



**LEGACY INSTITUTE**

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Jauk Taing church building on donated land

**IN THIS LETTER:**

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Update***



Jauk Taing congregation leaving services

Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

I am in Bangkok writing this letter to you. Actually the entire family came down to get some visa issues cleared up. The issues concerned my visa, Gloria's, and our son Bronson's. Because there was no one left to stay with Gloria's aunt Gerda (who just had her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday), we brought her along.

Now that the Red Shirts (Pua Thai Party) are firmly in power, the government is adding more and more red tape and new regulations that make staying in Thailand more difficult. However, with the help of our dear friends in the palace, we were able to arrange several productive meetings with the Immigration Police and officials of the newly formed Ministry of Social Development and Human Protection. (They now must sign off on our visa extensions prior to completion at Immigration.)

### **THE WORK OF GOD—THE MOST IMPORTANT!**

There is nothing more important than the Work of God—nothing! We all have been called to do the same Work Jesus began over 2000 years ago. I often wonder WHY I was called. Why not someone else with a lot more talent and ability? I did not grow up in the Church of God. I attended various church services very rarely. Neither my father nor my mother attended any church at all. I remember my grandmothers each went to church regularly. My Grandma Rockstroh was a Presbyterian; my Grandma Sexton was what they called a “deep water” Baptist. My father listened to Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong and later his son, Garner Ted Armstrong. I was introduced to the true Gospel by reading some of the literature my father received in the mail. I still was a typical teenager in the '60s and didn't pay much attention to God.

My response to God's call came while I was in the U.S. Navy. I was being trained to launch nuclear warhead missiles that could kill entire populations. That is when the reality of this evil world hit me. I wanted no part of it. And I certainly did not want any part in killing millions of lives. I knew that it was not me that would pull the trigger; but I was certainly being trained to load the gun. I was honorably discharged as a Conscientious Objector and began classes at Ambassador College in Pasadena. When God moves, He moves quickly.

Why do I say that the Work of God is the most important part of our lives? Because, we are all called to be the servants of Jesus in His work of preaching the Gospel to all the nations. There is no greater calling in life. He chose you and He chose me. We need to be about our Father's business.

I know that I was selected and trained to come here to Thailand and do the Work. I was a freshman at Ambassador College the first year they offered Thai language classes. I also just happened to have a Thai roommate, who had been invited to study there. I decided to take the language. I had had three years of high school Spanish, but Thai is nothing like Spanish! It is a tonal language and the tones change the meaning of words. It was quite

exotic and fun to learn. The 44 consonants and 32 vowels were daunting to learn; but it helped to have a Thai teacher who was a linguist. Achaan Sawat spoke seven living languages and two dead ones. I also had the opportunity to work as a community worker at the Thai Buddhist Temple in North Hollywood where a large Thai community is located. That exposure to the Thai culture and religious practices really helped my understanding of Thailand and its people.

But I really started to learn when I eventually came to Thailand as a representative on behalf of Mr. Armstrong and the Ambassador Foundation. It seemed that each step of my life took me further and further into the Thai culture.

Thailand is the ideal place to live and have a school for the Work. Thailand is a democracy and, technically, a constitutional monarchy. The king is Head of State and the *Protector of All Religions* in Thailand. Buddhists of different sects, Christians, Muslims, Sikhs, and Animists can all practice their religions freely under the king's protection. We are blessed by God to have the king and queen's favor and patronage. The king and queen of Thailand are old friends of the Church and appreciate that we represent a positive force in their country. We have access to modern hospitals and other facilities if needed. The houses or apartments we Westerners live in are comfortable and have electricity all the time. We have access to cellphones and the internet.

Thailand has modern transportation systems such as jet aircraft, trains, and buses. The roads are well maintained for the most part. The best part is the freedom we have to practice and teach the doctrines as taught by Jesus Christ without interference.

