



LEGACY TEACHING INSTITUTE

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Seng Aung's visit to Yangon: L to R: Zin Muang Zaw, Seng Aung, U Myo Zaw, Daw Too Mar, Htoo Seng, Doi Bu
We will put in a pic with the rest of the brethren at worship services when I receive the photo in our following letter.

Dear Beloved Brethren and Fellow Laborers,

20 December 2021

It is our last Legacy Letter for the year 2021, and we all want to thank each of you for your continued prayers and donations! Due to a lack of funds, we did not send a money wire to Thailand in November. We did have a month in reserve so, there was provision. Our vice president Anita Showers has written a special year-end thank you that you will find at the end of this letter. Our prayers for all of you brethren globally are continuous!

Seng Aung's Recent Report on Trip to Kachinland—Myiatkyina, Na Mawn, and Jade Land

First Stop: Myiatkyina



L. Sumlut Seng Aung and Gum Seng Aung

I would like to report my traveling to Kachin Land. On November 22, I went by bus to Myitkyina and Seng Htun (former Legacy student) allowed me to stay at his home and he also fed me. I was thanking a lot to God and to his family. The next morning, I met with Sumlut Seng Aung, another former Legacy student. He was so sick for a while and I anointed him. He is better but not completely. He needs to regain back his strength. He has worked for an NGO (non-governmental organization) to support his family as a security guard and has sustained the night shift. Sleeping in the day is not working well for him, and his health still suffers. We request continued prayers for Sumlut Seng Aung and his family and for any possibilities for a life change to make improvements.

I had a plan to visit the Glory Orphanage but that did not work out. This was the second visit request and both times it fell through. Our goal is still to be able to see the orphanage one day.

Second Stop: NaMawn

Kachin-Style Pre-Wedding

The next day I traveled to Nant Mun by bus again. Myitkyina to Nant Mun is a 5-hour drive. My sister Seng Mai (also a former Legacy student) was getting married. Our Kachin tradition is that before they marry, we need to pray for the bridegroom at her family home. I gave the sermon for worship services and led the ceremony for the bridegroom.

I kept one sabbath with the Nant Mun church brethren and was so happy to meet with them and my family. Nant Mun is my home town of which I have so many memories. All the church brethren were doing well. They call themselves the “Yahweh” church, but we all have the sabbath doctrine, so we can worship together. We are COG, SDA, and Yaweh. I gave the sermon on unity, because they have a few members but many different backgrounds and they worship together. I hope they all understood my sermon and continue to keep the words I spoke. We all meet together in peace.



Seng Mai and Gum Jar

Third Stop: Jade Land Wedding



L to R: All siblings Ah Jar, Seng Mai, and Gum Seng Aung with their mother Daw Hkawn Hpng.



Son of Ah Jar, Myo Dan Hkawng



Square shows Jade Land.

Two days later we traveled to Jade Land where the bride and groom now live. The marriage ceremony was well done with a lot of people even in a hard time. The weather was so cold at Jade Land. There

were not so many Burmese military soldiers inside the city, and it looks like the Kachin military is staying/holding in that place.

*On December 3rd, I came back to the Kyaut Tai village where my lovely family lives. Thanks a lot, to God for safe traveling. Now I will travel to Yangon on December 24. May God continue to keep and provide on my travels. Thank you so much for your continued praying.
Yours sincerely, Gum Seng Aung*



U Poe Say (83) sings and plays guitar for worship services.

A Short Story of Our Oldest Church of God Member in Jawk Taing.

Leon and I met Poe Say many years ago and we have never seen him sad. He is always happy and upbeat. Once at a wedding, we saw him dancing on his wooden leg quite spryly! He often liked to sing in English while playing guitar. Every Sabbath he still sings for special music and plays the guitar. This is his way of serving. He is now able to hear the sermons with ear phones. Also, his boss or his son will read the sermon notes to him at other times because his eyes are not very good.

Here is just a little Burmese history before U Poe Say tells his own story as he told it to pastor Gum Seng Aung.

A Bit of Burmese History

“During the Second World War, the Karen fought alongside the British against the invading Japanese. . . When Japan captured Rangoon (Yangon), the capital city, the British forces retreated to India. . . The Japanese occupation ended in 1945 when the allied forces recaptured Myanmar. The Karen leadership believed that their aiding of the British had earned them the right to have an independent state, but this hope was denied. . .”¹

“Three years after the defeat of Japan, Burma once again became an independent nation, but almost immediately plunged into civil war, as the Karen ethnic group rebelled and a (possible) Communist uprising nearly toppled the new government. The civil war began in 1948, and has continued with varying degrees of intensity ever since.”² You can read more in the mentioned footnotes, and/or also in another site called “[Internal conflict in Myanmar - Wikipedia](#)”, as we are careful verbally in our letters during the now crisis at hand. God tells us to pray for our leaders.



