



## LEGACY TEACHING INSTITUTE

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Pentecost at our COG compound above and in Thailand below.



Dear Beloved Brethren and Fellow Laborers,

30 June 2021

First of all, **THANK YOU** brethren for your continued prayers especially regarding the Burma coup and covid! In Thailand, we have already had—or are still having—a third wave of covid; and Bangkok is particularly high in numbers again. We read of many more parts of our world in need of prayers and God's coming Kingdom!

We thank you for your continued—and always truly miraculous—monthly support to Legacy. We are encouraged by many of your notes and letters attached with your donations. Some write a special message each and every time. We are deeply grateful for your endearing hearts as we continue the work of God.



Seng Aung—Pentecost sermon.

### **PENTECOST—Burma and Thailand**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, we all kept the Day of Pentecost and, as usual, right on the heels of Sabbath. In Burma, all worshipped together in different areas. Sadly, we do not have more pics this time to show. At our COG compound, Pentecost was celebrated with a special meal of beef! In Chiang Mai we had a “farang” (foreigner) meal of PIZZA! That was very much loved by all of us. We had never done that before.



Feasting on Pentecost in our COG compound.

### Special Letter to Legacy

We are always encouraged by and appreciative of your letters to Legacy. It is not often that we receive a letter from a 96-year-old with a wife of 90. Below, Leon and I received a very touching, heartfelt letter written by Mr. and Mrs. Nelson. We wanted to share this one with you.

You are constantly in our prayers! We met Mr. Roemer & his elder here in Rochester a few years ago when Mr. Roemer was in the hospital. He certainly was an amazing man! His elder & his wife were guests in our home - Mr. and Mrs. Franke.

I have been in the church since 1966, and am now 96 yrs old. I'll probably give my last sermonette next month. My wife is 90 yrs old.

Thank you for all the wonderful letters you have sent over the years. They have been full of biblical & wonderful knowledge. I've saved them all!

I wish I could send a larger donation, but my income producing days are behind me.

There is no need to send a receipt,  
God bless you and your work

Leo & Norma Nelson

As we focus continually on our future HOPE, Leon has written the following message.

### **The Return of Jesus and the Resurrection of the Dead**

The resurrection of Jesus is the Christian belief that God raised Jesus from death after three days and three nights in the grave. Our Lord and Savior is the first of the dead to be resurrected.

**Matthew 12:40** “For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

The death and resurrection of Jesus are the most important events of the Christian faith.

**Romans 6:3-5** “Know you not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection:”

For Christians, the resurrection is the promise of Jesus and guarantee that all the Christians who have died in the faith—in Christ—will be resurrected at Christ's second coming.

**1Corinthians 15:22-23** “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

**1Thessalonians 4:16-17** “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

The bodily resurrection is the change to life eternal.

The resurrection was not lost on the two sisters of Lazarus (Mary and Martha). They agreed with Jesus about their brother being resurrected. Martha said: “I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” But they did not at all believe that Jesus was talking about resurrecting Lazarus right then and there.

Jesus was about to show the sisters exactly who He really was. This was a miracle only God could do. Jesus had already told Martha earlier: “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:”

When Jesus went to the door of the sepulcher, Lazarus was already dead for four days and was beginning to smell. Then “. . . Jesus cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus come out!’ ”

Now the plot to kill Jesus was immediately intensified and about to happen after Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. There were only a few more days before Jesus' own death and resurrection. Lazarus, Mary, and Martha were about to witness the death and resurrection of Jesus knowing that He was the Anointed Son of God. What a comfort, inspiration, and faith-deepening experience only a few days earlier. Even Jesus' emotions were high—He groaned deeply, was troubled, cried, and groaned again before raising His friend from the dead. Perhaps it was profound for Jesus Himself to see the stone rolled away and Lazarus all linen-wrapped prior to His own death and resurrection.

Jesus is the GOD of life and death. God's plan and purpose for His creation is to give us LIFE!

