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The angels are singing! SengAung baptizing HkawHpa at the church land's river edge, plus two more!

Dear Brethren and Fellow Laborers,

18 April 2020

We are writing to you in a time of trouble—WORLDWIDE! All are suffering due to this Covid-19 Virus and are locked down to one degree or another—some more and some less. Will this world ever go back to a place resembling what we called "normal"? In our recent era, nothing has been quite like this!

We must never forget that the god of this world is Satan! We must never forget the plan instituted by our TRUE FATHER GOD and HIS SON JESUS THE CHRIST since before the foundations of the world! The god of this world still wants to take God's throne. But we know the TRUTH—we know the end! We know that finally Jesus will come back a second time—and "for the elect's sake those days will be shortened", and "there should no flesh be saved" (Matthew 24:22). Jesus "called Faithful and True, and in righteousness" will come again *not* as a sacrificial lamb saving all mankind (I John 4:14) —but as a mighty warrior King, with "his vesture dipped in blood" to "judge and make war" (Revelation. 19:11-13).

Jesus will bring in the Millennium—His Kingdom of real peace, love, and joy! In the meanwhile we must be the lights to the world and the salt of the earth!

We don't know exactly where we are in the prophecy time-line. God knows exactly and God WILL reveal to us what we need to know! Maybe this C. virus gives us a taste or a perception of how fast things can happen: "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction comes upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." (**1Thes. 5:3**)

We know from the Bible that a time is coming so terrible like never before—or never again will be. The God-breathed Words of our Holy Bibles not only tell us the horrors to come—but the awesome, glorious outcome when Jesus will rule on this earth. There are hidden evil agendas all in the name of "helping the poor" or "peace and safety" of one kind or another. We are all hopeful of a better future—and our Father and Jesus will bring it!

We are to hold fast, pray, study, fast, and keep the commandments that Jesus told us to keep. God is love, His commandments are His perfect love to God and man. Be ready, be watchful, and remember the encouraging words that Paul wrote to those in Athens, Greece.

**1Thessalonians 5:4-6** "But you, brethren, are <u>not</u> in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. You are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as *do* others; but let us watch and be sober. . .

**Verse 8-11** "But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also you do.



### SUDDEN Changes in our Jawk Taing Youth Program

Group photo of 2020 spring youth program.



World changes suddenly affected all plans for our Youth Program. Plans were made to start on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March and continue until the 27<sup>th</sup>. We invited a young man named Leo Hütt to teach English and computer. He came to live in Chiang Mai after his graduation from the Berlin University in Germany. He had just received a Non-O Immigrant Visa from the Thai Embassy in Yangon before going up to our Youth Program. Suddenly, after only a week in session, there was a rush to bring Leo back to Thailand.

Leon and I urgently wrote to SengAung on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March: "Please call and give update. Also we must follow Gov. Rules according to Bible.

**Leonhard Huett** Then will be blessed for obey. Maybe sad but maybe Leo should go back to Thai. before more trouble." The whole scenario was a miracle! Still on the same day (20<sup>th</sup> March) Leo finally was on the last flight out of Yangon. We kept praying! After arriving in Thailand, all borders were shut down the next day! Sadly, this was also the time when Leon and I

knew for sure that we were not able to go to Burma, and within days, our flights were also cancelled. Leo's parents (who were already in lock down, wanted Leo to come home immediately. This meant a 2-week quarantine for him upon arrival in Germany. Leo tells his own story below:

### "A Journey to another World and a Sudden Return"

"... Amidst the early stage of the Covid-19 outbreak with not yet too many regulations in place but a wave of panic steadily taking over the global discourse, I set out to experience a whole new world: Myanmar, and more specifically Jawk Taing, a small yet idyllic village in the midst of a jungle...

"... This journey started in Chiang Mai, where I live and study. From here on I was able to travel comfortably by plane to the biggest city of Myanmar, at least in population numbers: Yangon.

"... The only goal that bound me to Yangon city was gaining a non-immigrant O visa in the Embassy of Thailand, a process that was greatly supported by the Legacy Foundation.

"... Once I arrived in Taungoo the real work was about to start... The two-way road going there was heavily under construction and at some parts a maximum of 1.5 meter (4.9 feet) broad, so that the traffic had to evade to the muddy ways next to the street ever so often.

