



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Sabbath song leading by
Htoo Mya Shwe



Sabbath services about to begin.
Moe Paleh (Left) and Stle Lin Shwe.

Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

I thought it might interest you to find out more about our students who are now studying at the Legacy Foundation Leadership Training Center. In Thailand, we are known as the Legacy Foundation instead of Legacy Institute. In 2002, the Thailand Ministry of Culture officially chartered us as a charitable foundation and empowered us to provide education to young people in Thailand and surrounding countries.

I asked our teachers to interview each student and outline their interviews. We will start with our students who have recently come from Myanmar (formerly known as Burma):

Htoo Mya Shwe wants to be a teacher. He is 20 years old and a COG member. He is from the Karen tribe and was born in Taungoo, Myanmar. His hobbies are playing guitar and reading.

Stle Lin Shwe is 24 and the elder brother of Htoo Mya Shwe. He wants to become a pastor. Stle Lin is a COG member and worked most of his youth to help provide for his family. He was a laborer at odd jobs: a jade miner, a gold miner, a wild elephant tracker, and a soldier.

Moe Paleh is a 19-year old Karen COG member and comes from the Taungoo area of central Myanmar. He has worked helping his family on their farm and as a wild elephant tracker. Moe Paleh was sent to Legacy by the local Taungoo COG members because they felt he had the potential to become a pastor in the Church.

Gum Seng Aung is 27, married with one son. He is a Kachin and a COG member from Lake Indawgyi in western Kachinland. His father is deceased and his mother sells Kachin herbal medicine at a local market to make a living. He studied for two years at an SDA university and is now studying his first year at Legacy. He aspires to become an accountant. Gum Seng Aung has known his wife since grade school and married her after two years at the SDA university. They had to flee Kachinland because of the war between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and Burmese government troops. Seng Aung hid out in a room in a house in Myitkina before we were able to get him to Rangoon and then to Thailand. The reason he was in hiding for months is because he is Kachin and army age. If the Burmese found him, they would arrest him. If the Kachin found him, they would press him into the Kachin Army to fight the Burmese. He loves to read, learn computer, and English. At Legacy our teachers have commented that Seng Aung is a natural leader and sets a good example for the other students.



Gum Seng Aung



Arriving Chiang Mai International Airport.
Jum Seng Pan (Left) and Hanna Reisdorff.

Jum Seng Pan is Kachin and the wife of Gum Seng Aung. She is 25 years old and comes from Myitkyina, the capital of the Kachin State. The Kachin State is in the far north of Myanmar and borders Tibet, China, and far Northeastern India. Her mother is deceased and her father makes Kachin herbal medicines. Jum came to Legacy with two years of education in an SDA university business program. She has three sisters and two brothers. She is a COG member and enjoys sewing and playing the piano. When Jum first arrived, we had lost our keyboard player Acharn (teacher) Erika Pedersen, who recently returned to the U.S. Jum jumped right in and began playing

hymns for Sabbath services. Her goal is to become a missionary among her own Kachin people. She and her husband have a young son named Sorah, which translates into English as “*Blessing*.”

NOTE: At the time of this writing, Seng Aung, Jum Seng Pan, and little Sorah are on their way back to Rangoon (accompanied by Legacy volunteer teacher Hanna Reisdorff) in order to correct problems with the little boy's birth certificate.

They are flying from Vientiane, Laos, and transiting through Malaysia to reach Rangoon. We had originally sent this family along with Moe Paley to acquire ED (education) Visas so they can stay in Thailand legally. Moe Paley and Jum Seng Pan both received their ED visas without too much difficulty. However, Gum Seng Aung and his son Sorah were refused Thai ED visas. Little Sorah's birth certificate needed to be translated from the Burmese language into Thai or English before it could be accepted by the Thai Embassy as proof that Gum Seng Aung was really Sorah's father.

Hanna and Abby were able to find someone to translate the document into English; but then it had to be authenticated by the Burma (Myanmar) Embassy in Vientiane. When they took the original birth certificate and the required translation to the Myanmar Embassy to be stamped as authentic, they were informed that this could only be done in Rangoon! Now we had to get them back to Myanmar to get the necessary stamp on the translated birth certificate.

