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Dear Brethren and Fellow Laborers,

We are living in the End Times, and we see more and more the Matthew 24 prophecies coming about; but Matthew says these are the beginning of sorrows and the end is not yet. When we continue to read, the prophecies tell us how terrible it will be—like never before—when Jesus returns. We are given scriptures that tell us what to watch for! We ourselves must be ready for our own personal life's end that may come before Jesus' feet touch the Mount of Olives. Nevertheless the Bible teaches us to watch and pray always! We know God's plan, we grow in faith as we go through life's trials, and we are molded into becoming more like Jesus. This is God making us ready!



Arrival in Manila, Philippines, at Belmont Hotel for Pastor Development Program. Seng Aung, Seng Pan, and baby Ja Ing.

### Trump's Acquittal and the Israel and Palestine Peace Plan

We have no real peace at home with regard to the Democrats and Republicans in the U.S. So, how can we make peace in another part of this world when we can't make peace at home? Pitting one against the other—is not working. This is a situation like never before in the history of the U.S.A.

Though ongoing tensions (and that is a mild term for "hatred") exist between Israel and Palestine, no peace has been reached.

Shortly after Trump's impeachment acquittal, on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, President Trump and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu officially made known the Trump Peace Plan. The world is not in agreement as we hear regularly. Opposition seems universal among the Zionist rabbis. This plan is to be a resolution for the peoples who have been at odds since the beginning of their existence.

We know what the Bible says about the half-brothers Ishmael and Isaac (Genesis 16:10-12; 17:20) and the twins Esau (Edom) and Jacob (Israel) in Genesis 25:22-29. We know that later Esau sold his birthright (which he despised) to Jacob in Genesis 25:30-34. Hebrews 12:15-17 tells us there was bitterness involved. The result continues in our world today.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.jewishpress.com/blogs/felafel-on-rye/the-peace-plan-rabbis-lior-aviner-and-eliyahu-speak-out/2020/02/06/

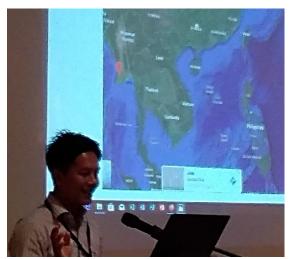
#### **Corona Virus**

We are in unknown territory. The news is mostly not telling us the TRUTH! The news does tell us that there are daily deaths, more breakouts—more quarantines—and an unknown future. Is it a manmade, created, *weapon of war* by the "elite of this world", together with their scientists gone mad? More and more is coming out slowly—very slowly (see Scopus Skaurus).<sup>2</sup> We need not panic—God's church people need to PRAY!!! God is our refuge in times of trouble. His hand is the most powerful. He is our hope in our FUTURE, even as He sees us through so much in our daily lives. We must keep praying for each other—as we, who are the body of Christ, suffer too! Stay close to God and keep our HOPE of the greater eternal life in front of our eyes—as did all our faithful examples before us!

# Pastor Seng Aung and his wife Seng Pan Fly to the Philippines



Presenters at the Pastor Development Program in Manila, Philippines. Center: Darris and Debbie McNeely, Vic and Bev Kubic, Dave and Denise Dobson. Top fourth from left: Earl Roemer.



Seng Aung at the PDP

We quote Earl Roemer's Facebook: Welcome! At the invitation of Pres. Kubik Seng Aung gave a short presentation this afternoon. He showed many photos of members in the North AND the South...lots of the Jawk Taing group and land!! He did a remarkable job!!!

From the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of December, Seng Aung, Seng Pan, and their eight-month old baby, Ja Seng Ing, were invited by the United Church of God for the Pastor's Development Program (PDP) in the Philippines. While still at the airport checking in, I received a phone call that the Myanmar officials needed a letter of request before they would be able to fly. So "hot" on that letter, which was needed in thirty minutes before take-off, we furiously put that together. As I was typing, I received another call and spoke to an official who stated that they would allow them on Thai Airways International en route to Bangkok. Then when the letter was received they would be given permission to continue on to the Philippines. Not until they arrived in Manila did we hear from anyone. In fact, we heard first from Seng Aung before the airline contacted us. With many phone calls, transfers, and holds, we tried to find out whether or not they actually got into the plane in Bangkok, but—NOTHING! So FAITH and PATIENCE IN GOD was the solution!