U Poh Say without leg and foot.

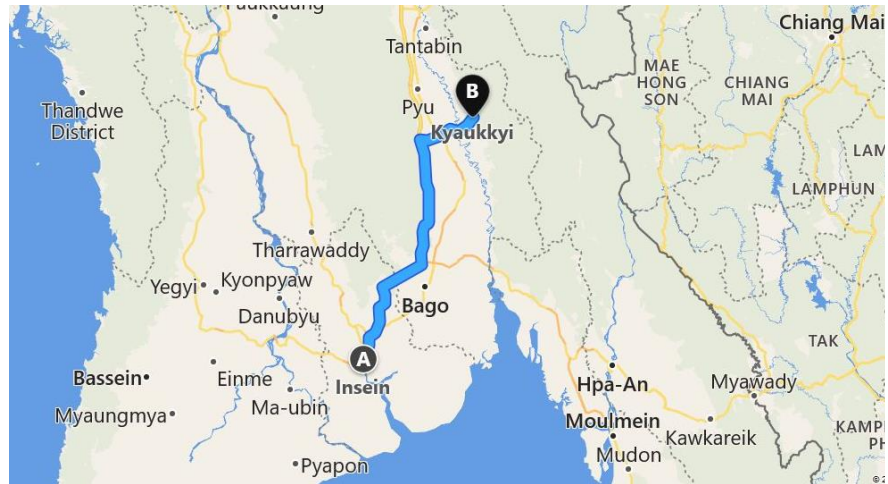
¹ [Myanmar and the Karen Conflict: the Longest Civil War You Have Never Heard Of – The Reiff Center \(cnu.edu\)](#)

² [The History Guy: The Wars of Burma and Myanmar](#)

Insein Township is in northern Yangon. “Insein was the battle site in the Burmese civil war that erupted after the country's independence from the United Kingdom in January 1948.”³

Story of U Poe Say

U Poe Say, an ethnic Karen, was born in Insein Township in April of 1938. In 1945 he was seven years old when the Japanese soldiers were fighting there and his family decided to move on foot to Kyaukkyi (pronounced JowkJee) Township. Kyaukkyi area was the border between the Karen and the Burmese military.



215 Kilometers (133 miles) on foot before all the new roads of today.

The villagers had to listen and obey the orders of the military. They were forced to do so! Sometimes the villagers had to pay for the food of the Burmese soldiers and do other work such as carrying loads, etc... At other times they were forced to clean the jungle forest mines that had been planted. That was horrifically dangerous and many village people died or were maimed! They could lose any part or parts of their bodies and were lucky if they survived that terror.

U Poe Say was a villager and not a soldier. Then one day he was ordered to clean the forest jungle. He stepped on a mine losing his leg from below the knee—no more foot!

Then the military chief said: “you have done your duty and you do not need to support or do anything any longer”. He was free to go. At that time Poe Say was already engaged and married only a few months later. They had two sons and one daughter. When his daughter was 18 years old, she died from a snake bite. Other relatives had also died from snake bites, so he decided to move out from that place.



Kyaukkyi to Taungoo is 115 kilometers (71 miles) with the new roads of today. Our church compound is just 30 minutes farther by car.

Poe Say moved his family to Jawk Taing, a village near Taungoo in 2006, and it is the place where he still lives now for 15 years.

Poe Say’s wife died in 2014. His eldest son works in the jungle and his youngest lives with him.

He no longer works, but helps with cooking and raising chickens. His boss is very kind

³ [Insein Township - Wikipedia](#)

and is allowing him to stay at his house for the rest of his life. He is very happy about this blessing since it only takes a few minutes to walk to the church compound. It takes him about 10 minutes to walk and he wants the exercise, but often he gets picked up by motorbike.

Poe Say was Sunday-keeper at the time of his arrival in Jawk Taing. But when he read the bible, he understood that the Sabbath was not Sunday. He tried to ask his Sunday pastor in regards to this, but he knew they did not give him the right answer. He started to become interested in becoming a Saturday-Sabbath keeper over the next eight years. In 2008, Leon and Gloria were in Taungoo, at the Beauty Land with all our brethren for the Passover and Unleavened Bread and this is where Poe Say met them originally. Over a period of time in searching and listening, he accepted the church of God doctrines. In 2016, before the Passover he was baptized by Seng Aung, and hands were laid on him by Mr. Leon.