"... I arrived on a Saturday, which is celebrated as Sabbat Day for the Evangelists and therefor my very first visit to the town was under the circumstance of visiting the local mess (meeting or gathering). When I stepped into the church, all heads turned towards me and I couldn't help but smile, feeling the curious yet kind eyes resting upon me, and with that a certain sensation of excitement rising within me.

"... The mess (meeting) was primarily structured by a long preach, which was held in Burmese but the Pastor Seng Aung was so kind as to give us an English translation so we could follow along his thoughts and arguments. It was refreshing to experience belief in such a strong and natural way again and this mess (meeting) alone already gave me a good amount of food thought.



Dodge ball team with Leo.

Dodge ball on cow paddy with Paul and Leo.

"... Paul was another volunteer of higher age, who has been to Jawk Taing before and was accustomed to its way of life and more importantly to its inhabitants.

"... Kindly he introduced me to everyone, showed me around and explained how things worked around here. Looking back I have a plethora of good memories. There was the sensation of something completely new that excited me, the hot weather that I really enjoyed and made me turn brown rather quickly and the aspect that life there was a little different in pretty much every regard, which on the upside forced me to take a step back and reflect over the past and present, as well as the social and cultural structures that I usually consort with.

"... But the most relevant and brightest positive memory is the one of the kindness and openness of the local people living in Jawk Taing. First there were Seng Aung, the pastor and his wife Seng Pan, who were primarily in charge of organizing the entire education camp ... while teaching them something valuable and the up to nine-hour long training days could be utmost exhausting, it was these children and teenagers that made the experience utmost favorable once again.

"... The younger ones found a straight short-cut into my heart with their bright smiles and adoring eyes and (partwise/partially) commitment to learn something, even though we often lacked the proper means of communications.

"... The older ones on the other side/hand were greatly invested into our learning sessions, participated with an abundance of joy and energy in all learning games and activities. Their energy and sound commitment inspired me again to put many more hours into preparing the next days' classes long after I returned to my hotel in the evening.

"... The activities were in general split into four categories: Bible, English, computer, and sport. Paul and I taught the younger and the older ones in a changing pattern, so that we were more or less evenly displayed to each group. In the afternoon, when the intensity of the sun softened a little bit and the children were exhausted by the long hours of mind challenging tasks, we united both groups to advance with the sport program. Paul had prepared a parkour (obstacle) course to line up varying groups against each other and see which group could complete the course the quickest.



English class with teacher Leo.

"... finally we refreshed ourselves in the nearby river...

"... I remember these days as exhausting and challenging, yes, but equally as filled with joy and rewarding effort. The time went by quickly and before I could properly realize it, one week had already passed by.

"... Shortly after waking up I received some message from Bronson Sexton, my so to say tutor and mentor in the Legacy Foundation, that the Burmese Government was taking sudden steps towards shutting down the country because of the global outbreak of Covid 19. This included shutting down all schools and youth programs and therefor ours as well.

"... Shortly after, I received the news that Thailand was soon to take familiar measures and heavily regulate or cut out incoming travelers. So we made some quick decisions and soon after I sat in a mini van on my way back to Yangon Airport in order to take the next available flight going back to Thailand.

"... Therefor my volunteering service found an abrupt ending and I never had the chance to say properly goodbye to my students and the other people, who had enrichened my life so much throughout the past week. This circumstance still hurts my heart and I pray that I get the chance to make it right, sooner than later.

"... Even though I had to wait many long hours at several airports I eventually arrived back safely in Chiang Mai the next morning. The major winning aspect to make that possible was the visa that I received just a week earlier in Yangon, because all incoming travelers with a tourist visa were already blocked. Coincidence, Fate, Luck or God foreseeing made one puzzle piece fit into the next one and secured my way back home.

"... Concluding I must express my gratitude towards the Legacy Foundation just as much as to Paul and all the other people in the village for creating such an impactful yet harmonious project, in which I am blessed to be a part of ... with those vibrant souls that deserve all the support that they can get.

Leonhard Huett (Volunteer for the Legacy Foundation)

If you would like to see the entire report of Leo, then please see our Web page under <u>"A Journey to another World and a Sudden Return" (http://legacyinstitute.org/wordpress/2020/05/a-journey-to-another-world-and-a-sudden-return/)</u>.



Swimming with teacher Paul.

English with teacher Paul and assistants HkawHpa and HserNaySay.



