



## LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Legacy Foundation graduation. L. to R.: Leon Sexton, June Seng Pan, Kart Ta Yin, Atsadakorn Chala, Bancha Sonsailom, Gum Seng Aung

### **IN THIS LETTER:**

- ***Correction***
- ***Legacy Foundation Graduation***
- ***Trip to the Border***
- ***Passover in Burma***

Dear Friends and Fellow laborers,

### **CORRECTION**

The first thing I want to do in this letter is apologize for getting some dates incorrect in my January letter. It is unforgivable since these dates were for annual Holy Sabbaths. In my January letter, I talked about the predicted Blood Moon eclipses on the Passover and Holy Day of the Feast of Tabernacles, both this year (2014) and in 2015. Also predicted are two solar eclipses in 2015. The first is on Nisan 1, the beginning of the Hebrew sacred year; and the second solar eclipse takes place on the Feast of Trumpets.

- In the first case, I wrote that the 2014, first Day of the Feast of Tabernacles was on October 8. That was a typo. It should have read **October 9**.
- The second mistake was the date for the Feast of Trumpets in 2015. That should have read **September 14**, and not 13.

As you may be aware, What the Jews call “Passover” is actually the first High Sabbath of the Days of Unleavened Bread. So these Blood moons will appear on High Sabbaths. The Passover ceremony that Jesus instituted on “the same night in which He was betrayed” took place during the evening portion of Nisan 14, just after the end of Nisan 13.



L. to R.: Kart Ta Yin and June Seng Pan give their grad speeches.

### LEGACY FOUNDATION GRADUATION

Our graduation commencement exercise took place on January 12. We gave diplomas to five graduates. That may seem like only a small number, but Legacy standards are maintained at a high level and we have a significant dropout rate for various reasons. Some leave to return home and help sick family members or work on their farms. Some get married. Others decide to find work under pressure to make money for their families. A few are just too lazy.

I do not worry too much about it. The Bible tells us that many are called but few are chosen (**Matt 20:16**). It is like my father used to say, “You can take the horse to the water, but you can’t make him drink.” This saying is true. You can offer opportunity to young people, but you can’t make them step up to the plate and take advantage of what they are offered. It is encouraging to know that in these last two years we have had no dropouts.



Gloria & Leon Sexton honored to give out the diplomas.

I have changed our policy. Now I choose Church of God members or relatives of members to become Legacy students over others. It has made a big difference in the nature and spirit of Legacy. The influence of the Holy Spirit is palpable. Those who have been exposed to the Holy Spirit of the Almighty God have a real desire to come to Legacy to learn His Way. It is like they have been *drawn* to learn here. It makes all the difference.



Returning home to Myanmar. (L. to R.) June Seng Pan, son Blessing, and Gum Seng Aung.



Legacy translator Adja Shan

### TRIP TO THE BORDER

After graduation, Gloria and I traveled to the border town of Mae Sot to see off three of our Legacy graduates as they return home to Burma (now called Myanmar). As you might remember from my previous letters, Seng Aung and Seng Pan are a married couple from Kachinland. They have a young son named

Blessing (Sorah in the Kachin language). They crossed the border to travel to Taungoo in central Burma to help serve our Church of God congregation in the small village called Kyawk Taing (pronounced Jawk Tang). Adja Shan was also going back home to visit family, retrieve family documents, renew her Passport, and apply for a Thailand Visa at the Thailand Embassy. She will then return to Chiang Mai and continue her service as our translator. She has been very helpful by translating booklets from English into her native Burmese language.

Gloria and I also visited a young man in the Mae La Refugee Camp (located one hour drive north of the border crossing) who wants to come to Legacy, but has not yet completed high school. He still attends a Seventh Day Adventist secondary school in the camp. We will sponsor him at this school until he finishes his studies. I explained to him that his attending Legacy after he graduates high school depends entirely upon him. If he has desire, then he will try hard and get good grades. I told him I wanted to see at least a “B” average. He said that other students made fun of him because he tried to study hard and get good grades. I explained to him that he should not worry about them. He will be successful in life and they will not. It is too bad that those who have little or no desire to succeed attempt to drag down those who do try. That is one of the reasons we do not lower standards at Legacy. Our goal is *not* to have many graduates. Our goal is to graduate those who have learned the character skills to succeed in life. If we have only ONE graduate in a year (that has already happened!), then that is just the way it is. One successful graduate who has learned the lessons of character and moral uprightness is worth more than a hundred who have not.



Auntie Jiam Ji with Leon & Gloria

We then visited with the 77-year-old auntie of my old Thai teacher Sawat Yingyuad. Achaan Sawat, as we called him, was a professor of Thai language and culture at Ambassador College and I was his first student. He was a very skilled teacher and I learned to speak and read Thai because of him. He also taught me about Thai culture and how to eat spicy foods (a necessary skill if you plan to be in Thailand for very long).

Auntie Jiam Ji is a gemstone and jewelry dealer and philanthropist. She founded a school for homeless street children

from the border region around Mae Sot and recruited teachers from Bangkok to come teach them Thai culture and language. She sought and received funding for her project from the UN. She retired from government service as a nurse and, later, as a teacher of Nursing. She now happily runs her school and donates to charities around Mae Sot. She is very spry for her age and I had to practically jog to keep up with her. She is also writing a history of Mae Sot, a border city that was founded by Shan from Burma. She has no interest in slowing down and sees only a million more things to get done. Both Gloria and I were happy to see her after 12 years. She plans to visit Chiang Mai to teach our students and volunteer teachers about Thai history and culture, and will even teach them a few Thai traditional songs.