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm1-DnxRiPM; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0DDXsPKGHw; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoE5raPPolg



Arrival at the Belmont Hotel. Dave and Denise Dobson with Seng Pan and Ja Ing.



L to R: Denise Dobson, SengPan with Ja Ing, Seng Aung, and Earl Roemer.



Seng Aung family with Noel Roy Gilos and his wife Shiela. Roy is the assistant pastor for the Visayas (group of islands in the central Philippines).



After the PDP, Seng Aung's family reunited with the Tipon family—friends from the 2012 Feast of Tabernacles in ChiangMai.

Here are just a few of their comments to Leon and me in their report after the PDP:

Gum Seng Aung (pastor):

- Being a pastor is a servant of God. Do not be selfish—even in difficult times. Be humble and never give up.
- 2. Feed the flock with the Gospel, and take care like your own children.
- 3. The Bible is never old—it is alive! So read and study every day. Pray every day. Do this with your family too.
- 4. Very important to protect the church. Unite with the members.
- 5. God wants our hearts.
- 6. When very big problems happen—pray, wait patiently. Even with different cultures, tribes—all are one in Christ.
- 7. Also reviewed ceremonies, specific topics, and prophecy.

Jum Seng Pan (pastor's wife):

- 1. The pastor's wife is very important to support her husband and important for the church.
- 2. How to do when you have conflict with your husband. We had many good answers in the practical women's class. "My answer was just quiet for a few hours; then talk or explain it and take a big breath!"
- 3. Stay close with the church women. Talk with them and encourage them. Help them when it is needed.
- 4. Do not look down on the people and never think yourself high.

"We were very thankful for going to the PDP program. It was so good to hear their experience and learn from them. We really enjoyed meeting with the wonderful members and enjoyed our meals together. Now we will do monthly pot lucks with our members after church services."

Leon and I, too, have been most grateful for this opportunity given to Seng Aung and Seng Pan, especially since we are not able to live in Burma and be closer to our brethren in Myanmar. Twice a year is just not enough. This has been a great blessing to all of us! Thank you to the presenters who provided the teachings and others that provided the funding. Seng Aung continues to pastor the Jawk Taing congregation and also visits our Yangon brethren once a month for Sabbath.

# Visit to Chiang Mai by Dave and Denise Dobson



L to R: Dave and Denise Dobson, Bronson and Chanisa (Jib), and Leon Sexton



L.to R: Bronson Sexton, Dave and Denise Dobson, and Gloria Sexton



Denise and Gloria in the Legacy office, which is also at the farm. This is where we want to move back to when the time becomes available.

Dave and Denise Dobson came immediately after the PDP in the Philippines to visit with Leon and me. Their sacrifice in coming was immensely encouraging to both of us! We cannot even begin to express how we miss our brethren and the precious moments of discussing, together in unity, God's work! In two days, very important considerations were reviewed that allowed us to continue working together and still preserve Legacy Teaching Institute. The PDP is one example of working together—a fantastic opportunity given to our pastor Seng Aung and his wife, Seng Pan, to help them in their ministry in Myanmar. Sadly, Earl Roemer took a spill in Hong Kong and had to cancel his Chiang Mai visit. We dearly missed this opportunity to see him again!

# **Jawk Taing Meta Bridge**



Community volunteers working in unison as the bridge nears completion after three years.

We enthusiastically announce that the bridge in Jawk Taing is completed! The opening celebration was on the 12<sup>th</sup> of this month. The name of the bridge is "Meta" (love in Burmese language), and it is 145 feet long. Cars and also trucks will be able to drive over this bridge. Many were honored and listed on the maroon-colored sign above the balloons. Donations were given for supplies that could not be found in the jungle. U. Myo Zaw, our deacon, along with others, were mentioned as donors. U. Saw Htoo Nay Moo the head engineer and Sayar (Kachin title for teacher) Gum Seng Aung was also mentioned as an engineer—as both oversaw the project. Many local Jawk Taing volunteers, our brethren included, served to complete this much needed bridge. The old rickety bridge is now only a memory for all that have crossed it for many previous years.



BEFORE—2016 (Passover/U.B.)



