



## LEGACY INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 575, Monrovia, California 91016  
www.legacyinstitute.org  
mail@legacyinstitute.org



Group photo after Pentecost Services

1 June 2013

### **IN THIS LETTER:**

*Pentecost Burma Trip*  
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*Arrival of New Teachers*  
•  
*FOT in Chiang Mai*

Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

Gloria and I just returned from Burma (Myanmar) where we met with 40 Church of God members and their children for Pentecost. We took along two of our Legacy students to help us with translation and the logistics of the Pentecost Feast. Nothing in Myanmar is easy, and both Seng Aung and Htoo Mya (Tommy) Shwe were very helpful. Seng Aung is from the Kachin tribe in northern Burma and Tommy Shwe is from the Karen tribe in eastern Burma along the Thailand border. Both speak Burmese, their native tongues, and, because of their Legacy training, now also speak English.



Leon Sexton (L.) and Seng Aung translating into Burmese

There are three main congregations we work with: Na Mawn, Kachinland; Rangoon; and Kyawk Taing (pronounced Jawk Tang) near Taungoo. There are also scattered COG brethren and prospective members living in remote areas of the country. We meet for Holy Days in Taungoo because it is in a central location on the main north/south rail line. The accommodations where we meet are relatively clean and our brethren are able to cook all the meals. We held services the Sabbath (before Pentecost) and Pentecost. Seng Aung also gave a sermonette in Burmese to the gathered church members.

The Church of God in Burma has been devastated by the loss of pastors due to death, sin, and apostasy. More and more are coming to Jesus Christ, but we have no pastors to feed and protect them. Without spiritual food, the newly called wither and die spiritually. The Bible tells us about this.

“Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred” (Mark 4:3-8).

If you plant a tree in the desert, you cannot just leave it and go your way. If you do not water and care for the tree, it will wither and die in the heat. New church members are like such trees. If they do not receive spiritual water and pastoral care, they will soon wither and die.

There are also the wolves that lurk about, hoping to pounce on unsuspecting new spiritual babes who are not strong in grace and knowledge. The Apostle Paul had to deal with the attack of wolves in sheep’s clothing on a regular basis in the first-century Church. Paul was strong and spiritually powerful. Wolves would not challenge him as long as he was there. But what happened when he left to go evangelize somewhere else?

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them” (Acts 20:28-30).

These *would-be* teachers hide in the shadows and periphery of a congregation until some unsuspecting weak new member—or even an old, tired member—comes along; and then they pounce with false accusations of others and/or perversion of doctrine. If a congregation has strong pastoral leadership in place, these false *wanna-be* ministers will be exposed for what they really are.

“But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies” (2 Peter 2:1).

Without trained pastoral leadership, the new babes in Christ are vulnerable to the tactics of these clever wolves.

Both Seng Aung and Tommy Shwe still have a lot to learn and are continuing their training at Legacy in Thailand. Will Jesus call them to His service after their training is complete? I do not know. Our job is to teach. It is the Lord's prerogative to choose. Please pray that God sends trained harvesters into the fields of Burma. More and more these fields are ripening for the harvest.

### ARRIVAL OF NEW TEACHERS



L. to R.: Meagan Garrant, Amanda Boyer, Zachary Coish, Oliver (Olz) Ellison

New volunteer teachers have arrived in Thailand to help us prepare our young people for a future of dedication to God's Way of Life. Oliver (Olz) Ellison has been with us since March and he will be staying on. He hails from London, England. We also have two new volunteers from Canada. Meagan Garrant is a trained nurse and Zack Coish is a trained firefighter. Then we have Amanda Boyer from Cincinnati, Ohio. She is a teacher and a writer. They are all God-sends. However, Meagan can only stay until the Feast of Tabernacles, when she must return to her nursing job. She was only able to get a leave of absence until then. We appreciate that she decided to take time out from her nursing career to travel half-way around the world and serve God as a volunteer teacher at our Legacy school in Thailand. We are now seeking another lady teacher so that Amanda will not be alone during the rest of the school year that ends in March, 2014.



Amanda (center) working on Burmese translations with Ah Jah Shan (L.) and Seng Pan

We already held our teacher's orientation meeting. I explained some of the customs of Thailand and how we are to respect those customs as long as it does not violate God's laws or our consciences. I also outlined what is expected of them as Legacy teachers and discussed class assignments and scheduling. Most important we discussed the priorities and goals of our educational project. The top priority is character development—NOT academic achievement. What makes Legacy Foundation unique among most of the small schools in Thailand? There are other schools that teach English, computers, and organic farming. But how many concentrate on

character development? We teach Godly principles such as honesty, integrity, work ethic, responsibility, and accountability. These are all very important no matter what path a young person may take into the future. Vocational skills develop the mind and hands. The teachings of the Bible develop the heart and spirit. Our highest priority at Legacy is to teach character. That is why we have a class in “cleaning” and another called “Leadership.” What we teach at Legacy, if internalized, can be taken and applied in any kind of employment they might have in their future, family, and community life. We teach them what we call “life skills.”

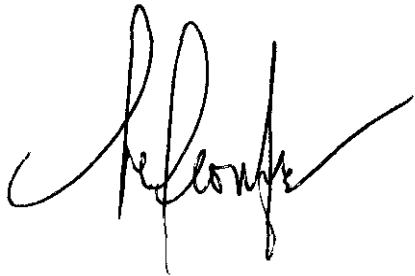
As we begin our new academic year, we need your prayers to make this year the best yet. We have a great team of teachers and a group of young students who are eager to learn. Most important of all, we need God to pour out His blessing to accomplish our goal of teaching His truth to eager young minds.

### FOT IN CHIANG MAI

Preparations for holding the Feast of Tabernacles in Chiang Mai are almost completely finalized. If you have not made a decision where you will attend the Feast, we urge you to consider Thailand. You will not regret worshiping the Lord of Hosts with the local tribal brethren and Legacy students. Services are in English and translated into Burmese for the locals. We will be visiting an elephant farm, one of Queen Sirikit’s royal projects, and other cultural experiences. For more information, contact Anita Showers at the U.S.A. telephone number 330-852-2709, or email us at [mail@legacyinstitute.org](mailto:mail@legacyinstitute.org).

May God bless all of you in abundance.

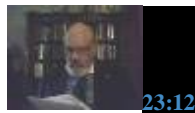
In Jesus Our Savior’s service,



T. Leon Sexton

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End Note: Two Pentecost sermons with Burmese translation can now be found on YouTube and also the Legacy Institute Website.



**The Meaning of the Two Pentecost Loaves**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll8HoJV6htw>



**Pentecost and the Giving of the Holy Spirit**  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKd46DKt0LQ>