**Paul Adcock** 

Paul came from South Korea after his tenure as a teacher was completed. His plans were to go to the U.S. after the Youth Program. He came early to Jawk Taing to be at HserNaySay's High School graduation. He has sponsored her years of study and all were excited! There was an added blessing for Paul, because he was given permission to stay at the church compound by the local government. This was a first! Now with the emergency rush for Leo to leave Burma, we were very concerned about Paul and his travels. As of now Paul is still stuck in Taungoo at the Pathi Hotel (where Leon and I stay when we travel to the north). Paul is not to leave the hotel even after the 14-day quarantine. Up until now he has received some few encouraging guests. Here is Paul's own story:

"The Church of God summer camp in Taungoo, Myanmar is organized by Seng Aung and his wife Seng Pan who live in a village way out of town. The students are both church and non-church members who live in the surrounding forest and they all come together to have fun and learn new things. The main emphasis of the camp is English and Christian living but we also organized extra activities for the kids so that they could have new adventures and learn new things in a safe environment. Summer camp is not just learning. The kids make new friends, develop self-confidence and social skills and also have lots of fun.

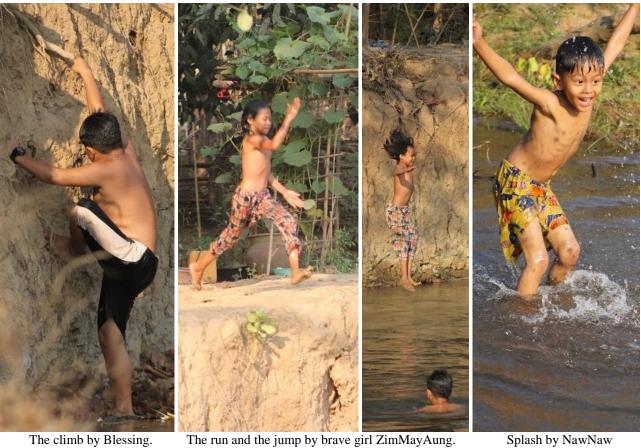
"Seng Aung and myself taught Christian living classes and Leo who was a volunteer from Germany, and myself taught English and computer skills. I bought some sports equipment so in the afternoons when it was cooler we went to the cow paddy and played dodgeball. The kids loved it so much that we played it every day. They also tried badminton, soccer, the obstacle course and gardening, but the main event after dodgeball was swimming which was then turned into the daily bath in the river. It was fun and tricky at times to get clean when the boys were having fun upstream.

"Sadly we only had a week of teaching before we had to cancel the rest of the camp due to the covid 19 outbreak. I would highly encourage volunteers to come and teach here.



In this so very HOT season here was the perfect swim hole.

You will fall in love with the kids. They are so poor but they are wonderful, laugh a lot, are happy and really eager to learn new things. I am grateful to God for bringing me here and using these amazing people to teach me some valuable life lessons. I will treasure my memories from that one week of camp. It was wonderful and will have a lasting impact on my life. "



The run and the jump by brave girl ZimMayAung.

Splash by NawNaw



Blessing's sweet success after jump!



NayGayPaw and BweyMooPaw on obstacle course.



Tricky balance on obstacle course: AprilPaw and NinPalay

### Graduations-KhawnYe, LuLu, and HserNaySay

Exams and finals are over! We are so proud to announce the graduations of three young ladies, KhawnYe and LuToi (LuLu) from SDA University; and HserNaySay from SDA High School!



KhawnYe, ShueMaNyeeZaw (special friend), and LuLu

MyoZaw, LuLu, Whitey with girl's grad hat, KhawnYe, and TooMar



L to R: Church friend EhHtoo, AyeThuZar, Auntie MyaChitShwe, HserNaySay, Uncle KyautKhinShwe (brother of MyaChitShwe), brother HtooMyaShwe (husband of AyeThuZar).

Soon after grad, all Burma was locking down, so KhawnYe and LuLu are still staying in Yangon in MyoZaw's and TooMar's old apartment. They have been generous for many, many years and allowed our young people to stay there when needed. SengMai stays there. HserNayPaw was also staying there. She had gone up early to JawkTaing to help with Leo and Paul, but I just received an e-mail that she had to go to her home town in LoiKaw. After coming for Passover, HtooGay also had to leave for LoiKaw. HserNaySay continues in JawkTaing. Travel has been prohibited. There are 146 cases and 5 deaths at the time of this writing (26<sup>th</sup> of April).

## Passover and Spring Holy Days around the World

How fast things have changed in this world! Not to mention that it has affected all of God's people keeping the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. Most were not able to gather together for worship services. Many, and I think most, have given special time in drawing even closer to God in prayer, study and fasting, and as a friend told me--meditating.

