



## LEGACY TEACHING INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 575, Monrovia, California 91017

[www.legacyinstitute.org](http://www.legacyinstitute.org)

[legacyletters@legacyinstitute.org](mailto:legacyletters@legacyinstitute.org)



Seng Aung and Seng Pan's visit to Yangon brethren just before their trip to the Philippines.  
Red, Too Mar, Myo Zaw, David Ye Gyan, Bway Htee Paw, Lu Toi, Seng Pan, Seng Aung and Zin Muang Zaw.

Dear Beloved Brethren and Fellow Laborers,

23 July 2023 to February 2024

We started to write to you in July of 2023 and nothing more each month after that. We had a few more false starts with some added info—but we needed a miracle in the department of “TIME.” No matter what, you, our faithful brethren, have continued with notes and letters of encouragement, continued in prayers, and in donations. God is great—and so are you fellow laborers! Thank you for your love and patience.

I think many of you are overwhelmed by sudden urgent duties which must be put at the top of the priority list. We have beseeched our Father Who knows and sees all! These are not trials of martyrs, prison stories, beatings, or persecutions like those who came before us—our heroes of great faith! But we have many trials of constant intense demands! These are obstacles that come between achieving the end result in DOING God's Work as we move forward for our Father and our Brother, Jesus. This as well **stands firm our faith** for God to lead us second by second. HE is there with HIS angels in situations that are miracles! We also suffer severe sicknesses and health issues, sudden terrible accidents, and other alarming trials and tests! Leon and I do not know anyone that is not going through difficult times! We are in training to become what God has in mind for every one of us! In all that comes our way—as difficult as it may be—we 100% rely on THE ONLY ONE to guide us through each hurdle. We cry out, we DO, we hear, we wait, we hope, and we trust! The daily trials are replaced by God's mercy and grace with a suddenly new miraculous intervention as we go boldly to our **Father and Savior!**

## **MANY PLUS MORE DUTIES**

One of the things we are doing here in Asia is working weekly on Sabbath translations. When they are in English, Leon, and I go through them to simplify difficult words. Then Seng Pan, our pastor's wife in Burma, translates into Burmese. When the sermons are from Seng Aung, then Seng Pan has a very difficult task to translate them into English—not her first or second language. She speaks Burmese and Kachin. We work together until we understand the translation to be correct in grammar and in doctrine. Seng Pan is also teaching all morning at the Kyaut Tai Home School in the church compound. Additionally, she studies online at the SDA University. She will graduate in March 2025.

At the same time, I must keep up with the donation accounting via checks. I completed January through June quite some time ago and hope to get them mailed out with this Legacy Letter. Some will be e-mailed. I need to complete July through December so that everyone will have their necessary tax information before April. Please pray for me to find an assistant to help with our Legacy accounting, as well as with my other duties, which include hospital visits for Leon, Utaiwan, and others from Burma in need. You will see more of what Legacy does throughout the letter.

## **Burma's Tragic State**



Bomb blast to strategic road. This is happening everywhere! Things have gone in greater disarray and chaos all over Myanmar (Burma). We keep up with our brethren, the news, and the “Free Burma Rangers,” all of which give incredible details with pictures. It is not only bridges that are blown up, but churches, schools, and entire villages, with the various tribes all over Burma fleeing into the jungles to keep safe! The people are amazing to be able to start from scratch and build shelters and eat from the jungle. They flee and leave behind everything but what they can carry on their backs (children, grandmothers). They leave behind their gardens and rice fields. And remember it is not only Burma, but all the other wars in various places on our planet earth. We all keep praying and keep hoping that something can change for the people of Burma!

The town in which our church compound is located had their main bridge bombed; but we learned it was done by the Karen Independent Army (KIA) to prevent the Burma Army from coming in on a strategic road. Our brethren have prepared some makeshift shelters around their homes. This all happened while our pastor and his wife were in the Philippines. They faithfully knew God would take care of their family and their brethren. Valuable items like computers are now being kept safe. We have sent funds to our members in need of food supplies should the roads be shut down and unsafe for travel again. Mainly this provides rice and staples such as salt, oil, etc.

Then, just this last week of January, the Burmese attacked another small town of our brethren in the far north. Some fled to a bigger city; but all are back home now and prayers have been answered! All is safe again . . . for a while. We do not give names to protect all citizens.

## **Teeka Glasgow, CEM, and BTW! Legacy Letter Miraculously Helped with Snail Mail**

We have some very exciting news for Legacy! Our longtime friend and editor of our Legacy letters, Teeka Glasgow, was with her three close girlfriends sharing prayer requests when she mentioned the process of getting out our letter. (She and her husband, Rich, had just volunteered and experienced doing this for the first time.)