AFTER—12 January 2020



Celebrating the grand finish of Meta Bridge with officials

# New Land Has a New Well

A well was dug almost immediately upon purchase of the new land (a gift from our U.S. Alaska and Idaho UCG brethren). Water was reached very quickly, since it is near the river. There will always be enough water for the garden and for the villagers, if they have need. Not yet completed is the holding tank—which will retain 2000 liters (over 525 gallons). Here are some of the



Hkaw Hpa, "hanging" as exiting well.

existing trees on this land: Pomelo (pink and white), lime, lemon, coconut, banana, Marion (sweet and sour kind), three varieties of bamboo, plus some hard wood trees. A few trees are being transplanted, such as avocado and grapefruit. More planting will take place in the rainy season.



The well is nine feet deep.

Hkaw Hpa is Seng Aung's assistant in many areas, this land included. He has been found to be reliable and hard working. You may remember that his family wanted him to go to another country to make money; but Hkaw Hpa knew he would have to work on the Sabbath and Holy Days—so declined and desired to help Seng Aung. Seng Aung also continues to teach him the Bible.

We will have much to write in our next letter, with Passover and Unleavened Bread approaching very quickly. The Jawk Taing Youth Program will be from 15<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> of March, just before the holy days. We are very blessed that Paul Adcock will again be coming to Myanmar to teach English, Bible, and more. A young man from Germany, Leonhard (Leo) Hütt, will also be coming to teach English, computers, or other subjects needed. University and high school graduations will take place next month. All students are in exams at this time. Please pray for them to do their best as they will enter a new phase in their lives.

Some of you have already asked about the Feast of Tabernacles in Burma. Please do write us if you have any questions. The information is the same as last year's "Feast Letter." With a new wing at the Pathi Hotel, even more foreigners are able to come.

We continue to be thankful to all of you! Remember each other as we all gather for Passover and Unleavened Bread. In Myanmar, we gather daily, because Leon and I are only able to go twice a year. Please remember us when you have a little extra second tithe for the spring holy days with regard to member's needs, special meals, and our travel costs.

We continuously pray for all of you, <u>our brethren and fellow laborers together in what God has given each one of us to do in our lives for Him!</u> No matter where we are in our lives—no matter where we work, or what we do—our lights must shine in preaching the gospel. It is our reason for being called now on this planet.

Please see prayer updates on the following page.

In Christian love,

Leon and Gloria

#### **Prayer Updates**

Before we begin about Leon, we will mention Herb Vierra, who is still in the same nursing facility in California with very little to no changes. He continues to have set backs with pneumonia—now the fourth time two weeks ago. Ann, his wife, visits him daily and must constantly strive for Herb to receive the best for his well being. There have been some improvements, but there are still hurdles to overcome. Herb and Ann served Legacy for years and came several times to Thailand for FOT.

Also, there is Jim Shrode, in Dallas, who just went through back surgery on eight vertebrae twice in five days, to repair the same surgery not gone well in October of last year. He has had much pain and been bed ridden for nearly three months. God has answered miraculously prayers already, so please continue your prayers. Jim and Becky, his wife, came to Thailand twice for FoT (but not to the Empress Hotel the second time). This feast was held near the refugee camp in Mae Sariang. The Westerners who shared that awesome feast can also tell you it was not even a "One Star" hotel.

There are many others who need our constant prayers, like Rex Jamison, who has had sleepless nights for so many years and complications from medications this last year. Christine, his wife, has gone through this trial for years with him, in addition to his horrible bicycle accident just a few years ago.

Our body—Christ's body—is suffering; so we all suffer and pray together!

About Leon: being very uncomfortable with the diagnostics, and the way things were going at the hospital, we decided to get second and third opinions. Both hospitals (Chiang Mai Ram and Bangkok Heart Hospital in Chiang Mai) said the next recommended step was an Angiogram (Cardiac Catheterization). The Bangkok Heart Hospital additionally found that Leon had two blood clots in the left appendage of the heart—one being very unstable; should it break off, would cause a brain stroke. We then gave the information to our brain doctor, who said Leon should be admitted immediately. He was prepped for three days and went into the Cath Lab Sunday afternoon.

The diagnosis is that Leon does not have heart disease. He does have congestive heart failure, due to the heart muscle not pumping properly and very irregularly. This causes less circulation in the extremities, which in turn causes blisters and sores on his legs and, at times cellulitis.

In Leon's last prayer, he thanked God in advance for making it possible for him to go to Burma. God's will be done, not ours!