



## LEGACY INSTITUTE

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### IN THIS LETTER

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Queen Sirikit of Thailand <sup>1</sup>

Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

Yesterday was Queen Sirikit's birth anniversary. She was born 81 years ago as Mom Rajawongse Sirikit Kitiyakara (Mom Rajawongse is a royal title that roughly translates as lower rank princess). Her great-grandfather was the famous King Chulalongkorn of Siam. Her father was H.H. Prince Nakkhatra Mangkala Kitiyakara, Prince of Chanthaburi. Queen Sirikit speaks perfect English and French, as her father was Thailand's Ambassador to Britain and then France. Queen Sirikit has earned many prestigious International awards for her many years of humanitarian work among the poor and uneducated of Thailand.

Queen Sirikit has a big heart and is compassionate toward those who are in trouble. In late 1978, Vietnam invaded Cambodia. The Vietnamese quickly advanced across Cambodia, driving refugees westward toward the Thailand border. The refugees were hiding in the malaria-infested, mountainous jungles of the border, with little food and no medical attention. When they tried to flee across the border into Thailand, they were stopped by the Thai soldiers and border police.

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<sup>1</sup> Courtesy of Her Majesty the Queen's Private Secretariat.

As soon as Queen Sirikit found out that thousands of sick and starving refugees were trying to find safe refuge in Thailand, but were being stopped, she ordered the soldiers to immediately open the border and let them in. At first, Thailand bore the burden of taking care of thousands of the sick and dying in make shift camps. Soon the U.N. began to help.

In 1979, I personally visited a border refugee camp near Aranyabratthet to interview refugees and collect data for an article I was writing for *The Plain Truth* magazine. One of the most vivid images still in my memory was visiting a large canvas tent filled with malnourished babies. They were nothing but skin and bones. The American nurse who was trying to help save them told me that most would not survive. They were just too far gone.

If Queen Sirikit had not intervened, many hundreds of thousands more men, women, and babies would have died because the Vietnamese soldiers were burning the rice fields to prevent Khmer soldiers from obtaining food.

The Queen has spent the last 60 years visiting remote border villages and helping the poorest of the poor, many who have fled Burma, Laos, and Cambodia to escape wars. Now age and ill health have prevented King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit from continuing such remote border visits.

On August 1, both the King and Queen were released from the hospital and allowed to travel to Klai Kangwon Palace on the beach in southern Thailand. They were accompanied by a team of physicians and physical therapists to continue their recovery. King Bhumibol has been in the hospital under constant medical supervision for nearly four years! He has made only occasional visits outside the hospital. Queen Sirikit was admitted to the hospital a year ago with a blood circulation problem.

Here's a quote from a newspaper upon their departure from the hospital:

*BANGKOK: Thailand's revered but frail king left the hospital where he has stayed for almost four years on Thursday, as thousands of flag-waving well-wishers cheered him on his way to his coastal palace.*

*Crowds shouted "long live the king!" as 85-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej was driven away from Bangkok's Siriraj Hospital, where he was admitted in September 2009.<sup>2</sup>*

The Thai people were ecstatic that the royal couple could leave the hospital and thousands lined the streets shouting "Long Live the King and Queen!" With the current political turmoil going on, the people pray that the king will recover and live a very long time. He is the single most powerful stabilizing force in the kingdom.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/thousands-cheer-thai-king/763196.html>

Former Prime Minister Taksin Shinawatra is self-exiled and wanders from country to country, because he has a jail sentence for corruption waiting for him in Thailand. He is busy working through his sister, Yingluck Shinawatra (who is presently Prime Minister), to get an amnesty bill passed by Parliament so he can return triumphant. Mr. Taksin is the ideological Great Leader of the “Red Shirt” faction in Thai society and politics. The Red Shirts are opposed by the “Yellow Shirts” and the “White Masks” and others who do not want him to return. Thailand is seriously divided and the people are concerned about the future. The King’s role as the only effective uniting force in the country cannot be underestimated.

Please pray for King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit. They both have a long history with the Church of God, beginning with the time of Herbert W. Armstrong, and are very supportive of our being here in Thailand. They can always be relied upon to help us with any problems we might face. Time and again they have been very kind to my family and me, as well as our students, teachers, and church members who have needed help in the past.



Back row: Legacy students Mo Pa Ley, Htoo Mya Shwee, & StelleShwee  
Front Row: Norah & Ganya Sexton

wolves prey on the spiritually weak and new little ones not well grounded in the truth.

