



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Chiangmai, Thailand

January 26, 2000

Dear Friends,

It feels funny typing the year 2000. I remember when I was a young child how far away the year 2000 seemed. It was as if it was a “Star Trek” star-date. Yet, here it is.

Many of us never thought we would ever see the year 2000 in our lifetimes. We looked forward to Jesus Christ returning in 1972 or 1984 or some other date. Yes, some of us did make the mistake of setting dates. We read the words of Christ in the bible that only the Father knows the time of His return. But that didn't stop us from creating charts and graphs and timetables predicting the exact year of the return of the Messiah. We wanted Him to come back – and soon!

We were wrong. But does our being wrong change the fact that He is coming? Does our being overzealous stop the sands of time? Is God's timetable off-course? Has prophecy stopped marching forward?

This is a very dangerous time for the Church. Perhaps the most dangerous time of all. Not only has Jesus NOT returned when many thought He would, but we have had the shattering of the WCG organization and the continued scattering of the brethren into smaller and even smaller groups. Some now gather in groups of one family or maybe just a handful of brethren. There is not one organization of the “children” of the WCG that is not experiencing further disintegration. Some of those who chose to stick it out with WCG are disillusioned and now wonder what they should do as more and more WCG congregations go to Sunday worship.

Many of God's people are discouraged. Many search for that one organization or one man that is “doing the Work.” Some move from one organization to the other and cannot find what they are looking for. An increasing number just get disgusted with “organized religion” and drift away from God's Way of life altogether.

Therein lies the danger. The way things are in the Church today, it is easier to quit now more than ever before! The saints of God are getting WORN DOWN! In Galatians 6: 9 Paul tells us:

...let us not grow weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Many today are losing heart. Where are those people you used to attend Sabbath services and Feasts together with ten years ago? Where are your brethren you served with, picnicked with and shared spiritual trials and triumphs with over the years? Could you find them today if you tried? More and more they just disappear from Sabbath seats and from our lives.

I am in Thailand writing this letter to you. Literally scores of Ambassador student volunteers served in projects in this country. I am ashamed to say that I probably can count on both hands those whose whereabouts I know. Out of sight – out of mind. Yet the clock of bible prophecy keeps ticking away. We are closer now to the end than ever before. Where is the spirit of anticipation and urgency we once shared?

In this part of the world I keep hearing about more and more Sabbath keeping groups. It is exciting. Recently I just found out about another group of over 300 that are Sabbatarians and keep the 14th of Nisan Passover. They live in the communist country of Laos next door to Thailand. Yet, while I get excited hearing about more and more people who could well be our spiritual brothers and sisters, I can't help but think about the many brethren I have known over the years who no longer keep the Sabbath and Passover. Isn't it tragic that while more and more in Asia come to a knowledge of the Way, so many in America and other western countries drift away from the Path of Righteousness?

I would like to ask all of you who read this to make a special effort to contact someone whom you once knew well as a brother or sister but have lost contact with. Maybe your call or letter will be the catalyst to renew a brotherhood left to decay by the problems we have had in our Church fellowships since 1986. I also ask you to pray for those who have let their contact with God go by the wayside. Please ask our Heavenly Father to stir up the remnants of the Holy Spirit in them and restore them to His Grace.

1986 was 14 years ago. 2000 is now a reality. Time marches on. God's Work is not over yet. Let's try to do all we can to fan the dying embers of our collective and individual parts in that Work. James tells us that:

The effectual, fervent prayers of a righteous man accomplish much.

God hears the prayers of His people. Let's all make a special effort to pray more often for one another.

Jack Aung Min and Family Prayer Update

For those of you who have been praying for Jack, Elizabeth and their 3 children, here is a brief update. Jack has recovered well from his appendix operation but there still is no word on whether the UN will grant his family the refugee status they need to immigrate to America. Recent events in Thailand haven't helped the situation at all. Monday ten armed terrorists from a radical Karen group calling themselves "God's Army" took over a hospital in western Thailand and held all the patients hostage with machine guns and grenades. In the early morning hours of the next day, Thai commandos stormed the hospital and killed all the terrorists. No hospital patients were hurt.

