



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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2012 Feast of Tabernacles in Chiang Mai, Thailand



Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

The three annual pilgrimage feasts are times when God's people gather before Him to worship and fellowship with one another. In Asia, it is particularly important that we gather because most here have few pastors and no regular Sabbath services to meet together. We hold regular Sabbath services at the Legacy school and our students and local church members are able to gather and worship God. But there are no COG pastors in Burma and no regular Sabbath services, except those held in Rangoon in Deacon Myo Zaw's house. So it is doubly important that we provide a place to gather for Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, and the fall Feast days.

Gloria and I stay in Thailand for the Feast of Tabernacles, where COG members gather from all around Southeast Asia and distant parts of the world. We plan to go to Burma for the Passover and Unleavened Bread, where members will gather in one place from various parts of Burma (now called Myanmar).

This year in Chiang Mai, Thailand, we had a total of 44 people gather from Burma, Canada, Korea, Philippines, Thailand, and the United States. It was a very joyous occasion and everyone was in high spirits joining together for eight days of worship at the Empress Hotel and Convention Center in the heart of Chiang Mai. Sermons were given in English and translated into Burmese. Our Church of God deacon from Rangoon was the exception. He spoke in Burmese and his sermon was translated into English. I am already receiving emails and phone calls from those planning to come to Thailand for the Feast of Tabernacles next year. This will make the local brethren very happy because they learn that they are part of a much larger body that includes people from all races, nationalities, and languages.



Daniel Reisdorff speaking in Karen' dress



U. MyoZaw speaking in western dress.



Aja translating into Burmese for our brethren.



Leon Sexton



SengPan with husband SengAung



Legacy teachers Hanna Reisdorff (L.) and Abigail Syltie singing.



Abigail leading the Legacy choir

In **Matthew 8:11**¹ Jesus said: *And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.*

An important part of the Gospel message Jesus brought with Him from heaven is that salvation is open to all, not just the racial blood children of Abraham. The Apostle Paul made that very clear in his letter to the Galatian churches.

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. **Galations 3:28-29**

The Bible teaches that we are all one body with different members all joined together by the Holy Spirit.

For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. **1Corinthians 12:12-13**

There is no better way to express this unity than to gather at the annual Feast days for fellowship and worship. And that was clearly the case at the recent Feast of Tabernacles in Chiang Mai.

At least three months before the Feast this year, Gloria and I sat down to look at the budget for the fall Festivals. There was NO budget! We kept shaking our heads and wondering how we would be able to pay for it all.

¹ All scriptural references from the KJV unless otherwise noted.



Augustine – 3rd Generation COG member.
Grandfather was Saw Lay Bey in Burma.



Legacy choir in dress uniform with Bancha on Guitar

The brethren in this part of the world are poor and save little or no festival tithe. The lion's share of all offerings on the Holy Days comes from western members who may be attending. How does one budget for a Feast attended by the poor who can contribute only the widow's mite?



From the Refugee Camp:
NawGayHlaPaw and sister

The answer is faith! The prayers of the Saints of God prevailed with the Almighty and somehow, at the end of the Feast, after Western guests returned home and our refugee members were returned to their border camps, we miraculously were able to pay for the whole Feast and even had a few Thai baht left over! It reminds us of the miracles of the loaves and fishes. They had leftovers too. It shows us the presence of God Himself in our responsibilities to make the Feast happen for His people.

Why do we hold a Feast in Thailand? It is mainly to provide a place for local brethren to obey God's commandment to gather before Him. That is the first and foremost reason for the Feast in Thailand. It is also an opportunity for brethren from other parts of Asia to have a place to gather. We even had a COG member attending from South Africa who is teaching



Naw DawBleyPaw with her



daughter (17), SaaGay



and son (14), HtooGay

in Korea. Then there are Westerners from far away places, such as Canada and the United States, who want to come and experience the Feast in a foreign setting where they can learn about different cultures and traditions. All three reasons were quite apparent in Thailand this year, with locals who speak only Karen, Thai, or Burmese



From L. to R.: SeyNeeSay, Joshua, Eric, David, and Margaret Tipon, NeyBlooHtoo, and SaaGay



Fon and David Hemphill

mingling energetically with Western visitors. The spirit of fellowship we experience at the Thailand Feast site shows the Spirit of God in action.