Seng Aung, Seng Pan, Blessing and Adja went across the border immigration checkpoint at the bridge over the Moei River without a hitch. Adja then phoned Gloria to let us know they had already purchased their bus tickets to Yangon and all was well.

Please pray for all of them. We need Adja back at Legacy with a new visa so she can continue to work and help us in the office as translator. The work is endless and skilled servants of the Lord like Adja are hard to come by. She is fluent in four languages and is an accomplished translator. Pray for Seng Aung and his family. They have a big job ahead of them feeding the flocks of Jesus and fending off predators that would scatter the sheep. Seng Pan also has plans to teach the Bible to our growing flock of more than 15 plus children.

### *PASSOVER IN BURMA*

Gloria and I plan to go to Burma for the Passover. It is important for a number of reasons.

First of all, the Church is growing in Burma. Last Feast of Trumpets, Gloria and I gathered the Church of God members together from Rangoon, Kachinland, and the Taungoo-Central Burma areas.

If you remember, I reported that the local lay pastor of the Jawk Taing (Taungoo area) church congregation had gone apostate. At that time, we held a congregational meeting and asked them to choose (it kind of reminded me of the choice Elijah gave to Israel on Mount Carmel—without the fire from heaven, of course). They unanimously chose to reject the apostate lay pastor's leadership. I put in place Legacy student Tommy Shwe as "student pastor" to lead the church until we could find a more permanent solution. Since Trumpets, five persons have come forward to ask for baptism. It is incredible to see what happens when the church gets cleaned up. Why would God call a new baby sheep to a wolf's lair? We need to counsel these five, and possibly more by now, for baptism.

The second reason to visit Burma is because it is important to visit during the Holy Day seasons to provide intensive spiritual instruction and deal with congregational issues, since there are no trained "ordained" pastors. The training is in process . . .

The third reason is to encourage and strengthen the men and women there who are serving Our Lord Jesus the Messiah. Church Deacon Myo Zaw and Tumar in Rangoon are alone and have no support from other COG ministers or church pillars.

There are now four Legacy students and graduates in Taungoo serving the Church.

1. Tommy Shwee, whom I previously sent to Jawk Tiang (near Taungoo) to oversee the church.
2. Stanley Shwe, Tommy's brother. I follow the example of Jesus who sent out His disciples two by two. They are doing a commendable job visiting brethren and holding Sabbath services each week. But they are not yet graduates. They must come back across the border into Thailand and continue their education at Legacy.
3. For that reason, I have sent a new graduate couple, Seng Aung and Seng Pan, along with their five-year-old son Sorah. They will take care of the Jawk Taing congregation and visit other small congregations to spread the Gospel. After a short transition, I will bring the Shwe brothers back to Legacy.

During what are called the *pilgrimage feasts* of Passover, Pentecost, and the Fall Feast season, it is important to gather God's people together before the Lord God and provide a feast of spiritual food, as well as physical feasting and rejoicing. In 2013, we were able to visit Burma and gather the brethren together for Passover, the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, and the Feast of Trumpets. We were able to do this because of your generous tithes and offerings.

Such offerings are necessary because Legacy is not a part of any human church organization and are given no budget to use from any of the larger COG organizations. We operate on tithes and offerings given by individuals and small congregations who believe in what we are doing to serve God in Asia. We will need help again for this year's Passover and Unleavened Bread season. We not only must provide housing and food for the gathered brethren, but also transportation to bring them to a central location in Taungoo, central Burma, because few have any financial resources to pay for travel by themselves.

Deacon Myo Zaw is a successful businessman who uses his own resources to help the brethren. Gloria and I fly to Rangoon. Then we travel in Deacon Myo Zaw's Honda van with some of the Rangoon brethren to Taungoo.

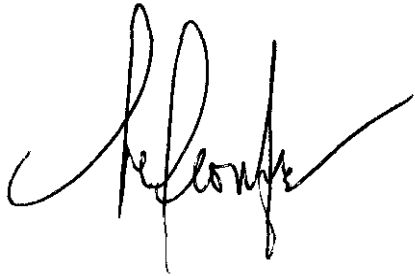
All others come by bus, boat, train, truck and, for those close enough, by foot and/or in the back of a pickup truck to get to the Feast site. Some must go far out of their way to avoid the fighting that continues in Kachinland and certain border areas.

It is Myo Zaw's wife, Tu Mar, who must negotiate the housing for the brethren and buy the food for daily meals and special feast food. The cost of all this has always been supplied by offerings from our Western brethren. Last year it cost a total of around nine thousand U.S. Dollars. This also included yearly tuition to send two COG children to a SDA secondary school.

We appreciate your gracious help in providing a place and means for our Burma brethren to gather for the Feasts. Please pray that Our Heavenly Father makes it all possible again this year.

We thank all of you for your many years of support for God's work in Asia through Legacy. We think about all of you and pray for you because we know things are tough at home. We keep up with the news via internet and see only dark times ahead until God's Kingdom is instituted by Jesus upon His return. *We must work while it is day, because the night is coming when no man can work* (John 9:4).

Sincerely, in Jesus' Name,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Leon Sexton', written in a cursive style.

T. Leon Sexton

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