



## LEGACY INSTITUTE

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

10 December 2014

Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

Friday, December 5th, was the 87th birth anniversary of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand. In Thailand, December 5<sup>th</sup> is also celebrated as national Father's Day. King Bhumibol has the distinction of being the longest reigning monarch in the world today, having ascended the throne on June 9, 1946. Queen Elizabeth II of England is the second longest reigning monarch.

This last Friday, hundreds of thousands of people dressed in yellow (the king's royal color) thronged the streets of Bangkok in anticipation of catching a glimpse of the revered monarch as he planned to travel to the Grand Palace from the hospital for a royal audience. Some had been camping out for several nights to keep a good spot on the sidewalk. But all were disappointed, because the medical team of doctors that look after him 24/7 cancelled the audience, considering the event too taxing for the ailing king.



Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej waves to well-wishers during a concert at Siriraj hospital in Bangkok on September 29, 2010<sup>1</sup>.

King Bhumibol now stays at the Siriraj Hospital under constant care. His health is improving, but he is not quite ready to leave the hospital. Gloria and I traveled to Bangkok last week to present flowers to him with a get well soon message. We were not allowed to present flowers to him directly of course, but made a formal presentation that actually appeared on national TV news later that evening.

King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit have had a very long acquaintance with the Church of God and Ambassador Foundation since the early 70s. They have always been very gracious and kind to us. Queen Sirikit even visited Mr. Armstrong, the administration, faculty, and students at Ambassador College in Pasadena, California, in 1985.

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhumibol\\_Adulyadej](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhumibol_Adulyadej). Bhumibol\_Adulyadej\_2010-9-29.jpg: Government of Thailand. Photographer attached to the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand : Peerapat Wimolrungrat.



Leon and Gloria Sexton at Siriraj Hospital.

The king has had an international upbringing and education. He was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, while his father, the Prince of Songkla, was studying medicine at Harvard University. He was educated in Switzerland first in mechanical engineering and then law. He is one of the world's leading experts on water management in agriculture and environmental development.

Queen Sirikit was educated in both Paris and London and speaks beautiful French and English, as well as her native Thai. They are far from a jet-setting royal couple and have spent their entire reign together traveling all over Thailand starting training projects to raise the quality of life of the poor. Hundreds of small, self-help projects have been initiated. The king started the royal

crop replacement project among the opium producing hill tribes in the mountainous border areas. He has almost single-handedly wiped out opium production in Thailand, which at one time was listed among the notorious opium-producing nations that formed the infamous Golden Triangle. Hill tribes now grow coffee, vegetables, apricots, and flowers instead of opium—and they earn more money doing so! The king even helps them market their produce at the Royal Project and Doi Kam shops at airports and supermarkets.

Queen Sirikit founded the Royal SUPPORT Foundation in 1975 to teach poor women and young girls skills to help them earn a living from their mountain and countryside homes. One of the problems Thailand has faced (and still does), is human trafficking. By teaching skills to these uneducated girls and women, the temptation to fall for the siren song of deceptive “brokers” is greatly reduced. Empty promises of good paying jobs in a dress making factory or work as a housemaid would turn into enslavement in prostitution or low-paying “contracts” in sweatshops. Queen Sirikit has changed that. Now they can go to her and she will train them to learn traditional skills in weaving and other handicrafts. She even buys their products and rewards them for exceptional products to help them to get started and encourage them to always make improvements to their work.

As one example, Queen Sirikit restored the all-but-dead production of handmade tie-dyed woven silks (called *Mudmee*) in northeast Thailand. Family patterns passed down from mother to daughter and granddaughter were disappearing as the elderly died and machine-made polyester replaced handmade silk. Queen Sirikit and her Ladies-in-Waiting began wearing dresses made from Mudmee, which started a trend among the well-to-do. Now Mudmee is considered a Hi-So fashion in great demand.

Both the king and queen are advanced in years and, frankly, wore out. They have worked relentlessly for over 65 years and it is catching up with them. Both remain at Siriraj Hospital under doctors' care. We continue to pray for them and ask God to restore their health so they can return to some of their duties. But both need to slow down and take some time for themselves after more than 60 years of non-stop work.

Please pray for them both.

### **URGENT PRAYER REQUEST FOR LEGACY SCHOOL**

I was just informed that the laws of Thailand immigration governing foreign students obtaining and continuing to retain ED (education) Visas have changed. It is now quite complicated and it affects five of our students from Myanmar (Burma) dramatically.

Since this sudden change, a student from Burma must acquire a Burma Passport and an ED Visa from the Thai Embassy in Yangon (Rangoon), which costs \$300 and a lot of paperwork. This visa is good for three months. Then he or she must renew the ED Visa for another three months (\$60) at the Thai Immigration Office. At the end of the additional three months, the student must leave the country and start the process all over again. This will mean additional travel expense in and out of the country and time lost in classes every six months. This new law not only affects our five students from Burma presently, but any future students we may want to bring from there as well. Since the Holy Spirit is especially active in Burma at this time, it really puts a “wrench in the works.”

Our students from Burma are either baptized members of the COG or from COG families. Two new arrivals are grandchildren of Saw Lay Bey (a well-known minister in Burma during old WCG days and later the LCG—now deceased).

In a couple of months, Legacy will graduate six more students from Burma, all COG. This is where the Holy Spirit is active and this is where we need trained graduates to return and help build the church.

Since our training program is three years long, these additional new rules with having to leave the country every six months, plus all the extra expense and time lost, is going to make it very difficult—if not impossible—to bring students to Thailand from Burma. The church members in Burma earn little money, so their families cannot afford the expense of sending their children to Legacy. All expenses rest on Legacy and our donors.



L. to R.: Two cousins, Larry and Htee Mu Pel with Acharn Lacey Hilgen.

Please pray that God provides a solution. The new military government is trying to clean up corruption in the country, and all the laws have become stricter. More laws and changing laws are happening every day. We need to bring students here to Thailand since we cannot live in Myanmar. We need a solution.

In service to the Heavenly King of Kings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Leon Sexton', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

T. Leon Sexton

© Legacy Institute 2014