Eric Tipon from the Philippines even put together a wonderful slide show of the Feast and Feast-goers that he played for all of us right after services on the Eighth Day of the Feast. ***If you are interested in receiving a copy of Eric's slide presentation, please write or email your request to us and we will make a copy for you.***



Group photo at Queen Sirikit's Royal Agriculture Project. Far Left is Mr. Kiatipan, Director

All look forward to the Feast of Tabernacles in Chiang Mai next year. As prophetic events heat up in the world today, it is even more important that we join hands at the Feast as an act of worship to show that we KNOW who our King and Saviour really is!



Paul Adcock, David Tipon & Grandpa Tipon



SeyNeeHtoo at Umbrella Ctr.



Oxcart ride in millennial setting.



Daniel & Emily Reisdorff on raft.



L. to R. Tesha, Nathaniel, and Natania Bair, David Tipon with Teakwood-carver.



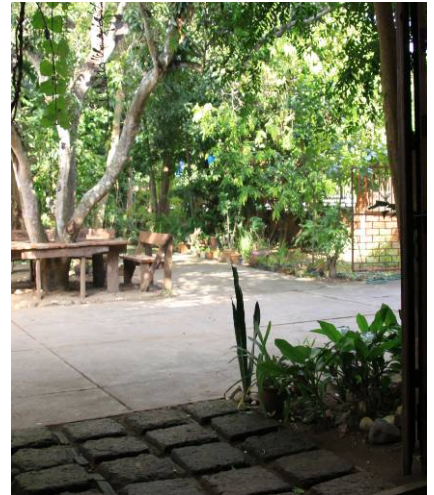
Ganya and Norah Sexton on raft.



Gerda Bludau, EkaNeyHtoo, Ganya Sexton, Abigail Syltie and Utaiwan Han with mother-of-pearl-inlay carver.



Karen' COG family and now in Thailand singing special music.



Visit to Legacy school & garden



NawMya singing special music.



Grandpa Tipon worshipping God in dance with grandchildren Joshua (L.) and David.



Ghourd bigger than David's head



Utaiwan Han



Star fruit



Daniel Bair and Nathaniel.



MoePlay at Fri. evening Bible game and singing.



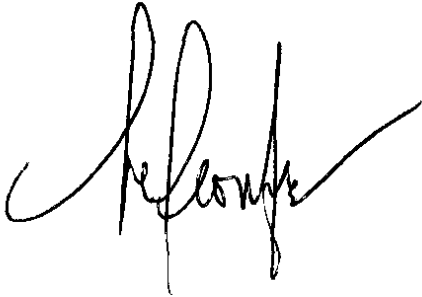
Drying the loved chilies

We would like to thank all of our brethren from near and far who made this Feast possible—and who served in so many ways. Thank you to all of our photographers who left us with their beautiful memories of this very inspiring Feast of Tabernacles.

Hope to see many of you next year.

Please pray for one another. Things are getting tougher and tougher for families to make ends meet. Food and fuel prices here have risen dramatically. I know the same thing is happening back home in the USA. But there is still a work to be done. So many people need the Gospel of the Kingdom preached to them. The world is hurting spiritually as well as physically. All need Jesus the Christ to come back and rule from Jerusalem. Until then our job is to be the heralds of that Kingdom. Let's all remember the Work of God that still needs to be done as things get darker and darker and closer and closer to the end.

In Service to Our Lord and King Jesus the Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Leon Sexton', with a large, stylized initial 'T' and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

T. Leon Sexton

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