Seng Aung baptizing Poe Say.

When Poe Say was a Sunday keeper, he was afraid of ghosts (as are many Asians) and very afraid to die. Now he is not afraid any longer. He believes he will be resurrected one day and he knows he will not be alone.



Mr. Leon laying hands on Poe Say.

He will be 84 years old God-so-will coming April, 2022.

ISAAC VIERRA--Latest Update by His Mother Amy Vierra on December 14th



Isaac manipulating robotic fingers.

“Friends and family, thank you for all of your prayers for Isaac! Isaac has been progressing well in his OT after his 5th surgery in October. We have been working with the prosthetics company to have a hand mold made and a prototype to test to see if he can use it (using only his muscles to control the fingers). We had a very exciting day last week when he was able to manipulate the robotic fingers using only his muscles. However, today, we received a disturbing notice from the prosthetic company. They are not sure that the insurance company will even entertain the idea of agreeing to pay a claim for the myoelectric (this robotic device) or any of the prosthetics at all. This is VERY different from what the insurance company told me months ago. It’s going to be a battle and one that honestly, I am too

exhausted to fight at this point. I'd like to ask for your prayers on Isaac's behalf that the insurance company agrees to all of the prosthetics he needs. Even if they agree to it, there's a hefty out-of-pocket expense for each prosthetic (but that's manageable). If they don't agree to any, it will be 100% out of pocket and the myoelectric won't be an option at that point. Thank you for your encouragement and for offering up these specific prayers to our Lord and Savior!”⁴

⁴ Legacy is footnoting GoFundMe where donations can be made: [Fundraiser for Amy Vierra by May Waon : Isaac Needs Your Help \(gofundme.com\)](#)

Christmas Booklet in Chiang Mai

Once again, we have placed our Christmas booklets in several locations around the city of Chiang Mai. This booklet has both English and Thai translations.



Please pray for Gum Seng Aung as he travels to Yangon. He will be speaking about the subject of Christmas on the sabbath, the 25th.



Chiang Mai City Arts & Cultural Centre.



Large eatery at Suan Dok Hospital with secretary Gop.

He will be visiting our brethren, U Myo Zaw, our deacon, his wife, Too Mar, and their family. Both Covid and the military coup made travel impossible. So, it is the first time in two years for him to travel there.

Though things are very heated, depressed, and dangerous in many fighting areas, this will be a great blessing and give much encouragement for everyone in Yangon!

The sermon will be shared in other parts of Burma and Chiang Mai, Thailand.



At Nakornping Hospital with nurse and our secretary Aip (R).



One of the many coffee shops in Chiang Mai.

From everywhere around the world, we all must keep each other in constant prayers—prayers of gratitude and great thanks; and in prayers of our difficult trials and agonies. We share in those with each other. God helps us go through these with Him together!

Thank you, Beloved Brethren and Fellow Laborers,

In Christ,

Handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is a stylized 'L' for Leon. The second signature is 'Gloria Sinton' written in a cursive style.

Leon and Gloria



Too Mar's sister, Ne Ne Win, with granddaughter and other children on Seng Aung's visit to Yangon.



Pre-recorded 4-part video for brethren in Jawk Taing (and Facebook page ⁵) while Seng Aung visited brethren in Yangon.

PLEASE SEE BELOW OUR THANK YOU LETTER BY ANITA SHOWERS

⁵ (20+) Church of God Myanmar | Facebook



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December 19, 2021

Dear Brethren and Fellow Laborers,

With the coming end of this years' Julian calendar, it is time to thank you all for supporting God's work in Myanmar and Thailand. Many of you have supported Legacy from the very beginning and some are new to this work of love for God's people on the other side of the world.

Many changes have occurred in the phases of the journey God has taken us on. Originally, Leon and Gloria simply helped our brethren in Thailand by taking money over to them as they worked in Thailand at the time. The brethren were in desperate straits having been abandoned by the new leaders during an apostasy in God's church. This grew into many donations as their plight was being recognized by us here in the U.S. At that time the formation of a 501c3 was required to account for the donations and Leon asked me if I could send out an update letter to keep donors informed of how our brethren were faring. None of us knew what God really had in store for us. Donations grew to the point where it was obvious that Leon and Gloria needed to use their talents in a better way. Leon has written about this in the past. He already spoke Thai and he and Gloria had both lived and worked at projects in foreign countries with the Ambassador Foundation formed by Mr. Armstrong. They had been given a "legacy" that God intended to put to use to help His fledgling flocks in Myanmar and Thailand.