We have three young Legacy students in Taungoo now who have decided to stay on and fight the spiritual battle that is taking place. First, Htoo Mya (Tommy) Shwe returned to Burma to renew his ID card at his hometown of Kyawk Taing near Taungoo. He did this so that he could apply for an official passport. That is when he reported to me that an outside apostate elder had been troubling the sheep preaching heresy. The local lay pastor had disappeared and his wife knew nothing about his whereabouts (I later

#### TRUMPETS TRIP TO BURMA

Gloria and I are leaving to Burma on September 1, to spend the Feast of Trumpets with Church of God brethren. We will fly to Yangon (Rangoon), and travel by car to Taungoo in central Burma, where brethren will gather from different parts of the country. We will also strengthen the brethren against false doctrines that are presently being brought into the Church of God by wolves who seek to carry away God’s sheep. Gloria and I need your prayers—and so do the new brethren who are facing their first doctrinal attacks. It always follows the same pattern: the

discovered he was in Rangoon studying at the Full Gospel Church Bible School.) The lay pastor had abandoned the sheep. Tommy asked if he could stay and teach the brethren each Sabbath since there was no pastor. I agreed he should stay and serve the sheep.

I realized that Tommy was way in over his head. Not only was he preaching every Sabbath and fighting off false doctrine spread by a wolf in sheep's clothing, but he had not even graduated from our Legacy Bible education program! I remembered that Jesus always sent out His disciples two by two, so I sent another undergraduate student, Seng Aung, to help him. Then we got word that another one of our student's (Moe Pa Ley—first-year student) father had died of cancer. Moe Pa Ley asked if he could return home and go to his father's funeral and support his mother. So then we arranged for him to quickly return home to Kyawk Taing. All three of these Legacy students have not graduated from our Legacy Leadership Training School. But all three are dedicated to serving Our Lord Jesus and the sheep of His pasture. I am in regular contact with them either by phone or e-mail. I send them my sermon notes and prepare study sheets so they have ammunition to fight off those preaching false doctrine. I suspect the young former lay pastor will seek to return and bring leavening into his old congregation once he is finished with his training at the Full Gospel Bible School. I have looked at their website and they are not even Sabbatarian, let alone adhering to all the other Church of God fundamental doctrines.



Seng Aung, his wife Seng Pan, & their son Blessing

These 3 Legacy students are like young Davids against Goliath, armed with a stick and a few stones, but their faith in God is strong. They told me that they really look forward to our soon arrival in Burma. I will have a better chance to assess the situation once we get to Taungoo for Trumpets. I really appreciate the faithfulness of these three young Legacy students.

### **FIRST FEAST OF TABERNACLES IN BURMA**

This year, Legacy Institute is sponsoring our first Feast of Tabernacles in Burma. We have always held a Spring Feast in Burma, and Gloria and I went there for Pentecost this year; but now we need a Feast of Tabernacles as well. By holding all three Feast seasons in Burma, we seek to educate and strengthen the brethren there even more. We have had three pastors disqualify themselves because of sin or apostasy. A very faithful pastor died from an accidental fall. The congregations in the central, western, and northern parts of Burma are now leaderless, with no pastors to feed and protect them. The three young men standing in the breach in the central area have not yet graduated from Legacy in Thailand. They are far from ready to take on the responsibilities of pastoring a congregation. They still have a lot to learn. The Lord Jesus must help them or they will surely fail. Please pray for these young men: Htoo Mya Shwe, Seng Aung, and Moe Paley.



L. to R.: Ah Jah Shan, Norah and Blessing

### NEW BURMA LANGUAGE BOOKLETS

We have completed three new Burmese language booklets. Two are new ones: *The Sabbath in the Old and New Testaments* and *Understanding the Doctrine of Clean and Unclean Meats*. These are typeset and ready to be sent out. We also re-worked an old version of a Burmese language booklet about God's annual feast days and will be sending this out too. We are excited, since these are the first Burmese language booklets we have published in many years. Our translators, Ahja Shan and Seng Pan,

are presently working on several more. Without pastors teaching each weekly Sabbath and on the holy days, booklets that provide doctrinal proofs and Biblical explanation of God's Holy Word is one of the best ways to feed the people of God.

Please remember us and our health. So far, my health is holding up. Gloria and I are both just plain stressed out because of the heavy load of responsibility. Jesus said that the harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few. He said we should pray that the Lord of the Harvest send more workers into the fields to do the harvesting<sup>3</sup>. This is the point we are at now. We need to continue our training of young people to carry the torch of Truth to their own people in Burma and the border areas of Thailand. The fields are ripe and the time is short.

Keep praying for those who have entered the harvest fields.

In Jesus the King's service,

T. Leon Sexton

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<sup>3</sup> Matthew 9:37-38