We thank all you who joined us in our fast request! We were overwhelmed in the responses—even from many we had not heard from in years. We normally do not fast on the Sabbath, but there are times such as this, in which we have an undisturbed period from the regular business stresses and interruptions—humbling ourselves before God's throne. We were already preparing for the Passover and examining ourselves. On Sabbaths we also reflect on the future rest from all sin, trials, troubles, pain and sufferings in our lives. We share in Jesus' suffering just a little. We need to be so close to God to conquer the daily pokes, jabs, and irritations from the enemy! Sometimes he is relentless! So, we keep praying what Jesus told us to: "lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one." God also breathed the words in James 4:6-8, "But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he says, God resists the proud, but gives grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will FLEE from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw NIGH to you."

We all must keep intensely praying for each other around the world. We are one body! God knows His sheep and we hear His voice. Help us all not to grow weary in well-doing. God help us to stay "HOT" and not lukewarm.



## Three Baptisms just before Passover

L to R: SengAung with three newly baptized, PaLelSay, HkawHpa, and PanAung.

Seng Aung started classes during the Youth Program and continued right up until the Passover Day. He was finishing up the Fundamental Beliefs class. He was counseling with 5 young people that wanted to be baptized. One was still too young and we wanted to wait. So three were ready and buried in the water right by the church land that was donated just a few months earlier. The water is deep enough there even now in the hot and dry season—no rain!



L to R: Ready for Passover with SengAung, EhHlaHtoo, Asha, and PawHtaShee

# Passover in JawkTaing and Chiang Mai



Before Passover ceremony with full moon over church building.

Night to be Much Observed at our home with Utai, Leon and me (Gloria), who took this photo.

Both Burma and Chiang Mai were not totally locked down yet, so we could keep Passover together in Chiang Mai. In JawkTaing, Pastor SengAung had one Passover for those who could not come to the church compound. Then immediately after, SengAung returned to the Church Hall and did the Passover with the rest of the member's living nearby. Then, the next day, the doors to the church itself were closed due to government orders.





NayBlooHtoo making unleavened bread.

Last Day of Unleavened Bread celebrated with fried beef and Coca-Cola

For the Night to be Much Observed, and the Holy Days, JawkTaing still had saved enough beef from the Feast of Tabernacles. This was prepared and sent to the members with a sermon. When I told that to Utai, we both remembered how tender and good the Burma beef was.

In Chiang Mai we suddenly had a curfew from 10pm to 4am. This was frightening to our brethren here—and more so because tribal families are not treated the same as Thais. So Utaiwan, Leon, and I kept that special night together in our home. For the first and last holy days, it was just Stelle (our translator), Utaiwan, Leon and me. On Sabbaths we could all join together again. We no longer meet at the school, but at the Farm Office. It is a bit outside, quiet, and safe with our very small group.

Due to the virus, SengAung and SengPan have taken in more children and are feeding them daily. They began as a total of 17 together with their family. With the lock-down no one was traveling so Bible and computer classes continued. Also, Leon suggested they buy rice for the church families should a need arise. Many know what vegetation is edible from the jungle—but rice was necessary.

# Hard Hit by Times the World Over!

As of the  $26^{\text{th}}$  of April, 210 Countries and Territories around the world have reported a total of 2,923,285 confirmed cases of the C. virus with a total of 203,308 deaths. The U.S. is leading in both cases (960,896) and deaths (54,265)<sup>1</sup>. All are questioning the future.

The whole world—and so Burma, and Thailand, are also hit hard with so many having lost their jobs. Workers for businesses that have been shut have no income. In Burma and Thailand the government is giving free rice, beans, and oil, etc., which some of our members have also

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/countries-where-coronavirus-has-spread/

received—though not SengAung the pastor's family; because they are from NaMawn, Kachinland, where they are registered at birth. SengPan wrote that those with farms, businesses, and outside salaries will not receive aid.

Que lines for free food have been set up at military bases, temples, major intersections and many other places around the cities here in Thailand. Legacy was able to help with a needed local request—and we provided sanitizing alcohol, and informative pamphlets about Covid–19 for our small town clinic of Baan MaesaLuang.



Hand sanitizer and pamphlets for MaeSaLuang Health Clinic. Gob in black and Aib in blue (Legacy employees).



Karen man waiting for surgery at hospital. His son and daughter stayed at Legacy School.

