fully engaged in finishing God's Work on the earth is the Kingdom of God. The goal is NOT personal salvation, but is—and always has been—serving the Lord Jesus to complete His Work on Earth by Preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to all the world!

If the Gospel is not getting preached, then those that God may want to call will not hear the message. If they do not hear the message, they have nothing to respond to. If they have nothing to respond to, they cannot become part of the Body of Christ.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!
Romans 10:13-15

I have heard the saying, "We have preached the gospel, now is the time to prepare the church." My question is this: Where can you find this in the Bible? Where does it say that we preach the Gospel for awhile and then sit back and prepare ourselves for the Coming of the Lord?

What about all the billions who have never even heard the name of Jesus Christ? Do we forget about them and now concentrate on our own salvation? Show me that in the Bible! You will not be able to prove this scripturally because it just is not there.

Jesus gave us the job of Preaching the Gospel to all the world. Salvation is supposed to go to the Ends of the Earth!

For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth. Acts 13:47

This command to the church is just as valid today as it was in the Apostle Paul's time, even more so as we get closer to the End of the Age.

I work among third-world Gentile nations. I see the hunger and misery. It is not just physical hunger I see. I see a spiritual hunger that transcends the physical realm. Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well:

Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. John 4:13-14

Do you think God wants us to stop preaching the Gospel when there are still so many who need the promise of its message? No. Jesus said we are to go and preach the Gospel to ALL the nations, and He would be with us until the End!

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:19-20

"Until the end of the world" doesn't sound like we should stop preaching the Gospel! Does it sound like that to you? I don't think so. It is just too easy to find excuses to slow down or even stop preaching the Gospel. Some say that the two witnesses will complete the Work. Others say that the Work will be completed in the Millennium.

While it is true that the "two witnesses" (**Revelation 11:3**) have a specific work to do, that does not mean we can push off our responsibilities onto them. And while it is true that the Gospel will go out to the whole world during the millennial rule of Jesus (**Isaiah 11:9**), it does not mean we can shirk our responsibilities during this present evil age. Nowhere does Jesus say we can rest and leave the Work to others.

There really is still a lot of work to be done. We are getting ready for the Feast of Tabernacles here in Thailand. We will spend part of the Feast in the city of Chiang Mai and part of the Feast high in the mountains along the Myanmar (Burma) border where our Karen refugee members live. More and more are hearing the call of God because we are preaching the Gospel here. We must renew our efforts to reach even greater numbers of those eager to hear the Gospel message. The Bible tells us that if we put our hand to the plow, we had better finish the job!

*And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. **Luke 9:62***

Preaching the Gospel is a serious and sobering responsibility. It is all about eternal life for others as well as our selves. I believe the best way to prepare for the Kingdom of God is to finish the job Jesus gave us right now! There is no better way than “on the job training.” What we do today can mean salvation for many more tomorrow.

How were you called? You were called because people, just like you and me, gave their lives and personal resources to preaching the Gospel to the world. You and I then heard that message. We responded to that message and were baptized. Their works led to our calling and our salvation. Many of those who have gone before are now asleep awaiting the resurrection of the dead. Now it is our turn.

I am reminded of one of my granddaughters, Norah. Her new favorite saying is: “Don’t stop and don’t give up.” Norah is four years old, yet her little words ring through the ages from the prophets of old until our own present time.

We cannot give up and we cannot quit. The Great Commission must be completed. If we don’t do it, Jesus Christ will find someone else who will! There can be no compromise. We cannot bury our talents in the sand. We must multiply until He comes again. (**Matthew 25**)

Things are heating up in the Middle East and North Africa. The U.N. is going to vote in September to create a new Palestinian state consisting of land now controlled by Israel. The U.S., U.N., Russia, and the E.U. are all clamoring for the state of Israel to pull back to its pre-1967 borders. The Palestinians want East Jerusalem as their new Capital. The Jewish state of Israel will NEVER give up East Jerusalem. The storm clouds are gathering.

We still have a job to do. Let's be about our Father's business. The darkness is soon coming when no man can work.

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.
John 9:4

FIGHTING IN BURMA ERUPTS AGAIN

As readers may be aware, there has been a protracted civil war in Burma lasting now for over 50 years. Fighting between the central Burmese military government and rebel ethnic armies has erupted off and on over the last half century, particularly in the border areas. In June, fighting between the Burmese army and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) erupted near the border of China, effectively ending a 17-year ceasefire. Over 15,000 people have fled their farms to hide in the mountainous jungle areas. Some have crossed the border into China. In the jungle they have no shelter and no food except what they can gather from the forest. Some of the men have returned to their farms to tend their fields; otherwise they will have no food for the coming year. They do this in spite of the dangers.

This new fighting affects some of our COG brethren who live in the area. Our deacon in Rangoon will give me more details about our brethren living near the China border as soon as he receives any news. Please pray for our brethren and the displaced families caught in the crossfire there.



MAP OF MYANMAR (BURMA) (worldofmaps.net)

See Kachin State in Northern Burma



Left to Right: Legacy Teachers Austin, Erika, Nathan

LEGACY TEACHERS

I want to publicly thank our three teachers, Erika Pedersen, Austin Mangels, and Nathan Albright, for doing a commendable job in teaching classes and “holding down the fort” while we traveled to the U.S.

Our students at Legacy Institute Leadership Training Center in Chiang Mai are receiving the Word of God and learning skills to earn a living because of the dedicated service of our volunteer teachers.

MORE THANKS

Gloria and I also want to give a SPECIAL THANK YOU to all our brethren in the U.S.A. who helped us so much during our visit.

May God bless all of you continually as you assist in accomplishing His work on earth.

Until next letter,

Serving the King of Kings,

T. Leon Sexton

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