So often in the last 24 years, Leon and I would just pray through the whole process until completed. It seems that all who have helped us have gone through the same experience. In the end, God gets it out! It is a spiritual warfare we go through each time. Even our dear niece Dana and her husband, Jacob Foos, volunteered to help us one time in a great emergency. They went through the same difficult issues that come with getting out God's WORK—even so small as we are!

It turned out that one of Teeka's friends is Linda Benton, who works for Christian Educational Ministry (CEM) / Born to Win (BTW). Long ago, Leon and I visited one of their congregations in Texas.



L to R: Brenda Ross (deceased), Linda Benton, Barbara Payne, Toni Coffee, and Teeka Glasgow.

Linda got back to Teeka after the blessed and kind approval of Mr. Blake Silverstein, who runs CEM/BTW. They are providing volunteer labor and donating postage! The printing will be at cost with no mark up and they are allowing Linda the time to do this with their manpower to get the Legacy letter printed and mailed.

In addition, Linda compiled (from Legacy's website) a page for their July, 2023, monthly magazine as an introduction of Legacy to their readers: "Legacy Teaching Institute--*Living and Preaching the Gospel in Thailand and Burma.*" (The CEM/BTW website is: [borntowin.net](http://borntowin.net).) What a godsend and another miraculous intervention! THANKS BE TO GOD AGAIN!

## **Surprise Visit from Josiah Ko's family, and friends Pokru Sri**

Josiah Ko and his precious wife, Ku Shee, with their baby girl, Adira, surprised us one day. His father was Thaw Thi Ko, who sadly died a few years ago. His mother is Esther. We have known them since the kids were all little. We had not seen any of them for so many years so this was a very special occasion. Soon they will be expecting baby number two. We hope that in the future we will have some help from his family. Currently, it's not possible. May God be our guide always!





Leon center: Ku Shee and baby left, Josiah Ko on the right. Special friends surround.

### **Toowah Lay Beh's Family Visit**

Toowah Lay Bey, his wife, Dah Bleh, along with their adorable daughter, Aksah, had already visited us in January and again in July. Leon and I were able to help a bit with their immigration papers. Aksah is not at all shy, can tell you long stories, and is good in Bible memory too! Leon and I have known Toowah since he was about ten years old. He was living with his uncle Davidson Lay Beh's family in Mae Sot. Toowah is the grandson of Saw Lay Bey. We



Leon Sexton, Aksah (in Gloria's arms), Toowah and Dah Bleh,

older brethren will remember that he was the first to bring God's truth to Burma in the delta region. Toowah was already showing signs of faith long ago as he kept God's way rather than the way of the world. When tests were administered on Sabbaths, he was very young, did NOT waiver, and was blessed with top scores! Now he is again with his family doing God's work in Mae Sot for the Living Church of God. It is always a joy to see him. He and his family continue faithfully in God's way of life as leaders!

### **Special Visit from David and Denise Dobson and Seng Aung and Seng Pan**

In the last week of August, Leon and I had the pleasure of a very extraordinary visit to Chiang Mai, with David and Denise Dobson, our dear long-time friends (who live in the state of Alaska) and Seng Aung and Seng Pan (from Burma). Foreigners, unless a privileged case, are **not** allowed into Burma; but Burmese can freely leave for 14 days. It's not as easy as you might think. Each must carry "show money" of 20,000 Baht (over U.S. \$580) as they come into Thailand. Many custom officials have extorted countless Baht as they enter Thailand; but many prayers were answered for Seng Aung and Seng Pan as they went through without even a question!



At our first meeting in Chiang Mai. L to R: Seng Aung, David and Denise Dobson, Seng Pan, and Leon Sexton.

Legacy must plan and look to the future, should some of us older folks not be living into our 100's! Both the Dobsons and the Szymkowiaks, from United Church of God (UCG), have supported us here in Thailand for a long time with visits, many sermons, and so much more over the past years. Leon continues, but is not the same, as health issues continue. Even since before the Feast of Tabernacles, Mr. Vince has had some heart problems and has had to slow down. Please pray for both Leon and Mr. Vince. Leon still writes short messages of "meat" the best he can, but not at all like before. God gives him the strength to powerfully preach the sermons from Mr. David, Mr. Vince, and Gum Seng Aung. Leon expounds on the sermons each Sabbath with gusto. Health issues are hardly noticeable when he gives a sermon. Thanks be to God!