Legacy also helped a Karen' man who needed surgery, but lived very far away in the mountains. He is the relative of one of our workers. After surgery and release from the hospital no hotels, guesthouses, etc. would accept him due to the C. virus. Hospital rules dictate that a family member must stay with the patient, so

his two children came to help with their father's care. We provided accommodation for a few days as needed as well as transportation. Everything went well and all are once again back home.

Will businesses soon be able to start up again? There was no Water Festival which is the Thai New Year!—imagine that!

Like so many others, Legacy also has been hit hard financially. There are not enough donations to operate in Burma or in Chiang Mai for another month. We are in God's hands. We cannot see as God sees. No one is going to the Post Office. Checks cannot be cashed. So, we are requesting that if one is truly able, to please send donations via <u>PayPal</u>. It will also cut out in labor that our accountant is no longer able to do. For some of you, PayPal is impossible—so please do not stop sending your checks! We are sorry for the delays in cashing them during this pandemic.

### Legacy's Gardening

We were already planting seeds and getting a bit of harvest even in dry season. Beautiful pakboong and mustard greens are flourishing. JoHtoo knows the herbs that are good for medicinal purposes. He gives me ones that help my ongoing cough. But we have also decided on more intense agriculture since a possible food shortage is likely. So we have started to even use Jib's and Bronson's land area by their home. It's amazing how fast with the help of Jib's family restaurant workers (who had no work since the end of March) were able to help clear the land and get the soil prepared. Bronson oversees that project and also what we call the "Legacy Farm", and



On "Denny Luker Tractor" Bronson with Owen checking controls.



New mounds seeded and cared for by Bronson, Owen, and Ganya.

"New Garden". The "Denny Luker Tractor" is in business like never before. How many hands of work are saved by this wonderful machine blessing! Even our grandkids got to ride with their Dad.



Barley grass by Jong, Jib's brother, who has a degree in Agriculture from Chiang Mai University.



JoHtoo working more beds at Legacy Farm





Pumpkins already in bloom.

Okra with new flowers.

# Feast of Tabernacles

We will wait until our June letter. At this time it is impossible to even speculate that far in advance.

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THANK YOU for your continued support in all, foremost in prayers and sacrifices you have made for Legacy throughout the many years!

We, the Body of Christ, need each other more than ever! We are connected by the Spirit of God— His power in each of us! God hears our prayers as incense before Him. We wait for Him, we hope for Him, until our change come! In the meantime we are the lights and salt of the earth! HserNayPaw reiterated words from Mr. Dobson's sermon on that subject and wrote to us the following:

"... 'to be salt for society, we do not have to be loud, famous, or successful by the world's standards'. We must only follow where Christ leads—'you are the salt of the earth'—this is an awesome part of our sacred, holy, and blessed calling."

God will give us the strength to DO and to WILL. What HE has begun in each of us—HE WILL FINISH in us. TO THE KINGDOM!

In Christian love, Leon and Gloria

#### **Prayer Updates**

**<u>HERB VIERRA</u>** just had another bout with pneumonia. During this C. virus, no one is allowed into the facility, including his wife, Ann. So they communicate daily by phone. We pray that God's angels who serve us here on earth will see that Herb is taken care of in every detail! Leon and I truly long to see our dear friends.

**JIM SHRODE** (From their daughter Rebekah): My Mom is working from home full time, so can be there with my Dad in case he needs help. He still has a lot of nerve pain and difficulty getting around. The quarantine has been tough given their social nature, but they are handling it well considering all the circumstances. (This is where Leon and I often stayed on our U.S. visits).

**LEON:** We believe that God has healed him from diabetes. His blood pressure is always below 120/80 and no medicines are given for high blood pressure. He still has an irregular heart beat and takes Warfarin for stroke prevention and Furosemide for water retention. Leon is walking 30 minutes daily—without me for over a week now. Leon typed a first short sermonette last week about the number 666. This is a very difficult task for him to do, but it is another new start!

## **MORE PICS**



Happy kids at Youth Program SaiTihaAung, ChyeZinHtoo, and SaiTihaPyoe



Marion fruit picked from trees on new COG land. AprilPaw, SengAung and HtooGay.



ChuNuNu



DecemberPaw



HtayNayHtoo



Hands laid on PaLelSay



HserNayPaw, JaIng, and SengPan



HserNaySay at her graduation.



KanyawPaw Jumping rope and below she sings

