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Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

In September I sent out an emergency letter appealing to you for help so that we can continue the Work of God here in Asia. I want to thank all of you who so graciously and generously responded. By the grace of God, donations have begun to increase. Please continue in prayer and in providing for the needs to keep God's Work going in this part of the world.

In this letter I will be writing to you about King Bhumibol Adulyadej, and our recent Feast of Tabernacles in Myanmar.



Just before worship services in Jawk Taing church building during the Feast of Tabernacles.

[Click Here](#) to see a [video](#) of Feast attendees singing "How Excellent is Thy Name" in JawkTaing during song services.

The Funeral of King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX)



The royal urn of King Bhumibol Adulyadej, being transported upon The Royal Chariot of Great Victory which was built during the reign of King Rama I for use in the royal cremation of his father in 1796.¹

After over a year of official mourning for King Bhumibol Adulyadej and five days for his royal funeral, the mourning period ended on October 29. The actual cremation of the remains of the dearly beloved King took place on the evening of October 26.

The king died at the age of 88, on 13th of October 2016, after a long illness. A year-long period of mourning followed, with the entire nation wearing black. A number of popular events were cancelled and drinking alcohol and partying were frowned upon. Government buildings were draped in black and the people carried about their business in subdued fashion.

¹ Photo by Gloria Sexton

Thai people by the thousands, as well as foreigners and foreign dignitaries, filed through the Dusit Maha Prasat Throne hall, where the late king was lying in state in a golden funeral urn that is used for royals. The whole nation mourned the death of their beloved king who reigned over Thailand for 70 years and 126 days.

The funeral ceremonies lasted five days and included six royal processions of the king's remains carried on an ancient golden chariot once used by King Rama I.

The ceremonies were all presided over by the new king (His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn), Brahmin priests, and the Sangharaja (Thai Buddhist king of the monks). The royal chariot was accompanied by King's Guard's regiments in their colorful formal uniforms, Thai cavalry, government VIPs, and the royal family—all walking behind the bier.

The new king carried out all the required duties, including lighting the funeral pyre and, later, collecting the bones and ashes of the late monarch. The bones and ashes were enshrined in the Chakri Throne Hall, with the other eight kings of the Chakri dynasty, and in the cemetery area of two royal temples which King Bhumibol frequented.

The cremation grounds were reserved for the royal family, government, and palace officials, as well as foreign royals, Prime Ministers, and Presidents who came to attend the royal funeral.

King Bhumibol was not only loved dearly by his people, but was highly respected by foreign royals and leaders.

During his lifetime, Mr. Herbert Armstrong said there were no greater examples of righteous leadership in the world than King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit.

He will be sorely missed by so many.

Feast of Tabernacles in Myanmar

The Feast of Tabernacles in Taungoo, Myanmar, turned out to be a great success. This year is not the first time we have sponsored a Feast of Tabernacles in Myanmar, but it is the first time Gloria, myself, and others from Thailand attended. It was a very rewarding experience. It is the first time in 17 years that Legacy has not had a Feast of Tabernacles in Chiang Mai.



Chiang Mai International Airport before boarding flight for Yangon—then parting ways (Deans to Sakangyi & Sextons to Taungoo). L to R: Leon Sexton, Aaron & Michelle Dean, Utaiwan Han, Gloria Sexton

Gloria and I, accompanied by Uthaiwan Han, flew to Yangon, and were met at the airport by COG deacon Myo Zaw and his wife Tumar. After one night in Yangon, we traveled in Myo Zaw's Honda van north on a modern highway to Taungoo (70 miles) near the new capital, NayPyidaw. Since it would be difficult for me to trek in the heat into the mountains to the village called Jawk Taing (where the church compound is located), we decided to hold the first and last Holy Days, as well as the Sabbath in between, in a local hotel in Taungoo and have the brethren come down the mountain by

truck. Our brethren—especially the children—were so excited to leave their village and come to the small city of Taungoo. Services on the days in between were held in the church building in Jawk Taing, about 30 minutes by vehicle and a 10-minute walk away. It gets very hot during the jungle trek, so the shifting of locations was done to make sure my health could be sustained the entire Feast in Myanmar. It was all a great success. The local members and visitors from Thailand were provided worship services and a special feast meal and goodies every day.

The Church of God members in Myanmar would have a great deal of difficulty trying to attend the FOT in Thailand, though it is just next door. Even if they could all get visas, it would prove to be cost prohibitive for our brethren. Those of us from Thailand had it much easier traveling across the border to Myanmar.

Our brethren have now become more faithful in tithing. Sometimes the total amount of tithes for a month is \$34. This year members came to Seng Aung and gave all their second tithe so it would help with food during the Feast. I was truly moved to hear that. They do not have the same concept of going to a Feast like we in the West do. One cannot even compare the two (Taungoo/Jawk Taing and the Western feast sites). No one in Myanmar is going hungry. Many glean the jungle, while some raise chickens, ducks, and even goats. And once again our brethren were blessed to have another cow from one of our former Kachin Legacy students (Seng Htun) on which all feasted heartily throughout all eight days! God always provides for His people. **Proverbs 10:3** says: “The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.”

The sermons by me in Taungoo were given in English with Burmese translation. Those given by our Legacy graduates Seng Aung (church pastor), and Moe Palel (Assistant Pastor), were in the Burmese language and translated into English (also by them). We are blessed to have Legacy graduates there who help translate into either English or Burmese so we can communicate with our brethren.

Our Karen and Kachin members in Myanmar love to sing, so we had many special music performances. Each day we had special music performed by the young children and young adults, led by their music teacher, Seng Pan. On the Last Day of the Feast even the elderly performed with beautiful harmony.

