



LEGACY TEACHING INSTITUTE

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Quarter mile to the church compound—a very brave Achaan Earl Roemer on motorcycle with Seng Aug.



L to R: MoeMyitHtetKyaw, KyawMoeHtwe, AprilPaw, and Achaan David Bensinger.

Dear Brethren and Fellow Laborers,

23 April 2018

JAWK TAING BRETHREN KEEP PASSOVER AND DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD WITH EARL ROEMER AND DAVID BENSINGER

Leon and I have previously written in the Legacy letter about the miracle blessing of Earl Roemer and David Bensinger coming to Myanmar to handle Passover and Unleavened Bread services, since Leon was not able to do so after his stroke in November. We are so very grateful for their service to God and his people!

Many do not realize all that has been involved in preparing for a trip such as this. There is organizing the travel tickets, hours spent at airports, and very long flights. Prior to that is de-leavening, packing and carrying extra supplies for both us and the church in JawkTaing, time away from one's job responsibilities at home, new responsibilities upon arrival, sermon prep, time changes, dealing with language and cultural differences, and adjusting to very little that seems like home.

What is too wonderful is that it doesn't matter where in the world one visits; because when God calls His people to His truth, you know right away they are our brothers and sisters—all sharing in one body, mind, and spirit. It's truly awesome.

Here is David Bensinger's report:

“Our trip to Chiang Mai and Jawk Tiang was a highlight of the Spring Holy Days. John 6:44 seemed to pop into my mind daily. Christ gave us the mission to preach the gospel and feed the flock. But John 6:44 reminds us that God the Father does the calling, He hand picks people at the right time, right place and in the right way, and turns them over to Christ for development (Heb 5:9 and 12:2). He has picked some wonderful people in Myanmar.



Arriving the Best Western Hotel in Yangon. L to R: Earl Roemer, SengMai, and Zin.



MyoZaw and TooMar

“Starting our trip with a three-day visit with Leon and Gloria were helpful and just plain enjoyable. They helped us with practical expectations for our visit (including packing some supplies for us) as well as where we could provide service. Departing Chiang Mai, we connected in Bangkok and arrived in Yangon. Seng Mai and Zin met us at the airport and took us to our hotel. The next morning, we enjoyed the drive to Taungoo with MyoZaw (deacon) and TooMar, Seng Mai, and Zin. I was inspired learning about MyoZaw’s and TooMar’s background coming from Buddhism and the Anglican Church influences respectively; along with their dedication and hopes for the Church. Seng Mai provided translation and helpful insights into Myanmar’s society and culture, and the influences affecting the Church.

“MyoZaw, TooMar, Zin, Earl and I stayed in Taungoo at the relatively new Pathi Hotel and overlapped the first part of the Feast with Josh Raudenbush from the home office who had been helping with the youth camp. Each day we’d make the 30 minute drive out to the camp area, park alongside the road, then walk the quarter mile in to JawkTiang. We got to know the neighbors along the path pretty well over almost two weeks and were daily greeted with “hellos” and “good mornings”. They all know about the Church camp and seem to have good respect for what the members are doing there...and of course a 6’2” and 6’3” pair of foreigners walking through their neighborhood was probably a bit of an interesting anomaly! But everyone was friendly and we’d even see some of them show up at services on occasion.



L to R: NawNaw, SengAung, SengPan, and Blessing.

“Seng Aung (pastor) and Seng Pan are truly dedicated people in service to the Church in Jawk Tiang. Taking children in from surrounding areas, helping coordinate cooking for 40 to 60 people daily, teaching God’s way through messages as well as example, providing a basic education to many young people, and providing support and guidance to many children, teens, young adults and elderly—they are examples to follow.

“Earl conducted the Passover with Seng Aung and spoke on the first Holy Day. The rest of the Feast Earl, Seng Aung, Josh and I shared the speaking schedule. Services started a 9am before the heat of the day. Between their generator and the solar panels, there are fans to help circulate the air, but by 11 am this time of year, it is quite hot. Afterwards lunch was served then everyone relaxed and stayed out of the heat of the day.

“The highlight, of course, was spending time with the brethren, young and old, learning about their individual stories, challenges, and hopes for the future. They have come out of various regional tribes and enjoy working together—God’s spirit in action for sure. We enjoyed a morning at the elephant camp one day. And a journey to the power dam and walk along a water falls on another. One afternoon was spent going out another half mile from the camp to visit some of the member’s homes. What a thrill and everyone is so hospitable.