We discovered that the Thai Embassy would not issue them a transit visa to return to Myanmar through Thailand because—you guessed it!—they needed an authenticated translation of the child's birth certificate in order to issue a transit visa so they could get to Rangoon and get an authenticated translation of the child's birth certificate!! If I could have pulled any more hair out of my head, I would have! But there just isn't much left. Asia has its own logic ... and it is not American. Living in a Gentile world, I have had to learn to do what the Marine Corps teaches—*"improvise, adapt, and overcome!"* I found tickets from Vientiane, Laos, back to Rangoon via Malaysia instead of Thailand. Guess what!? In order to transit the few hours in the Kuala Lumpur airport, they needed TRANSIT VISAS!!!!

Abby returned to Thailand with Moe Paley because he was already able to get his ED visa. Hanna stayed on in Laos with Gum Seng Aung and family to get the necessary transit visas for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

This is where being able to present our petitions to the Great Sovereign Lord of Heaven comes in very handy! Prayer works when nothing else will. Hanna took everyone down to the Malaysian Embassy and they were able to get the necessary transit visas to fly on to Rangoon. As of this morning, due to God's grace, they are on a plane headed to Rangoon where they will be picked up at the airport by the COG deacon in Myanmar, U Myo Zaw, and his wife, Tumar.

Please pray they are then able to get the birth certificate translation stamped as authentic and use those documents to acquire ED visas for Gum Seng Aung and his son at the Thailand Embassy in Rangoon. Then we will need to fly them back to Chiang Mai to continue studies at Legacy.

We are not out of the woods yet, but God has intervened and we are on the right path. It has taken a lot of extra time, unexpected expense, and lots and lots of heart wrenching prayer; but that is not unusual for the Work of God in Asia. I have to hand it to Abigail Syltie and Hanna Reisdorff. Both of them have stepped up to the plate and have taken the “*message to Garcia*.” Neither has any experience with the Mount Everest of red tape and Minoan Maze of regulations and requirements that we run into over here. I understand how the Curiosity Rover must feel (*if it had feelings*) as it traverses the Martian landscape. These girls are great and are doing a very commendable job.

Some think that I am joking when I say that I throw our volunteer teachers into the deep end of the pool. Abby and Hanna now know that I am not joking. But God’s young people are resilient and understand the necessity of relying on Him to come through in times of great need. What an incredible lesson in FAITH BUILDING!



Hser Nay Say, younger twin



Hser Nay Paw



Nay Blu Htoo

Now let’s continue with our notes on Legacy students.

The next three girl students I call the “*Sunny Sisters*” because they all have the name Hser Ney, which sounds like “Sunny.” I baptized all three on the same day in a muddy river in a refugee camp in the mountains near the Burma border. All three are now first year students at Legacy.

Hser Nay Paw is a COG member and is a Karen from the Kayah State in Myanmar. She is 17 years old and has one younger sister. Her father is a farmer. Her mother died earlier this year in a refugee camp from an undiagnosed disease. She attended seven years of primary education in a refugee camp school. She loves to sing and her ambition is to get a good education. Her favorite classes are Bible and English, and she is an “A” student.

The Twins:



Hser Nay Htoo the older twin (Left) & Galaya (Ganya) Sexton at song service

Hser Nay Htoo is 16. She is a COG member and was born near Taungoo in central Burma. She is from the Karen tribe and her father is a gardener who works for Legacy Foundation in Thailand. Her mother also works for Legacy in Cleaning Maintenance. Hser Nay Htoo completed eight years of primary education in a refugee camp school. She speaks Burmese and Karen. She is now studying Thai and English. She loves sports and is very good at volleyball, takraw¹, basketball, and soccer. Her goal is to return to Burma and use her education to help teach others. She is the elder of the twins. Hser Nay Htoo loves the cool weather of the mountains and beautiful surroundings.

Hser Nay Say is the younger of the twins. Also a baptized member of the COG, she studied for nine years in a refugee camp school and now is a first-year student at Legacy. She spends her time studying, playing sports, and taking care of her little brother Eh Ka'na Htoo. She likes English class and enjoys farm work. She is anxious to continue learning after she graduates from Legacy.

Nay Blu Htoo is the youngest of our new Legacy students. She is 14 and the younger sister of the twins. She is not yet baptized, but is a Sabbath and holy day observer and wants to learn more about the Bible. She studied up until the 7th grade in a Karenni Refugee Camp school. She speaks Karen, Burmese, Karenni, and is now learning English and Thai. Even though she is the youngest of the new Legacy students, she is very bright and keeps up quite well with classes.