Most Karen people do not support the politics and tactics of this radical group. But these radicals get the press and that press reflects very badly on all the Karen minorities who live as refugees in Thailand. The Thais are very upset about this incident and are talking about changing their policy toward the Karen refugees. This will directly affect Jack's family as well as our other Karen brethren. We must pray that God continues to protect ALL of the Karen brethren living as refugees in Thailand.

Anyone wishing to write words of encouragement to our Karen brothers and sisters can send letters to:

Karen Brethren, C/O Legacy Institute, PO Box 5, Phrakanong, Bangkok, 10110, Thailand

FOT Thailand 2000 Itinerary

Plans are being finalized for the Feast of Tabernacles this fall in Thailand. Whether you have been to Thailand for the Feast before or not, we have been able to put together an itinerary all will appreciate. Legacy Institute is sponsoring this as an open site, not affiliated with any single COG fellowship, and we are getting inquiries from brethren all over the globe wishing to attend.

The itinerary includes both Bangkok and Chiangmai (called the Rose of the North) and is filled with exciting travel and cultural adventures without neglect of the main purpose of the Feast – to gather together from all over the earth to worship The Most High God.

We will have the distinct privilege of visiting Chitralada Palace, the residence of King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit in Bangkok and seeing the Queen's Royal SUPPORT training program in action. Tourists are not permitted to visit the grounds of the King's residence, but the King is making an exception for us.

Queen Sirikit's Royal SUPPORT project is very important. She takes the poor, handicapped, uneducated and underprivileged people, young and old, from remote parts of the kingdom and trains them in handicraft skills so that they can earn a living. Some of these students are hilltribesmen from the remote mountains of Northern Thailand who earned their livelihood by growing opium in the past. Now they have become master goldsmiths or silversmiths instead. It is really a wonderful thing to experience.

We also will visit the King's royal agricultural station at Ang Khang, situated high in the mountains of the north, virtually on the border next to Burma. This is the same place that Queen Sirikit took Mr. Herbert Armstrong in 1984. At that time there was only a mud track leading over the pass and into the valley. She had to fly Mr. Armstrong in by helicopter to show him the fruit orchards and vegetable gardens that replaced the opium poppy the hilltribes once cultivated. We will have dinner at the modern *Ang Khang Nature Resort* and services will be held in the King's meeting hall on the royal station grounds. We will also visit an actual hill-tribe village populated by the "Musser Dam" or Black Lahu tribesmen.

There will also be site-seeing opportunities galore in Bangkok, we are planning tours by "long-tail" boat to visit the klongs (canals) and waterways of Bangkok's Chao Praya River, the River of Kings; a visit to the Grand Palace where the King has his throne hall; and Wat Po temple to see the world's largest Reclining Buddha.

We have worked hard to keep the costs down and it looks like we can keep everything under \$1900 per person – all-inclusive. This means that round trip ticket from Los Angeles – Bangkok – Los Angeles; all accommodations, food, travel and entry fees will be included.

I have spoken with several of our Karen-member families and they want to attend with us very much. We will try to work out a way for them to come to Chiangmai. Please pray that God will provide a way for them to travel safely to the Feast.

For those seriously interested in attending the Feast of Tabernacles 2000 in Thailand, please contact:

FOT Thailand 2000
C/O Travel Gallery, Inc.
1388 E. Walnut Street
Pasadena, CA 91106-1528

Toll-free: 800-858-6999
Local: 626-577-9717
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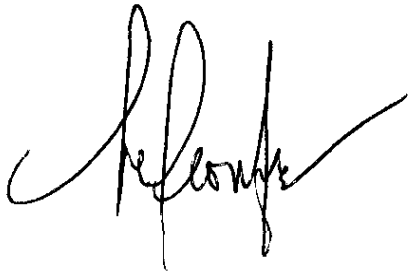
Or if you prefer, contact:
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Email: Glomar7@juno.com
Fax: USA 972-412-7886
Web: www.Legacyinstitute.org

Internationals may contact:
FAX: Bangkok 66-2-662-6724
email: gmithai@cscoms.com

Please contact us as soon as possible so that we can *lock-in the discounted rates for travel and accommodations*. If you have any particular questions you want to ask me personally or want any additional information about the THAILAND FOT 2000, please email me at: gmithai@cscoms.com or fax me in Bangkok at 66-2-662-6724.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the Feast in Thailand this year.

In Christian service,



Leon Sexton

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