“An observation on which to end. God has built a Church here that is probably 60% or 70% under the age of 35 providing the platform for growth. But these young people need God to open doors. Advanced educational opportunities are challenging as are job and business opportunities. First, it is a developing nation that is just now starting to have some semblance of peace. And second, some of the educational opportunities are either poor, require study on the Sabbath, and/or are expensive. This is why the Legacy Institute education has been a priceless gift for many who are now young adults. But even with an education, most jobs require Sabbath work making it difficult for the young adults. And starting businesses requires capital and further business education. This is a matter to pray about. If God starts opening those doors, the Church will become self-sufficient and the reach of these young people into the society of Myanmar could be powerful.

“What a trip! What fantastic new friends and family members to meet! Many people have suggested our visit was a blessing to the brethren there. Well, let’s hope so. But they were certainly a blessing to us!

“David.”

LEGACY YOUTH PROGRAM IN JAWKTAING, MYANMAR WITH JOSH RAUDENBUSH

Please read Josh’s own words below about his sacrifice and service to our youth and brethren in Jawk Taing. I say sacrifice because this took a lot of time off from work, hours of travel, catching up back home, and the energy to jump in and serve as he did. We all thank him so very much! Here is what he wrote:

“I can safely say that one of the most memorable experiences of my life occurred just a few weeks ago, about 9,000 miles away from my own home, give or take 1,000. From March 15th through April 2nd, I served at the youth program and got to spend the first half of the days of Unleavened Bread with the brethren in Jawk Taing.

“I was able to take a lot of positive things away from this trip.

“Teaching was both more fun and more rewarding than I thought it would be. The quality of the students helped make that experience great. They wanted to learn, and most of them actively participated throughout the classes I taught. Occasionally, if I said something that may have not been understood by all of them, some of the Legacy grad students would translate for the younger ones. For my English class, a few stayed after class to try and get me to teach them the minimal Spanish I know. For my Daniel class, Aj Mopalel would translate and then, when he had to go to Yangon, Aj Seng Aung took over and did the translating. I would review the previous day’s material in the form of a quiz, and the students did well on those quizzes.

“Getting to do many extracurricular activities was also a highlight of the trip. I got to try my hand (or feet, rather) at Takraw. Mopalel, Htoogay, and Pan Aung introduced me to that challenging, fun game. A tough part of the game for me was restraining myself from using my hands. Another activity we did as a group was kickball. It was a big hit with everyone, and we were able to do that a few evenings. The ball went into the river several times, giving the team at bat a chance to score some points! Another fun activity we all did was a day trip up to Naw Bu Baw prayer mountain. Some of our crew got carsick from all the switchbacks winding up the mountain; but once we all made it to the top, everyone had a good time. That same day, we took a hike into the forest to a hot spring, where many of us got to relax and stick our feet in.



The mahout¹, and both the older, NawJuneHey and younger, NeyBloo- Htoo on elephant.

“Just before I left, we all took a short truck and Victor Zin’s van up to the Pho Kyar Elephant Camp to ride the elephants. This turned out to be a really fun day. Most of the group hadn’t gotten



Youth and assistant teachers with SengPan (left) and Josh (right).



SengAung family taking Josh (front right) and youth to hot springs. All having fun with feet in the hot water. Is anyone perspiring—just wondering what the temperature is outside?

¹ A mahout is an elephant, trainer, or keeper. Usually, a mahout starts as a boy in the *family profession* when he is assigned an elephant early in its life. They remain bonded to each other throughout their lives.

to do something like this before, and the feedback I got afterwards was all positive. For 2,000 kyat (USD \$1.50) per resident and 10,000 kyat (USD \$7.50) per foreigner, we were taken on a 15-minute ride around the park, and some were able to feed the elephants watermelon. After getting back from the elephant camp, I said my goodbyes, went back to the hotel, and visited with David Bensinger and Earl Roemer before I left the next morning. “Seng Aung, Seng Pan, and Nay Blu Htoo came to say goodbye early Monday morning, April 2nd; then Seng Aung and I hopped on the 5:00 bus for Yangon. Three and one-half hours later, we arrived and got to tour awhile. We saw the Karaweik Palace as well as the Shwedagon Pagoda (Myanmar's most revered Buddhist shrine), and some of the other attractions located near city hall. We then went to the airport and said our goodbyes.