This year Gloria and I have been living in Thailand for almost 13 years. Our Legacy Foundation educational project has been successful in turning out graduates who go on to serve their own people and even the Church. We recently had a young Karen lady visit Sabbath services who was not able to graduate Legacy School. She had to leave a few months early because she needed to take care of her sick mother full time. Even though she did not graduate, she learned enough English to become a teacher at an SDA school in a refugee camp. She teaches history, social studies, and math. One young graduate went on to get a master's degree in English. Another works at the front desk of a five-star hotel in Burma where she speaks English, Burmese, and Thai. Others have gotten jobs as tour guides or salesmen in shops that cater to tourists. Still others are teachers in primary or secondary schools in border areas or back in Burma. While most of these students never became

converted, some were baptized. These last two years have been a bit different than previous years since most of our students are baptized or come from a Sabbath background. All students who do not come from a Sabbath keeping background have had a very strong dose of the Gospel preached to them. At some point in the future, they may be called. Calling and choosing people for His family is up to God. That is His business. It is the Father who chooses and then turns them over to Jesus (John 6:39).

### **JAWK TAING CONGREGATION UPDATE**

We have two young Legacy students in Burma taking care of a congregation that has been threatened by wolves. The congregation is now stable, but the threat has not ended. It is like guarding a herd of sheep. The predators continue to lurk in the darkness just waiting for the opportunity to spring out and grab one of the weak or young ones. That is what predators do. Both of these young men are doing a great job feeding and strengthening the flock, but I need to bring one of them—Moe Paley—back to Legacy in Chiang Mai for more training. I do not want to leave Tommy Shwe alone, so will send Stanley Shwe, his elder brother, to help him. Jesus sent his students out two by two and I follow that example.

My latest email report from Tommy Shwe had both good news and bad news. The bad news is that, due to heavy rains, some COG members had to leave their flooded-out homes and move to high ground at Jawk Taing (where the church land and building is located). They are all safe and staying with brethren, but do not know when they might be able to return to their homes. The good news is that there are five people from that church area who now want to be baptized! It is amazing what happens when you get the Church cleaned up and back on track. I expect more growth in the near future.

There is another COG congregation that currently has no pastor and had been devastated by the sins of the previous (now disfellowshipped) pastor. Once I get Seng Aung and his wife Seng Pan trained, hopefully they will be able to accomplish the same cleaning and strengthening that happened in the Jawk Taing congregation. It is all done by the mighty hand of God.

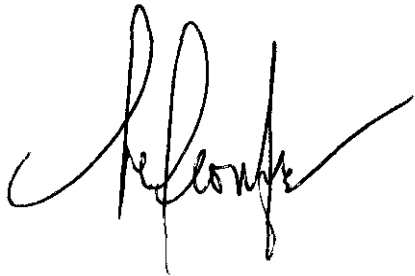
There is much more happening in Burma. This year we completed five booklet translations into Burmese. Remember, there have not been regular Sabbath services or translated literature for some time. The people are starved for the Truth! We are working on several more booklets and must continue to translate to feed the hungry sheep of Jesus' pasture. It is a great

blessing that we now have two very good translators. The first one is a graduate and full-time employee of Legacy named Adja Shan. Seng Pan (her sister-in-law and a third-year Legacy student) helps her with translations.

The true Gospel is getting preached in Burma. People are being called and chosen. Young men are being trained to feed and protect the new sheep of Christ. The credit all goes to God, who orchestrates the Work through the Lord Jesus, the Messenger of the Gospel. We thank Him for His grace and Holy Spirit that leads us and empowers us. May these opportunities to spread the seeds of God's Holy Work be replicated in many other parts of this dark world starved for hope.

Please pray for these young men—and that others may be trained and chosen to feed and protect the Lord's lambs. We also request prayers for protection of those who must brave the challenges of the unfamiliar Gentile world and for Gloria's and my health to be sustained while living here and traveling as needed. We also hope you will remember our students and volunteer teachers (comprised of two Americans, two Canadians, and one Englishman). All are doing a commendable job in a strange and sometimes frustrating environment.

May God bless all of you as you serve Him.  
A servant of the Lord Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Leon Sexton', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

T. Leon Sexton

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Postscript: Please remember the poor people of the Philippines who have been devastated by an earthquake and a monster typhoon. The death rate keeps climbing as they find more bodies. Pray that God will have mercy on them and cause the U.S. and other nations to swiftly send aid.