Manorah (Norah) Sexton (Left) and Naw Mya (mother of twins and 4 more siblings)



Attima Saenmai is 18 and was born in Mae Suei, Thailand. She is from the Lahu tribe and is a Thai citizen. Both of her parents are farmers. She grew up taking care of her three younger brothers and worked in the fields to earn money to help her family. She says that her religion is Christian. Attima likes to cook and play sports such as volleyball, takraw, football (soccer), basketball, and badminton. Her future goal is to finish adult school to receive her high school degree and then learn Chinese. Attima will graduate from Legacy at the end of this next semester.

¹ A game where a wicker ball is kicked over a net much like badminton. Elbows, feet, chest, hands, and head can be used to volley the wicker ball.

(to be continued in next Legacy Letter . . .)

Please remember our Legacy students and COG members from Thailand and Burma. The Feast is coming up rapidly and all want to attend. I just received a phone call out of the blue from a son and a daughter of Saw Lay Bey (long-time COG pastor in Burma, now deceased) and they want to come to the Feast in Chiang Mai with their families. We will do what we can to bring them.

The Work God is doing in Asia takes three important elements. First, and most important, is **PRAYER**. Without the help of the Almighty God, we can do nothing². Prayer is the incense of the Saints that comes up before God's throne in the Third Heaven³. When you, our fellow laborers, pray for us here, God hears your prayers and acts.

Second comes **dedicated people** whose hearts have a driving desire to finish God's Work on the Earth. Without dedicated hearts, we will very quickly run out of steam and be unable to finish the race. This Laos situation is a case in point. Without the spirit of dedication to do God's Work, obstacles would be insurmountable. But with faith in Jesus' help, even great mountains can be moved into the sea⁴. Abby and Hanna's attitudes reflect a deep desire to do God's Work.

Third is **financial support** given from a willing heart. Jesus said that, "*where your treasure is, that is where your heart is.*"⁵

Things are tough and getting tougher. Prices are skyrocketing and our U.S national debt is now over 16 trillion dollars. I struggle trying to continue a Work here that faces dwindling financial resources. Yet, more and more people are coming forward to learn the true ways of God and receive a Biblical education so they can help teach others the truth. That is why getting Seng Aung, Jum Seng Pan, Moe Paley, and others educated and trained at Legacy is so important. They are dedicated. Now they need to be educated.

Satan is throwing up many obstacles and the work here is increasingly a spiritual minefield. There is so much to do, and Gloria and I certainly can no longer try to do it all ourselves. God has mercifully sent us young people to help teach. He has sent us young local COG men and women from Burma to be trained. But we need the help of our Fellow Laborers to get the job done.

² John 15:5

³ Rev 8:3-4

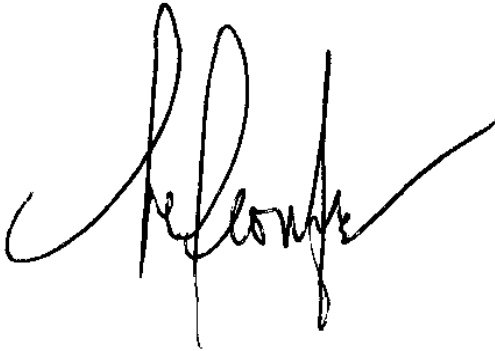
⁴ Matt 21:21

⁵ Matt 6:21

We need to work in these harvest fields while we still can. Jesus said we should go into **ALL** the world and preach the Gospel. He said that we are to teach many tribes and tongues all things He commanded. He also said that He would be with us until the end and that all power was given to Him in heaven and on earth. We must have faith in His promises and keep on our knees to remind Him about what He has promised and what He has commanded us to do.

Have a wonderful and spiritually renewing Fall Festival season.

In Our Great King Jesus Christ's service,

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

T. Leon Sexton

P.S.

1. Hser Ney Htoo, the twin that was in the hospital because of an intestinal infection, is now back at school and her health is better than it has ever been. Thank you for all of your prayers.
2. If you are not already receiving links to my video program "Children of the Covenant", and want to start receiving the link for new episodes, please write and we will add you to the list. In each program, I talk about recent world-shaking events and the war against God in the light of Bible prophecy. You can also find me on **YouTube**. Tune in and let me know what you think.
3. Once again, please remember our Karen tribal members that we must bring from the border areas of Thailand for the Feast of Tabernacles. Pray that we get them safely down out of the mountains to the Feast. Also remember that they have little or no festival tithe.