“This trip would not have been possible for me if not for the help from donors, from Aj Gloria and Leon helping with all the hotel costs and other trip logistics, and also from Aj Amanda helping me get started with the whole process and setting up the gofundme fundraiser. I was honored to be the first person from the U.S. to help with the youth program since it moved to Myanmar. I was also honored to make a new group of friends with whom I got to spend some quality time. I hope to make it back sometime in the next few years!

“Until next time, ဘုရားသခင်သညာသဂျန်သုအတူဖြစ်.
-Josh R”



L to R: SengMai with Josh.

If any of you would like to follow in Josh’s footsteps and help out with our bi-yearly Legacy Youth Program, please let us know if this would be a possibility for you. We are planning to have the next one during the December/January break. (This is also a time when students are not in school for ten or more days.) Please write us at: mail@legacyinstitute.org.



Mr. Bensinger in Kachin Longi.



L to R: SengPan, SengAung, and Mr. Roemer in Karen’ shirt preparing for services.



JawkTaing youth so excited to receive a special care package from the Idaho UCG brethren.

PASSOVER AND DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD IN CHIANG MAI

We were gathered together in Chiang Mai at our Legacy School. We had a few regular Holy Day guests and new guests (Paul and Rie Sternberg), who now live in Bangkok. The Sternberg's took Leon and me to a nice sushi dinner for the Night to be Much Observed. For the first holy day, we ordered in Thai food. On the last holy day we all gathered at "Baan Suan Mae Rim", a nice garden restaurant on a small lake, which turned out really lovely for all of us.



Worship services on first Day of Unleavened Bread.



Paul and Rie Sternberg.



L.to R: Ginger (daughter of Tesha and Dan Bair),
Norah Sexton, and Tesha.

PRAYER UPDATES

CONNIE AND GERALD SEELIG and KERI AND RANDY ASCHENBRENNER: Please remember long-time brethren, Gerald and Connie Seelig (grandparents) and Keri (Seelig) and Randy Aschenbrenner (parents) of little two-year old Chloe Ashenbrenner, who suddenly died from unknown causes. Please petition our great and loving Father during their time of grief to comfort the whole family. They recently suffered this devastating and untimely loss. Leon and I can't even wrap our minds around losing one of our grandchildren. We have five here in Thailand, and the two youngest (one-and-a-half and three years old) are close in age to Chloe. Our hearts ache for this family—who are our (spiritual) family, too. (On a side note, Stacey Seelig, daughter of Connie and Gerald, served as a dedicated Legacy volunteer here in Thailand in 2006.)

DAVID and CASSIE (MCQUOID) FISCHER: Cassie is a former volunteer Legacy teacher and served here in Chiang Mai for a year. She had just married, when ten days later her husband David Fisher was in a terrible motorcycle accident. He did wear a helmet. He is in a coma, has a drain tube coming out of his brain, a broken clavicle, pneumonia, a tracheotomy, and not sure about his brain function, etc. Please earnestly pray for the both of them. What is always before our eyes—and that is what Herb and I talked about too—is that none of us have suffered like Jesus. Yet that is always in the forefront! If Jesus, who was perfect, learned from all His suffering, then surely God is preparing all of us for His Kingdom through our own suffering. God is with us throughout every second of our lives. We can never go through these trials without Him. He promised that He will finish with us what He started, until our Father and elder Brother say: “Well done, good and faithful servant” to all of us who hung in there.

HERB VIERRA: Leon and I spoke to Herb and Ann again on the phone. We are always happy to connect and catch up a bit as we go through trials together—though they be different. Herb's new therapy, called “FitMi,” is not showing the rehabilitation results that we were all looking forward too, though it's very early in the program. While initially there seemed to be some improvement in his left hand—there have been no other positive changes. So they will keep on keeping on, because we know it takes much time to get those neurons to connect, and it's been three years since Herb's stroke. But it is never too late, and they want to give this program a chance. As anything else in our lives, changing and/or undertaking anything new takes all our grit as we go against the oncoming storms. Herb has God to help him go through that system, which is designed to help retrain the brain so that he might (God willing), be able to move on his own. Please keep praying as they fight this upward battle—which is really physical and spiritual. We all go through these in our lives at different times, and we do share with each other in these trials.