There was no need to start a "church organization". God had already done that! These brethren were already baptized and a part of the spiritual body. Teaching was the key to helping these members stand on their own two feet and not be torn apart by church problems and splits in the western world, especially when apostasy came in. Living in Myanmar was like living in slavery. Some had fled for their lives from the tyranny and were still being hunted! It was like teaching ancient Israel to not only rely on God but to suddenly become leaders in the church. It was a completely different mindset. They had no way to make a living in Thailand. Unbelievable for us in the West to imagine.

I cannot state enough how amazing it was to see God's hand at work! I had never seen anything like it. Of course, growing up in an era of the church when we had many people, large amounts of tithes coming in, and many resources in our own country was one thing—but to see this small church of God develop against all the odds was an entirely different matter. In a foreign country with only Leon speaking the language (although Gloria has become quite adept) and with all the unbelievable red tape, it seemed quite daunting to me. It would require a great amount of sacrifice and hard work on Leon and Gloria's part. They never hesitated after being advised and counseled by dear friends that this seemed to be the course God had set before them. And even after many debilitating health issues, they are still hard at work! While already loving them dearly as family, my admiration and respect for them grew in leaps and bounds. I have learned so much from them and my life has entirely changed because of it.

Changes along the way were how God was going to do it. After many years of running the Legacy Teaching Institute in Thailand, a huge change occurred quite suddenly. God moved the teaching of His people from Thailand to Myanmar. Of course, this was always the ultimate goal but when it happened it was quite shocking, I must admit. Very quickly everything turned around. It became impossible to bring students into Thailand from Myanmar and Visas for teachers from the Western world. The border rules changed and there was no way around it. At the same time Myanmar began “opening up” and the regime there was trying to show to the world that they were changing.

Then God showed us, as always with no uncertainty whatsoever, when it was time to build a church and later a school. It simply happened. As with all change, there were many new challenges. God raised up and greatly blessed the people HE chose to begin teaching His gospel of the good news in their own country, FINALLY! It has taken much continuous advising, teaching, and booklet writing with constant communication via telephone, internet, and visits. Also, setting up school funding so the children did not have to attend on the Sabbath as they would have in government schools.

Leon was sending sermons to Gum Seng Aung, the servant God chose, to give sermons weekly. These were translated into Burmese by Seng Aung’s wife Jum Seng Pan. For some time now, Seng Aung also gives his own sermons weekly that are sent to Leon in Chiang Mai with translations in both the Burmese and English. His brother-in-law Pan Aung gives short sermonettes. Both can be viewed as videos on their Facebook page, “Church of God Myanmar”. Seng Aung and Seng Pan have done so beautifully with hearts full of serving and with energy and zeal. It is because of God’s timing, His people, and His will being fulfilled that we continue to see His Almighty hand in action.

When we think about it, how perfect was God’s timing? As always, impeccable. As we see the world falling apart around us, what happens when no more trips, perhaps even communication to Myanmar becomes more difficult. Myanmar is as it was before, full of wars and horrors! But we continue to educate, advise and teach during these difficult times. This becomes harder to accomplish with a reduction in donations because of our own problems here in the U.S. with Covid lockdowns, loss of jobs because of the shutdown of businesses, etc. It actually takes a miracle of God to get the much-needed funds over the border to the brethren but God has made a way as He takes care of His people. He continues to amaze us with how He works every little detail out as His plan and His will continues.

As I witness these unbelievable things, again, my own faith grows as I see the doors God has continually opened, the answered prayers, and very importantly, your incredible help. This comes not only in donations but your continued prayers, and especially letters and notes of encouragement. How can I relay to you what this has meant to all of us at Legacy? Please know and remember what your support has meant to God’s people in a distant land. The increased knowledge and purpose as they are now taking on more and more responsibility, in actually doing the work of God themselves. Also, being able to stand in the face of Satan’s wrath as the end times ever draw nearer when they felt helpless before. Living in such a blessed nation as the United States, it is hard for us to imagine but you all have made possible radical changes in our brethren’s lives and we thank you for being on this amazing journey with us. Obviously, it cannot be done without you and we still need your help to continue on. Thank you with all our hearts dear brethren and fellow laborers!

In Christian love,
Anita Showers and all the Legacy team
Vice President