After services when Zooming with our Burma brethren.  
L to R: Seng Aung, David Dobson, Leon and Gloria Sexton,  
Denise Dobson, Seng Pan

Church brethren in the Work of God across borders when possible. The Church of God in Burma is also not becoming UCG, though UCG does have a congregation in the south of Burma. Leon and I are very grateful for the unity and continued training in doctrine that is given to our Asian pastor and leader, Seng Aung, in Burma from the United Church of God.

Seng Aung and Seng Pan stayed in our home for three more days, which was only two weeks prior to the Fall Festivals. Our schedule was packed FULL, as we all moved forward in seeking first the Kingdom of God!

During our visit with David, Denise, Seng Aung, and Seng Pan, we together concentrated on cooperation with regard to Legacy and UCG. Legacy wants to prepare for continued doctrinal training for our young pastor Seng Aung (39) and his wife, Seng Pan (37). UCG has once again approved this second visit to the Philippines (by Rick Shabi, president; Darris McNeely, educational services; and Steve Myers, ministerial services). The Manila Leadership Conference (MLC) was held in the last week of December 2023. The last time was before Covid in 2019. We are thankful that UCG has funded this opportunity.

Legacy is not becoming a part of UCG, but we continue to work in unity among





Group photo of UCG's Manila Leadership Conference in the Philippines.

As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, there is a plan for Seng Aung's return to Chiang Mai to perform the wedding ceremony of Stal Lin Shwe and May Tin Kyin on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. God-so-will, Seng Aung is coming with his wife, Seng Pan, and their two younger children Naw Naw (9) and Jar Seng Ing (4). We are all so excited, as you might imagine! Blessing, their eldest (14), is at Sunshine School in Thailand and we will miss not seeing him, since he cannot leave the school!

### **Fall Holy Days in Chiang Mai and Burma**

The fall Holy Days are the highlight and hope for our future! We Zoomed with all our brethren in Burma and Thailand on the high days! Oh, how we miss going to Burma to be with our brethren face to face! We will not send pics because they are so much the same each time and wanted to share other things happening here in Thailand.

### **The Royal Khon**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of November, Leon and I, along with our son, Bronson and his wife, Chanisa (Jib), were again invited to the Royal Khon performance. I originally decided *not* to go because I was leaving for the U.S. four days later (a six-day round trip) to bring my 98-year-old mother to Thailand. But this year we were not invited by the Queen Mother alone, but also, for the first time, by the Lord Chamberlain of the King His Majesty Maha Vajiralongkorn. So, I accepted the honor. At the same time, we were rushing back to Chiang Mai to see our granddaughter, Manorah, in her own ballet performance. But our flight was delayed and we missed the entire concert.



After the Khon L to R: Chanisa Sexton, brother and daughter of Thanphuying Chatkeo Nanthapivat (our lady in waiting friend we had not seen in a very long time; between Leon and Gloria), and Bronson Sexton. TPY Chatkeo cares for Her Majesty Queen Sirikit the Queen Mother.

Here is what Leon wrote:

**Invitation to Khon** — What do you do when the king invites you and your family to the GALA KHON FESTIVAL—the Gala Khon Festival presented by the Silipacheep Foundation of Her Majesty the Queen Mother (formerly, the consort of King Bhumibol). YOU GO!! We received this invitation to Bangkok, and we were only one hour's flight away so, of course, we went. The Khon is an ancient stage play that was only performed in the palace so only royals and their very special retainers were present to see it. Her Majesty Queen Sirikit took the few men who understood the ancient Khon and had them teach a few others the art form and recreated the Khon stage play from scratch. It was a great honor to be invited, especially by the king's Lord Chamberlain himself. It was truly a gala event and many of our old friends were there. THUMBS UP for Queen Sirikit!

### Six-day Round Trip to the U.S.A.

I said that I would never leave Leon. But for six days things worked out with Bronson, Jib, and our grandkids to care for Leon's needs. The very following morning after my late arrival to the U.S. I visited our Legacy accountant, Anthony Apodaca, whose office is a few minutes from my sister, Eve's, home. On this visit we were quite animated in discussing the end times and what tragedy is happening in our world today. He told me that he had asked his pastor about the seventh day Sabbath, which he was reading in his Bible. We had quite a passionate and positive discussion. Many are deeply thinking during these difficult times we have never seen like this before. Do we even recognize the world 10 years ago? We never discussed accounting! He has helped us kindly for many years and been very patient with the issues that come up internationally.