## The Burma Coup

In our last letter we wrote to you a bit of the history of Burma. The coup is escalating during greater numbers of covid, and civil war is right at the door. Any war brings too much devastation! It seems no area in Burma is free from hearing gun fire, planes, and bomb explosions. More frightening is the fact that more and more military camps are being raised everywhere. Thankfully, at this time our brothers and sisters in all areas are well and have enough rice and food. Please keep them continually in your prayers, along with all others in this chaotic world of conflict. (We have had to change this section of the letter several times, due to the constant change in updates as more horrors escalate.)

A few days ago, *Al Jazeera* stated that civilians feel that their only option is to take up arms with ethnic groups (armies).<sup>1</sup> This is exactly what is happening—but *do* they stand a chance against the powerfully armed Tatmadaw?

Most all schools are closed due to the fighting dangers of the coup, and now also covid. *Al Jazeera* also reported that when government schools opened, many have been afraid to go.

First, we want to say that the Free Burma Rangers (FBR) are **not rangers of war**—they are rangers of medical and physical service to people in emergency and other help. They do not encourage fighting! The FBR teams know there is a spiritual warfare going on and know they must rely on God. In early June, according to the FBR, Burma Army soldiers were attacking from village to village, shooting anything that moved. As villagers were fleeing to hide in the jungle, their homes were robbed. All the while, the soldiers set up to stay in the villagers' homes. It is estimated that somewhere between 50 to 100 thousand are in hiding.<sup>2</sup> And now even a more disheartening report from FBR (*Planting Rice Under Fire*).<sup>3</sup> Things are escalating. Please pray for God's sheep in our Savior's Name—they need miraculous protection!

According to *Nikkei Asia*, Myanmar junta chief Min Aung Hlaing travelled to Moscow to meet with senior Russian military and government officials, hoping to strengthen their relationship amidst growing international criticism. He even met with a Russian arms exporter. China is considered a big backer to Myanmar, but there are worries that China has too much power in Burma's domestic affairs. So, Myanmar needs Russia as a counter balance and Russia believes that Myanmar is a key country in developing an influence in Southeast Asia.<sup>4</sup>

## Communications and Funds

We keep in regular contact with Seng Aung and Seng Pan. They are in contact with our other members when communications are up and running. There are days when it is quite difficult.

Getting funds to Burma is nearly impossible. God has been extremely merciful!!! Someday I will write about this. Getting money out of the bank also has many barriers as to how much one can take out and when. Recently the bank told Seng Aung that he could take out the allotted three Lak (\$182+/-) on the Sabbath day. Of course, he would not do that. So, he had to wait for another date and missed that chance. But obedience to God comes first!

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<sup>1</sup> 'Our only option': Myanmar civilians take up arms for democracy | Conflict News | Al Jazeera

<sup>2</sup> Burma Army Attacks Drive Over 55,000 Karenni Into Hiding | Free Burma Rangers

<sup>3</sup> Planting Rice Under Fire | Free Burma Rangers

<sup>4</sup> Myanmar junta chief woos Russia with Moscow trip - Nikkei Asia

## School Started on 14th of June



Youth Class

Even with the coup going on, so does the school continue at the church compound with 24 students! A class schedule has been drawn up for five hours a day. Classes are as follows: Computer, Bible, English classes (Grammar, Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Vocabulary), Hygiene and Math. Now that all six volunteer teachers are engaged at the school, they have asked Bwe Htee Paw (CoPa's sister) to come and stay to help with the cooking. Legacy sends a stipend for the teachers that have already volunteered since the first semester—a little more than we did in Chiang Mai. Seng Aung said "he will pay from church income money for the most recent coming teacher, SeinPawHtoo (Nay Blu Htoo). Funding for the youth programs continues to be made possible by the Tulsa, Oklahoma, church. We are thankful for their continued donations to help with our youth expenses!

## Sewing Class

Seng Pan was invited by the SDA school to be the leader and instructor of a two-month sewing class of 30. This is a special mission for the very poor girls who fled from difficult coup areas where no schools are open at this time. This will help provide opportunities for their future. These are free classes. The SDA school also chose two girls (Nin Palel and Cherry Oo) from the Church of God in our compound to take the class. Leon and I are happy for Seng Pan to have this wonderful experience. Seng Pan already sews very well. We remember while she was here in Chiang Mai, that she made clothes for the girls—and has continued to do so at the COG compound.



