



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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IN THIS LETTER:

1 May 2014

*Developing Country of
Myanmar*

•
*Permission to Visit
Jawk Tang*

•
*Burma Passover and the
Days of Unleavened Bread*

•
*Feeding the Sheep and
Protecting them from Wolves*

•
Brian Drawbaugh's Report



Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

Our latest trip to Myanmar (Burma) was an encouraging success story, but interwoven with serious trials. We baptized seven and had 28 COG members take the Passover. The Myanmar brethren are excited about what God has in store for them in the near future. But before I talk about that, I first want to talk about what I see taking place in the backwater developing country called Myanmar.

Seven baptisms and two laying-on-of-hands: Top row L. to R.: Student Pastor Htoo Mya Shwe, Zin Muang Zaw, Paw Hta See, Asha, La Shi Naw, Poh Moo Gee (hands laid on), Deacon Myo Zaw, and Leon Sexton. First row: L. to R.: Zin Mar Win, Hkoo Say, Htet Aung, and Name Bey Ley (hands laid on), Student Pastor Seng Aung.

DEVELOPING COUNTRY OF MYANMAR

This small country of over 61 million is very rich in natural resources, including gems, gold, oil, and gas. It remains a patchwork quilt of many different ethnic groups making up what is officially called the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. It has a new capital, new constitution, new national flag, and seeks to be accepted by the international community of nations. In 2005, then incoming U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called Myanmar an “Outpost of Tyranny.” Myanmar is feverishly trying



19 November 2012, U.S. President Obama talks with Myanmar President Thein Sein¹

¹ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Obama-thein-sein.jpg>

to shake off that label. President Barak Obama paid an historic visit to Myanmar in November, 2012, which further legitimizes what has been considered for many years a rogue regime. Myanmar also is this year’s Chair of ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) and a member of the emerging A.E.C. (ASEAN Economic Community) the group of Southeast Asian nations forming a new trading block similar to the old European Economic Community which now has become the European Union.

In Yangon (formerly called Rangoon), modern cars create traffic jams in the narrow streets. High rise apartment and condominium buildings are springing up all over the city like mushrooms in a spring rain. Modern shopping malls carry almost everything one could lust for—and at Western prices! It is clear that lots of money is streaming into Myanmar and an exploding middle class with disposable income is rapidly immersing. I commented to Gloria that Yangon looks like the Bangkok of several decades ago.

PERMISSION TO VISIT KYAWK TAING

The winds of rapid change have hit Myanmar. Two years ago, we were not permitted to visit Kyawk Taing (pronounced Jawk Tang), the village where most of the COG members in Central Myanmar live. Kyawk Taing is a small village in the jungle-clad mountains of Eastern Myanmar near the border with Thailand. It is still a sensitive political zone with several insurgent groups operating in the general area. Though we were able to obtain permission to visit Kyawk Taing every day, we were not allowed to stay overnight. We traveled from Taungoo every morning on a newly paved road in Myo Zaw’s van. We then walked on a jungle path for about 30 minutes, crossed a river (where the baptisms took place) by a narrow wooden bridge, and went up the hill to the church compound. The land was donated by an elderly church member (now deceased), and a church building was built with the help of donations by Burmese deacon, Myo Zaw, and a wealthy philanthropist in Yangon who donated money for the church. Legacy Institute contributed funds for a solar generator, battery bank, diesel generator, and video projector. This means the church building can have lights and members can view sermons with translation and educational CDs.



L. to R.: Seng Aung, Leon Sexton, Htoo Mya Shwe, and Asha



Deacon U. Myo Zaw

Daw TuMar

BURMA PASSOVER AND THE DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD

Student pastor Htoo Mya Shwe (Tommy), his brother Stenley Shwe, Seng Aung and other brethren made preparations for the Feast by building temporary tents, latrines, and a cooking and eating area for use of members and interested guests from Kachinland, Yangon, and those from areas too far to walk every day.



Temporary housing for ladies



Cooking and eating area



Temporary housing for men and COG building



Foot and motorcycle bridge and jungle paths

I gave a sermon on the weekly Sabbath before Passover and each day during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. Seng Aung, Myo Zaw, and Tommy gave sermonettes on the two Holy Days and weekly Sabbath in between. There was feasting and fellowship every day. We bought a goat and ate barbequed goat; goat stew, and roasted goat for five days of the Feast. Twenty-eight members washed each other's feet and took the bread and wine symbols at the Passover. Seven were baptized in the cold waters of the small stream that meanders below the church land, about a ten-minute walk away.



The church is growing in Myanmar. I joked that by baptizing seven new members we increased the membership of our little Myanmar Church of God by over 30%. Growth is not an issue. Jesus said that the fields are ripe for the harvest.² The problem we face is not the lack of potential converts. It is the lack of trained young people to evangelize and pastor the people once they are baptized. A tree planted in the desert needs to be tended and watered regularly or it will die. The same is true of the little ones who come to Christ. They must be fed spiritually and protected from the ravenous wolves who wish to feed on the little sheep of Jesus, and who spread tares among the good wheat of God. That is the purpose of Legacy Foundation

School in Thailand. We seek to train young men and women to evangelize among their own people and learn to pastor and teach the newly called.

² **John 4:35** Say not ye, There are yet four month, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white and already to harvest. KJV



Drying the goat meat.



Seng Mai cooking the goat.



Saw Nyu Phut cooking rice.