LEON: Leon's speech therapist is encouraged. He did not see Leon for three weeks, mostly due to all the hoopla here in Thailand in regard to the water festival “Songkran.” (We had to cancel Sabbath services so that our members didn't have to go through the torrential spraying of water and be soaked by the time they got to church.) He said that Leon is at 80%. He is not able to compose his own sermons yet. He did write two short thank you letters to Earl Roemer and David Bensinger for me to e-mail and is now working on his seventh letter. Sometimes the wrong word comes out either verbally or in writing. He hears and sees that, and it is very frustrating. Please pray for Leon's legs that continue to get blisters and wounds that are so very difficult to heal, and therefore is prone to get cellulitis. We really need God's intervention so that he will not need to take antibiotics again.

NAW EH EH HKOO: The doctors did place a small camera into her stomach so they could see what is going on. They want to cut out the cancerous part. She was scheduled for the 19th of April, but that has been postponed due to the enormous long line of surgeries that must be performed at the government hospital; so she is waiting in a queue. In the meantime, she continues to stay in Yangon at MyoZaw's and TooMar's home, and her niece (NameBahLey) is cooking for her at this time. While there, MoPalel (associate pastor and nephew of EhEh-Hkoo) gave the sermon this last Sabbath. Please continue to pray for her, that all will work out to God's glory.

Many of our members—the body of Jesus—are suffering great trials. So we are suffering together. Some of the trials are heart-wrenching! One day our body—Jesus' body—will be whole. No more pain and suffering! We wait for His kingdom to come. Our faith in that hope, like Abraham looking “for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

FEAST OF TABERNACLES IN MYANMAR (MONDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER—MONDAY 1 OCTOBER)

If you would like to come to Taungoo and Jawk Taing for the Feast of Tabernacles, please let us know by the 31st of May.

There is a new hotel that is just a couple of years old and the staff is very kind and helpful. The room rate is 40,000 Kyats (\$30.30) for one **or two** people. Included are breakfast, WiFi, mini bar, air conditioning, private bathroom with hot water, T.V., hairdryer, and towels. If you want to check it out online, type in “Pathi Hotel in Taungoo.” There is also a nice restaurant on the premises. Please book through Legacy for the above-mentioned rate by writing to us at mail@legacyinstitute.org. We will e-mail you your booking confirmation. Please pay the hotel at the end of your stay.

We will have no “package” available, though we will have feast activities (such as you have seen in this letter). You will be responsible for payment should you participate in any of the activities. We will let you know activity amounts as we find out the number of guests that are interested.

If there will be more individuals wanting to come than rooms available, there is a more upscale hotel five minutes from the Pathi. It is called the Royal Kaytumadi Hotel. If anyone expresses a desire to stay there, I will continue negotiations I started last year after the feast.

There are other hotels—but the ones I have checked out are lower, according to our western standards: moldy, filled with mothballs, or very noisy.

Logistically, you will fly to and from Yangon and stay at a hotel of your choice. (Best Western in China Town worked very well for Mr. Earl Roemer and Mr. David Bensinger, and you can book it on-line.) When I see that we will have coming guests, I will negotiate for this too.

You will need to get a “Myanmar **Tourist** Visa” online. They will want your booking reservations and dates of travel. One can stay for 28 days on that visa. The purpose for your visit will be as a “**tourist**.”

From Yangon, you can make travel arrangements to take a bus to Taungoo or make other arrangements of your choice. More details will be forthcoming. The Pathi Hotel will pick up from the Taungoo bus station for free; just give the bus number and time of your arrival in Taungoo. For returning to the bus station, there will be a charge.

Here is a brief outline for travel in Myanmar for the Feast.

Wed. 19 th Sept.:	Atonement in Chiang Mai. Leon and I will leave the next day to Yangon.
Sabbath 22 nd :	In Jawk Taing (30 minutes from Taungoo).
Mon. 24 th :	1 st Day Feast of Tabernacles at Pathi Hotel meeting room.
Sabbath 29 th :	At Pathi Hotel meeting room.
Mon. 1 st Oct.:	Last Great Day at Pathi Hotel meeting room.
Tues. 2 nd :	Travel back to Yangon

There will be daily worship services and feast activities when it’s not a high day or Sabbath. We all look forward to keeping the Feast with you!

In Christian love,



Gloria and Leon Sexton