The local brethren are very excited because we plan to invite foreign guests to the Feast of Tabernacles in Taungoo, Myanmar, in 2018. It is very encouraging for our tribal brethren in Myanmar to receive COG members from Western countries as special guests. It lets them know that they are part of a bigger Church of God family of believers and provides them with spiritual moral support that sustains them through the trials and tribulations they face in a country ruled by a military dictatorship.



SengPan in Kitchen showing 6-tier rice cooker and beef with potatoes

Be on the lookout for our Feast letter as soon as we finalize the details. We will be sending out information about the Feast in Myanmar and how you can join us in September, 2018 (Monday, 24 September through Monday, 1 October).

It was very interesting that not just church brethren joined in the Feast. Local children who attend Seng Aung and Seng Pan's Legacy school for children in Jawk Taing also joined in the festivities. Some of their non-COG parents also came to services and special events. Several neighbors came to visit as well. The Legacy graduates who stay in Jawk Taing make it a point to invite local children to join in Bible and English classes as a public service to the local village. The local villagers, who are mostly Buddhist or traditional Christian, appreciate this as a positive force in their village. The Legacy people are letting their light shine.

On another note; there was a Buddhist one-time-a-year Full-Moon festival that coincided exactly with the Feast of Tabernacles. The students of the SDA schools did not have school time off. They did take off for the first holy day and a huge vip wedding was planned at the SDA school on the Last Great Day—so all got off. The rest of the days we changed our worship services to start at 3 p.m. so all the school children could come to services daily.

Prayer for NawPweSay

During the Feast, while her husband was away, PweSay did not want to drink water. Eight or more years ago she had a stroke and left her right side paralyzed. Her husband took care of the children and did all the things a wife normally does. The whole church considers him a great example. Since his wife was doing better he had decided to take work in the jungle to collect fruits. While he was gone, she again had a difficult time. It seems she had another stroke and now cannot eat by herself. Without the feeding tube the hospital inserted down her throat, she would die. Please pray for the whole family as they continue to go through this trial—which they've already had to endure for so many years. They have four children; the eldest son KyawBrain (age 16) had already quit school to help with finances, but will also now help to take care of his mother in the hospital.



2016 last year during U.B. when NawPweSay was doing so much better. Three children in foreground: L to R: ZarNiHlaing, MaySuTaungPyi, & EhDohOo



FOT 2017: The 2 youngest on the Last Great Day. (L. ZarNiHlaing & EhDohOo

Please see below the individual family pictures who attended the Feast of Tabernacles in Taungoo.



SengAung's family: SengMai (sister), DoiBu (niece), LuLu (niece), HtuSeng (niece), Blessing (son), SengPan (wife), NawNaw (son), SengAung, KhawnYe (niece), AhJar (sister). All 4 nieces are sisters. SengAung, his wife, & both sisters are Legacy graduates. KhawnYe only shortly till Thai laws changed.

Utaiwan Han, from Thailand



Assistant Pastor MoPalel's Family: L to R: EhHtoo (niece), HninPaley (sister), HtayNayHtoo (nephew), PaleyKhu (sister), MoPalel, his mother NawDawDaw, & NawEhEhHkoo (auntie).

NawEhHlaHtoo with grandson HtayNayHtoo. She is very weak due to 2 years of medicine for TB, and was only able to come for the Last Day. Both She and NawDawDaw share the same grandson.



NawEhPaw, youngest sister of MoPalel's mother.



5 of her 7 children L to R: LayLuSay, BwayHteePaw, KanyawPaw, AprilPaw & SayTar



U.MyoZaw family from Yangon. L to R: ZinMuangZaw (son), TooMar (wife), MyoZaw, Whitey (Nephew).



Mother ArMe with son SanMe, and daughter ArTe



HkawNam from NaMawn, Kachinland and is friend of SengAung's niece DoiBu.



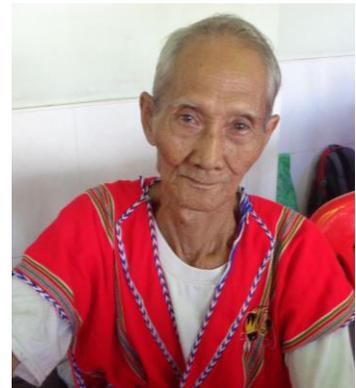
NawJuneHay, widow of former Pastor who started the JawkTaing Church. He died after falling out of a tree trying to collect honey.



PawHtaSay family: Her oldest daughter is working away from home with family. Sadly the next oldest son just died 2 months ago from TB. In the picture the brothers are KyeZinHtoo & DaSiPoh. The baby girl is her youngest.



MahSaBey family: MaryLah (sister), MaSaBey & her baby, HserNaySay &



HserNayHtoo her younger brothers. They have very far to walk when coming.



The Bair family from Thailand. L to R: Dan Bair with Ginger on his lap, Natania (NaNa), his wife Tesha, and Nathaniel (SaNoo).

SawSayPoh



SengHtun from Myitkyina, Kachinland



HserNayPaw, is going to SDA High School and is a Legacy graduate.



HserNaySay and her sister NayBluHtoo with their Uncle and cousin HtooGay. All three young people are going to SDA High School and are Legacy graduates.



SawNohPhut's family: L to R: Daughters GayPaw and Cherry Oo, SaiTihaAung (son),

NohPhut, SaiTihaPyoe (son), his wife NawSee, & his mother Asha.

Gloria and I look forward to joining with our Myanmar brethren once again during Passover and Spring Holy Days.

If you would like to view more photos and videos of the Feast of Tabernacles in Myanmar, we will be putting them on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) very soon.

Until the next letter, sincerely,
In Lord Jesus' Blessed and Holy Name,



T. Leon Sexton

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Last Day of the Feast group photo taken by Seng Mai.