L to R: Seng Pan in lace blouse teaching. Cherry Oo and Nin Palel learning to maneuver on their material.

## The Well on River Land

The old “miracle well” was still giving water at the church compound at the end of May (a very dry season), but so much less that it was reserved for food and drink. A well was also dug at the new river land—when suddenly it went dry due to the river being extremely low. Immediately a new well was dug and water was reached at 4 meters (thirteen feet). Thanks be to God, and it now continues to provide plenty!



L to R: Ja Seng Ing, Lar Paw Wah,  
Naw Naw, and Bwe Htee Paw

## Four-Year Old Joins Pastor’s Family

A four-year-old little girl named Lar Paw Wah is now staying with pastor Seng Aung and his wife Seng Pan. Her father has requested she stay with them, because he cannot support or care for her at this time, and he has no wife. Thankfully, Lar Paw Wah also really wants to stay at the compound. There will be many activities for her, and she can join in the kindergarten class. Bwe Htee Paw is also helping with her care, since Seng Pan has two months sewing instruction.

## Early Wedding of Pan Aung and Sal Nay Paw

The beautiful (and first) wedding performed by pastor Seng Aung at the Church of God compound was performed much earlier due to the Burma coup. Safety was considered specifically for Sal Nay Paw's sister, who lives several hours away, making travel difficult with a 7-month-old baby. Sal Nay Paw has no parents, and her only family is this sister who has 4 children. Pan Aung is of the Kachin tribe and Sal Nay Paw is of the Karen' tribe. Both are now teaching at the school in the compound.



Pan Aung and Sal Nay Paw in Kachin-style dress.

## Update on Isaac Vierra

THANKS AND PRAISE BE TO GOD for doing His mighty miraculous works!!! We will continue praying for Isaac to keep doing his best in going above and beyond, which have brought Isaac God’s awesome abundant blessings. Not only is he blessed—but his whole family and God's Family! Here is the latest update from Amy Vierra, his mother:

"It's been an incredible month of progress with Isaac and the strength he is regaining. Thank you for your prayers as God is answering them daily! We had a visit with his surgeon in early June. The surgeon was surprised at the strength and function Isaac is regaining through his daily OT. Isaac is

pushing himself to get as strong as possible, as he's determined to do everything he was able to do before the accident. The surgeon informed us that Isaac is ready for his next surgery...the surgery he had predicted would take place in August. Essentially, through the healing power of our Lord and Savior, Isaac healed 3 months faster than anticipated. Praise God for his expedited healing! He was blessed with the opportunity to attend church camp last week in Ohio. He was able to participate in archery, rock climbing, kayaking, and many other challenging activities. He was determined to push himself!



Isaac Vierra's sheer DETERMINATION!

"We are awaiting his first thumb prosthetic. This has been another blessing! This prosthetic is \$2000, but they are providing it at no charge. This is incredible! The more expensive prosthetics will come after his next surgery scheduled for October. After that surgery, his last surgery will be in December. We are so grateful for the prayers being offered up on Isaac's behalf. Thank you all for your love and prayers!"

A GoFundMe account ("Isaac Needs Your Help" by Marjory Warrington) has been set up to help with future humongous medical bills. Those who wish to help by donating funds can either donate to Legacy Institute (ALL WILL BE SENT TO ISAAC'S FAMILY) or to GoFundMe. We thank those who have already given for this purpose to Isaac.

### **ONGOING PRAYERS FOR THE GLOBAL DILEMMA**

We wrote much above, though things are constantly changing. Schools and churches will be closed for a week due to covid. Please pray for our children worldwide! There is the "cancel culture," "woke culture," "rainbow culture," and so much more. We must discern and help our children and other parents through these times the Bible talks about "as it was in the days before Noah." We must not sleep! Pray in Jesus' Name always—the most powerful name—every day, when you are in emergencies and major decisions!

Thank you, Beloved Brethren and Fellow Laborers,

In Christ,

Leon and Gloria