



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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EhHlaHtoo coming from her home (only ten feet away) to the new well in the forefront, which has three feet of water.

Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

6 May 2017

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong met King Bhumibol Adulyadej the first time in 1971. At that time, the king told him about a new project to educate the ethnic hill tribes that inhabited the highland border region of northern Thailand. These hill tribes grew opium and sold it to Chinese middlemen as their only cash crop. The king wanted to teach them to grow other crops, such as peaches and vegetables, to replace the opium they grew. This would be more profitable for the hill tribes and much less destructive to the upland forests and humanity as a whole. The king also wanted to give their children an education but had very few trained teachers.

Mr. Armstrong returned to Pasadena super-charged about somehow helping the king in this educational project. Mr. Armstrong hired a Thai teacher and started Thai language classes at Ambassador College. I was one of the first students to study Thai. Mr. Armstrong said, "We are going to teach teachers," and planned to send Ambassador students to do this.

Now here we are, almost 50 years later. The dream of teaching teachers in Thailand has taken this long to come to fruition. Please allow me to explain.

I studied Thai language at Ambassador College for three years. I went to a summer program at Chiang Mai University as part of that educational program. After graduation, I became a community worker with the Thai community in Los Angeles, and later taught English at Chiang Mai University. I helped organize a project teaching English or French to refugees of various tribal groups from Laos while they stayed temporarily in refugee camps in Thailand. Ambassador student volunteers taught the refugees to help prepare them for a new life in a third country. In 1989, I also helped arrange for Ambassador College students to teach English at the palace in Bangkok.

It seems my entire education has been designed to prepare me (and, by extension, my wife Gloria) for service in this part of the world. From about 1982 to 1987, I worked for the Ambassador Foundation as the liaison for Thailand and Southeast Asia. In 1995, I was discharged from the WCG field ministry and came to Thailand. It was then I reconnected with the Karen tribal brethren I had worked with during the WCG days. One thing led to another and Gloria and I, along with Al Garrett of Dallas, Texas, and my sister Anita Showers, founded Legacy Institute to help the Karen tribal brethren along the border of Myanmar and Thailand. At that time I used to write what we called the "Karen Letter."

After traveling to Myanmar (formerly called Burma) on evangelistic trips, it became clear that we needed a school to train young people, mainly from Myanmar, to become church leaders. We opened Legacy Foundation Leadership Training Center in Chiang Mai in 2002. Volunteer teachers from USA, Canada, England, and Australia have spent at least a year teaching young people from Myanmar and Thailand the English language, Bible classes, computer, leadership training, music, sports, and other subjects.

The school has been a great success. After three years, graduates of Legacy have moved on to further education, teaching positions in both Thailand and Myanmar, and other jobs using their English language skills. **We have successfully been teaching teachers!** God has chosen a few for His Work out of the many that have come to Legacy. Others have been witnessed to and one day will remember what they heard. Only God can put the truth into the hearts of man.

We were able to train a young couple called by God (SengAung and SengPan) to lead a church congregation in Myanmar and start a small Sabbath school for young children and teenagers. They have since been joined by four other Legacy graduates who are helping teach.

Since the fall of last year, we have not been able to get visas to bring students over from Myanmar to Thailand for training. It has also become harder to extend Thailand visas for volunteer teachers from the West. It is clear to me that the Holy Spirit is active in Myanmar, but not yet in Thailand; so training young men and women from Myanmar is critical. But now we have hit a brick wall. Thailand immigration policy has become very strict. We will have no such visa problems for students to attend a school in their own country.

I have experienced this kind of thing before. It is as if God closes every door but the one He wants you to go through! We now see we must expand our fledgling school in Myanmar in order to educate young people in God's true way since we can no longer bring them to Thailand. Our efforts must now shift into a new phase of the Work of God in Southeast Asia. We have

teachers, we have students, and we have church-owned buildings in Myanmar to use as classrooms. We have two more Legacy graduates who will be graduating from the SDA University in Myanmar in a couple of years. We hope they will decide to help teach at our Legacy School in Kyawk Taing, Myanmar. This is all happening very quickly and important decisions must be made. All plans for the new Legacy school in Myanmar will be discussed during Gloria's and my trip to Myanmar for Pentecost.

Gloria and I will not be moving to Myanmar. That would mean another visa issue, as Myanmar only permits us 28 days at this time. It is not necessary to live there and my health would not permit it. We will stay in Thailand and travel to Myanmar periodically. I will also make training videos for Bible classes that will be translated by AhJar Shan, a Legacy graduate who helps us here in Thailand.

Please pray for us. There are a lot of decisions to be made and we want to follow the lead of Our Lord and King, Jesus the Messiah, who directs our every step.

My head is swimming we have so much to do. We will have more details after our trip to Myanmar.



Blessing (son of Pastor SengAung and SengPan) helping start the brave venture where the well was dug for the Church compound.



SengPan keeping out any dirt from falling back in after only two days of digging.



2014 Pastor SengAung starts, one shovel at a time.



StelleShwee taking a break with children onlookers. "One week to go."

THE NEW WIDOW'S WELL

Pastor SengAung and his assistant, MoPalel, have just finished digging another well. It is an 18-foot well. It has brought the much needed water for three to five families (both church members and local villagers) close by and for EhHlaHtoo (a church widow who lives about a ten-minute motorcycle ride from the Jawk Taing church compound). She also takes care of a grandson that is about eight or nine years old, and is the lady that you all have been praying for. She is healthy now and free from T.B.

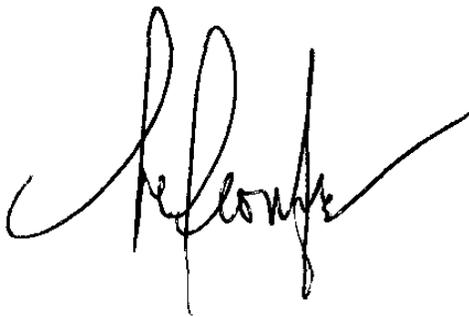
THE HISTORY OF OUR JAWK TAING CHURCH COMPOUND WELL

The history of wells in Jawk Taing is a very bad one. Jawk Taing means “bed rock.” There have been numerous previous attempts made at digging wells at our church compound, both by hand and by drilling machine sent from Yangon. Some of you donated to help with a well a long time ago. Then in 2014, by the grace of God, a miracle happened—and only a few feet from the other attempts. Starting on the 16th of February, 2014, until the 26th of March, it took six whole weeks for SengAung and others (including several of our male Legacy students) to hand-dig a 53-foot well. It was even scary at times. Then suddenly they saw the water!

A year later they re-dug more and finally were able to put in the needed ten cement rings to complete the project. The location of the well is about 20 feet from the church building and about the same distance from the pastor's house. According to SengAung, God continues to bless this well all year around, but not for every need. There is enough water for nine months for all needs. For three months there is not enough for taking showers and for watering the trees and plants. There is always enough for cooking.

Our prayers are with all of you back home. Thank you for your continued prayers, letters, and notes of encouragement, and support as we carry on as God leads us in His direction.

In Jesus' service,

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

T. Leon Sexton

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