My sister also made an appointment with our personal bank to straighten out some overseas difficulties. Only workers in foreign countries will understand that! I could not get into our online account for three months due to heightened security issues. Thailand is stated to always be at risk. Phone calls take hours with many transfers and holds during odd international hours just to straighten out difficulties. The bank would not accept e-mail security codes or Thai phone numbers which do not match up with U.S. numbers. Finally, all got solved and is running well.

The only Sabbath in the U.S. was arranged by another long-time friend, Robin Webber, who was in our class at Imperial School since 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I was most grateful that he was able to get me a ride to church with friends I had not seen since our college days over 50 years ago. That was Jim Butler and his wife, Beverly (formerly Peace). What a pleasant surprise that was; and how thankful I was for their help. By then, I was at mom's in Oceanside. My tablet internet was in and out the entire time and communication was difficult in traveling all the different regional zones.

We had been packing up my mother's entire household—WHEW! On Sabbath I was at rest! Another dear friend, Ann Vierra, met me at church and took me back to Oceanside; but the house was now empty, so we drove to Pasadena. How often Leon and I reminisce about Herb Vierra, Ann's husband, who was on our Legacy board for years.



L to R: Dah, Gloria Sexton, and Ruth Jebens



My dear mother, Ruth Jebens, who I call “Mammie,” is here to stay in Thailand. She is most happy to be here with her daughter, grandson, and grandchildren—so much family all around her at 98 years old. This whole move was continually guided by God in *every* aspect and was a miracle of miracles! Nay Bloo Htoo, who we call “Dah” (means youngest daughter in the Karen’ language), is with my mother 24/7 and has the Sabbath off!

Dah is also a Legacy graduate. She went back to Burma to finish high school. Then she went on to complete two-year certificates in Nurses Aid and Pharmacy, which helps her now with care for my mom. She also has two more years of online SDA University. She speaks lovely English and Thai. Of course, she speaks Karen, Burmese, and even Kachin.

### **Ryan Foster Family Visit**



Leon speaking on Sabbath with L to R on front row: Ryan Foster, Mark, Maleewan, Martha, and Lawan.

Ryan Foster was one of our very first Legacy teachers in Thailand. He was here for three years. He was teaching one young student named Lawan, who was very special to him; and over time and after graduation, he married her. One thing that stood out that we will not forget is that while getting to know and spending time with her, they both set an incredible example for all—that many today would do good to follow. They kept their respectful distance and were in control of their emotions. Today they have three precious children, and they all live near Mae Sot, Thailand. They are with the Church of God Worldwide Association. Their December visit was a special highlight for us on Sabbath. We already look forward to the next time.

### **Gum Ja and Seng Mai Visit**

Seng Mai is the sister of our pastor, Seng Aung. She also brought her mother, Khawn Hfang, whom Leon and I had not seen for many years. They are of the Kachin tribe. Seng Mai was also a Legacy student who graduated in 2009 and is now married to Gum Ja. You might remember their wedding pics in our December, 2021, Legacy Letter. They brought their baby, Sut Seng Hpring. The purpose of their trip was to get medical health check-ups. The news of good health was pleasant and God-blessed, since the diagnosis in Burma was not so good. Without health, life is very challenging. Gum Ja is in the emerald trade. They live in the Jade Mine area.





Leon with Sut Seng Hpring.



Gum Ja with Seng Mai.



Hkawn Hpong, grandbaby and Ruth Jebens.

### Update on Utaiwan Han



Utaiwan Han

Much is happening regarding Utai. In our May Legacy letter, we requested help with a small house for Utai. We have received US \$1,400 in response to our request in May. Thank you, brethren! We will continue to save until we have enough, and it will still be a *surprise!* Utai is also retiring at the end of April, right after the Days of Unleavened Bread. She is 73 years old and lives five minutes by car, but we prefer to have her right next to us. With rheumatoid arthritis, she can do less and less. We will still

see her every Sabbath and in between; and we will continue to care for her needs, medical and otherwise. Please pray for a possible bunion surgery on her right foot in May. It is quite painful with every step. She recently had five teeth pulled and will have her partial adjusted after healing.

The good news is that she is not getting worse per her last hospital blood test. Leon's doctor has prescribed CBD oil, and she takes only her heart medication. This is truly amazing.

Thank you, Beloved Brethren and Fellow Laborers,

In Christ,

Leon and Gloria

***Looking unto Jesus  
the author and finisher of our faith;  
who for the JOY that was set before him  
ENDURED the cross,  
DESPISING the shame,  
and is set down at the right hand  
of the throne of God.  
(Hebrews 12:2, KJV)***