Brethren serving and feasting on the goat meat. L. to R.: Naw Daw Daw, Nuay Nuay Aeh, TuMar, Seng Mai, Po Moo Htoo

FEEDING THE SHEEP AND PROTECTING THEM FROM WOLVES

Satan never sleeps. He is always looking for a weakness he can use to spread division through offense and false doctrines. Every member—and especially the pastor—needs to be ever on the lookout for these wolves who wait in the shadows to pounce upon the weak and unsuspecting.

Last Passover I had to rebuke and remove the former pastor of the Kyawk Taing congregation because he and his wife had become spiritually

corrupted. I found out that the young man had gone to Yangon to study at a mainstream evangelical school. I discovered the truth that his plan was to return and teach the Church brethren the false doctrines he was learning. Two of our Legacy boys, Tommy and Stanley Shwe, were there to feed the sheep and keep them strong. I also sent recent Legacy graduates Seng Aung and his wife, Seng Pan, to help out.

The young apostate ex-pastor promised to return and move his house off of the Church land. But, upon his return, he not only DID NOT move his house and family, he actually invited two teachers from the evangelical school he attended to come and stay at his house on the church land. He then invited all the brethren to come and hear the two wolves' teachings. All the brethren faithfully refused the invitation, stayed away, and remained strong. However, I could not allow the leavening to remain in the congregation. So based on the example Paul gives us in I Corinthians 5, and with the support of the entire congregation, I disfellowshipped both the former lay pastor and his wife for

opening the door to the sheep pen to allow the wolves in. This action was very appropriate for the season. If you read on just past the section on excommunication of the sinner in I Corinthians 5, you find the following scripture:

I Corinthians 5:7-8

Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

In verse 6, Paul told the brethren in Corinth that only a little leaven, if allowed to remain, would eventually leaven the whole lump.

Please pray for the Kyawk Taing brethren. We discovered a plot to steal the church land and building. This plot was being hatched by the ex-lay pastor, his wife, and another disfellowshipped pastor. Like I said, Satan never sleeps.

The good news is that, even in the face of these trials and tribulations, God the Father is calling more from that area of Burma to the family of God and bringing them to Christ the Savior. The Work of God goes on, even through the storms of darkness that descend upon His children.

Both the ex-lay pastor and his wife remain in the house on church property and refuse to leave, even though they have promised to leave three times. Their new deadline is May 31, and after that the matter will be turned over to government authorities to force them to leave. We want to be merciful because they have three small children. But their actions show they are taking advantage of our mercy.

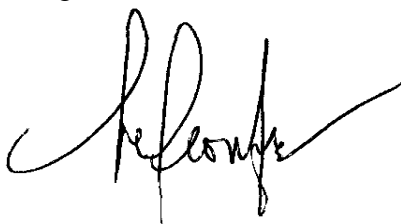
While making final edits to this letter we received really good news from Kyawk Taing that the ex-lay pastor, and his wife have left the church land permanently. Here are the e-mail reports:

3 May 2014—... they are moving material from their house. That is a good news for us. but they need to take out their house too. We all are doing well, also visit the distance brethren every week too...I will tell the brethren we will see each other at Pentecost, Respectfully Htoo mya shwe your good student and serve of King of Jesuse!

6 May 2014—Today... taking down of his house from the church land and Seng Aung also helped him. That is very good news for you and all of our brethren. I think.God was changed his heart because we did pray a lot. NOW God answer to us...bye See you,. Respectfully Htoo Mya

I want to thank all of you for your donations for this Passover and Unleavened Bread season so that we could go to Myanmar on this much needed trip. I also want to thank Mr. Brian Drawbaugh, and the brethren who donated so he could take time out from his business to fly to Chiang Mai, Thailand and hold down the fort while Gloria and I made the trip to Myanmar. He wrote a brief report about the Passover in Thailand. See below.

Serving Our Lord Jesus,



T. Leon Sexton



Chiang Mai brethren gather for group photo. L. to R.: Third Row: Ney Blu Htoo, Hser Ney Paw, MoPalel, Hser Ney Sey, Htoo Gay, AhJar, Oliver Ellison. Second Row: Ehka Ney Htoo, Jo Htoo, Brian Drawbaugh, Naw Mya, Utaiwan Han. First Row: Hser Ney Htoo, Natania on Tesha Bair's lap, Nathaniel, and Daniel Bair



Chiang Mai church ladies received gifts of handmade personalized purses from the Pennsylvania church ladies. L. to R.: Naw Mya, Hser Ney Htoo behind Utaiwan Han, Ney Blu Htoo, and Hser Ney Sey.

MR. BRIAN DRAWBAUGH'S REPORT

Thanks to donations from local brethren with a desire to help our brothers and sisters in Asia, I was able to make the trip to Legacy again this year for Passover and Unleavened Bread. We had 15 take the Passover and 21 total for the opening of the Festival. Donations also made it possible to cater special Festival meals (and ice cream, which was very popular and appreciated) for the entire week. We were especially blessed to have 2 able translators, Ajar and Mobele, who did a great job (I am interactive, so I get feedback). With a service every afternoon, 5 evening Bible Studies, special meals together and good fellowship, the week was a very special time, like the pilgrimage festivals of old.

Brian Drawbaugh



NOTE: We are still receiving emails inquiring about the **Feast of Tabernacles in Chiang Mai** this year. If you have any questions or inquiries about attending the Feast in Thailand this year, please write me at Mail@LegacyInstitute.org

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