



## LEGACY INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 575, Monrovia, California 91016

[www.legacyinstitute.org](http://www.legacyinstitute.org)

[mail@legacyinstitute.org](mailto:mail@legacyinstitute.org)

1 February 2013



### **IN THIS LETTER:**

***Baptism in Chiang Mai***

***Passover in Burma***

Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

It is always rewarding to baptize a repentant young person who has sincerely given their life to the eternal care of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On Sabbath, the 12<sup>th</sup>

of January, our small congregation of the Church of God in Chiang Mai, shared in the joy of God our Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and all His angels as a young couple from Myitkyina, Kachinland, in northern Myanmar (Burma) were baptized in our newly repaired pond.



End of Baptism in pond. L. to R.: Leon Sexton, Seng Pan, Seng Aung, with Joe Htoo in white looking on. Congregation looking on from above.

Gum Seng Aung and Jum Seng Pan are a married couple attending Legacy Foundation's Leadership Training Center. While we were studying repentance and baptism, several questions arose concerning baptism and the laying on of hands. What we discovered in our discussion with this couple was that neither one had had hands laid upon them for receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. We also found out that when they were baptized at ages 14 and 16, they really did not understand the commitment they were making. They never really understood the magnitude of the need for repentance and what baptism was truly all about. They told me that they never knew until they came to Legacy and studied in my Bible classes.



Seng Aung going down into the watery grave.



Seng Aung receiving the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands.

As a result of what they learned at Legacy, both felt that their previous baptism at such a young age—and the fact that no hands were laid upon them—meant that their so-called baptism was invalid. They asked me if it was possible to be baptized again. After counseling with them both, and based on the revealed circumstances of the previous baptism, I said, yes, of course.



Seng Pan coming out of the watery grave with Moe Plai assisting.



Seng Pan receiving the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands.



Legitimate baptism requires two things. The first is real repentance. If a person does not even understand what repentance is, how can they repent of their sins? The second thing is real faith in the sacrifice on the cross and resurrection of Jesus our King. Without understanding the implications for eternal life that the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus means, how can one have faith in something not understood? And without the gift of the Holy Spirit through the ceremony of the laying on of hands, how can a person grow in grace and in knowledge toward the perfection that is Christ's?

Baptism is the greatest and most profound commitment a person can make. It should be done in knowledge and in maturity. Baptism is not for children. Yet far too often I find that young people in Burma are baptized at a very young age. Some tell me that they just got baptized with their friends as a group because it was the thing to do. Others cite family and even pastoral pressure to get baptized before they even understand what it all means! This is tragic because true repentance and the real commitment is just not there. A young person's eternal life is at stake. It is not something anyone should do to please a parent or group of friends. Baptism must be done soberly and with understanding.

It is very rewarding to see the lights of understanding switch on in the hearts and minds of young people who have never known the real calling of God to repentance and eternal life.

Jesus began His ministry in Galilee nearly 2000 years ago.

*Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. **Mark 1:14-15***

That same preaching of the Gospel message started in Galilee and continues today in the mountains of northern Thailand and across the border in Burma. Both Seng Aung and Seng Pan want to go back to Kachinland and in some way serve God. Both are happy to be at Legacy learning God's truth for the very first time. It is encouraging to hear time and again Seng Pan tell me, "*I have never heard that before, Ajaan (Teacher)!*"

We went through a lot of trials to get Seng Aung, Seng Pan, and their little boy Blessing (Sorah) here to study at Legacy school. The red tape was maddening. It seemed like at every turn Satan threw up another roadblock to stop this couple from being able to stay and study at Legacy. Twice, I thought that maybe their studying at Legacy was just not blessed. Twice, I asked God to please show me if, indeed, He really wanted them here. Each time, He made it clear that it was His will. And now they have been baptized in a real and legitimate baptism. Once again, God shows me He is sovereign. When I lose hope and confidence, He pulls through and miracles happen! It is His way of not only encouraging all of us at Legacy, but also reminding me that He is in charge and has all power.

*But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. **Matthew 19:26***

*Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit sayeth the Lord of Hosts. **Zechariah 4:6***

Praise and glory belong to Him. Two more are added to the family of God. May the heavenly choir raise their voices in praise to the Lord of Hosts for His wonderful works among His servants here below.

What is interesting is that it was Seng Aung who helped repair the pond and the water pump so fresh water could be added. That same water was used to ceremonially wash away his sins and the sins of his wife. Incredible!

### **PASSOVER IN BURMA**

If it is God's will, Gloria and I will travel to Burma to organize and conduct the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread with the Burma Church of God brethren. There are few pastors to organize and hold the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nisan ceremony as demonstrated by our Lord Himself, so few are able to take the Passover. To my knowledge, no one takes the Passover at home. We try to organize the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread at a central location so as many as possible can attend. Last year, we had several come from as far away as China across the border from Burma. We stay in Thailand for the Feast of Tabernacles and spend the Feast of Unleavened Bread in Burma. Since those in Burma are very poor, Legacy Institute must also provide all food, accommodations, and travel expenses for those who can gather together. For the last several years, we have received generous donations from God's saints in America for this purpose.

We are praying that God once again supply our needs so that we can conduct Passover and hold services every day during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

Please pray that we can go and that our Burma brethren can safely gather. The northern part of Burma is currently a war zone because the ceasefire has been broken and the Central Burmese government is once again fighting the Kachin Independence Army. This makes it very difficult for our Church members in the North to travel to keep the Passover. They certainly need our prayers.

As a rule, I generally do not ask for financial help, but this is one of those times when it is needed. I asked Gloria to check and see how much we needed based on what we spent in Burma last year. She said that this year will cost a minimum of USD \$8,000. We expect at least 30 who will want to gather to keep the Passover. Again, they are poor and earn little money, as most are subsistence farmers. They do not have what we call 2<sup>nd</sup> Tithe. Anyone wishing to help with any excess "2T" or other funds, please contact: [Mail@LegacyInstitute.org](mailto:Mail@LegacyInstitute.org).

God willing, once again, Brian Drawbaugh will be coming to Chiang Mai for Passover and Unleavened Bread. We couldn't go to Burma to serve the brethren there unless someone is able to conduct the Passover ceremony for our little Chiang Mai congregation.

Keeping the Passover is very important for a Christian. Jesus said,

*Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. **John 6:53-54***

Consuming the symbols of Jesus' body and blood at the Passover is directly tied to receiving Eternal Life. The Jewish leadership never did understand the symbolic implications of participation in the Passover ceremony. But the Christian must participate. Jesus created this special ceremony

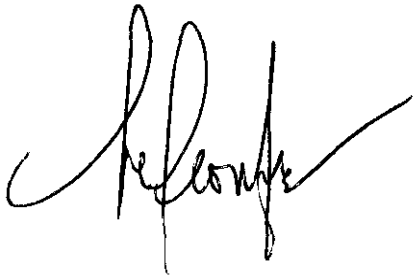
on the same night He was betrayed by Judas, just before He was led away to be condemned by an unlawful court and then crucified about the same time the Passover lambs were being killed at the Temple. It is a communion of the Spirit of God as we all share the symbols and wash one another's feet.

*Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever. **John 6:53-54***

As all true Christians gather to take the body and blood of Jesus, a worldwide communion of the Spirit takes place. We all share the same destiny—resurrection to eternal life.

May God Almighty bless all Passover ceremonies everywhere around the Earth! When we take the Passover in Burma, we'll be taking it with all of you.

In Jesus service,

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

© Legacy Institute 2013