



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Chiangmai, Thailand

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Dear Friends and Fellow-servants,

I am in northern Thailand in a city called Chiangmai. Chiangmai is the ancient capital of the Lannathai Kingdom and still has a moat and remnants of walls surrounding the old city. I came here to spend the Sabbath with several Karen families. Saw Jack, Elizabeth and their three children are now living in Chiangmai. They decided it was safer for them to be away from Bangkok. In Bangkok, they must endure a constant fear of being harassed or investigated because they are Karen minorities. Here in the north, there are many more hilltribe peoples, especially Karen tribes. They can "blend in" more readily. Also, it was impossible for their children to attend school in Bangkok, but here they can go to school.

Saw Jack is now quite well. Legacy Institute is sponsoring him to attend adult school to improve his English and learn more about computers. Legacy donors are also helping to send his children to school. Education is very important to our brothers and sisters in this part of the world. They can not easily receive an education for their children. Even for Thai citizens, to advance beyond the 6th grade, one must pay. Few hilltribes and peasant farmers can afford the school fees. Education is seen as a privilege here, not a right.

Two local pastors of the "Harvest Church" asked to see me today. One of them pastors a local congregation of about 60 people. He had read our Holy Day booklet in the Karen language and was interested in hearing more about the annual Holy Days. The other man is working with new refugees from Burma and also helping with drug rehabilitation among border tribal groups. He said that new refugees coming across the border into Thailand near Mae Hong Son don't even have enough clothes to wear. These people are mostly Kerenni tribes. But also Shan and Karen are among them. He said he was taking clothing and food to them next week. I gave him some Legacy funds for this purpose. He has invited me to visit the refugee camps at Mae Hong Son to see first hand the situation. I hope to do this soon.

These refugee peoples that are coming over the border from Burma (Myanmar) live in a different world. It is a world of deprivation and suffering. Most have lost everything in the ethnic warfare that is taking place all along the border. They have lost their homes, their animals and crops, and many have lost friends and family members. I have heard many tragic stories telling how the Burmese soldiers treat the ethnic hilltribes. Stories of burning of villages, torture and rape are commonplace. It is a customary practice to force the hilltribes to be unpaid porters for food and ammunition. If the soldiers discover a minefield, they will drive the villagers in front of them as human minesweepers. Life is cheap.

If the villagers choose to stay, they are used as slave laborers or are forced to grow opium. Most choose to flee further into the jungle or try to get across the border into the relative safety of Thailand. Of course, you read very little about this in the Western press. No one says too much because Burma is rich in natural resources. Governments and big corporations do not want the diplomatic boat rocked

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for fear they might get cut out of their piece of the action. Meanwhile, the people continue to suffer and die. According to estimates, there are about 200,000 ethnic hilltribe refugees in camps along the Thai border and the number grows daily. From time to time, some will try to return to their fields to harvest a crop. But most soon return to the camps.

There are numerous non-governmental organizations (NGO's) helping the refugees in the border camps. But the burden is too great. There are always shortages of food, shelter and medicine. As well, there are the ethnic army groups who recruit boys from the camps to fight the Burmese, some as young as 10 and 12 years old.

This is the life our Karen brethren have experienced. This is STILL the everyday life of their tribal brothers and sisters. What is the answer? I don't believe we will have one in this age. This story is as old as history itself. It is the never-ending saga of man's abuse of his brother. James says it best,

“From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence even of your lusts that war in your members? You lust and have not. You kill and desire to have, and cannot obtain. You fight and war, yet you have not, because you ask not. You ask and receive not because you ask amiss, that you may consume it upon your lusts. ... Do you think the scripture sayeth in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?”

What is needed is a totally NEW way under the leadership of an entirely NEW government with a NEW Spirit. Those of us who have been called in this age and given God's Holy Spirit are supposed to be representatives of, AMBASSADORS if you will, of that new government: the Kingdom of God. Our job is to demonstrate, by our Christian conduct, a NEW way of life. We are also to ANNOUNCE the coming of this new Kingdom, the only REAL answer to the bloodshed and corruption of this world. We are supposed to announce this to the WHOLE WORLD as a witness.

Are we doing our job? Are we fulfilling this role? If not, why aren't we? Does each and every one of us understand the awesome responsibility that has been placed on our shoulders? Do we understand that with responsibility comes accountability? Or are we asleep?

There is a very sobering passage in the book of Matthew that should have very important practical meaning to us all. It comes right after the parable of the foolish virgins. It is Matthew 25: 14-30. Please read this passage several times. It tells the story of a lord who must take a journey into a faraway country. This lord calls his servants together and gives them responsibility over his goods. The first one he gives five talents; the second two and the third he gives one talent. All this was distributed according to their abilities. Now a talent was a measure of gold or silver. Each was given financial resources from their Master and was expected to do something with those resources during the time that the Master was gone on his journey.

What happened?

The first two servants traded with their allotted resources and gained more. However, the third servant took what he was given and buried it in the ground. In fact, he did nothing.

After a long time the lord returned and asked for an accounting. The first two servants stepped forward. Each had taken the resources given them and gained more. They did the WORK of their lord. They were good and faithful and received a great reward. But the third servant had done

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nothing. He tried to put the BLAME for doing nothing onto his lord! But his Master placed the accountability for his do-nothing actions squarely back where it belonged - on the servant's own shoulders. The story ends with the comment in verses 29 and 30,

“For unto everyone that has shall be given and he shall have abundance. But from him that has not shall be taken away even that which he has. And cast the unprofitable servant into outer darkness. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

I find this passage a powerful warning for God's people today. When 12 year old Jesus was asked why he had missed the departure of his parents and stayed behind in the temple, he said,

“I must be about my Father's business.”

How many of us are sitting back and doing nothing? How many of us are “*waiting on God?*” Waiting for what?

Most who read this newsletter live in the richest countries in the world. We have a royal lifestyle with great wealth and luxury by comparison with most of the rest of the world. We have been given many resources, both financial and otherwise. We have freedoms citizens of other countries can only dream about. We are educated. We can publish. We can print. We can exercise our faith freely and publicly. And we have peace.

We do not have to worry about our homes being burnt by marauding soldiers and all our goods being stolen. We don't have to hide our daughters.

God has given us many “talents;” many blessings, resources and freedoms. He expects us to DO something with them to accomplish the Work of our Lord. And He expects us to do it **NOW** while we still have the financial resources and freedoms He has blessed us with. Jesus said,

“I must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day, because the night is coming when no one can work.”

Matthew chapters 24 and 25 contain prophesies of the end of the age. And they also contain powerful warnings from Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that He expects us to be “working the works” of Him who sent us. Matthew 24: 44-46 reads,

“Therefor you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect him. Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.”

Are we doing all we can to fulfill this charge to give Our Lord's household meat in due season? Or are we asleep? Are we using the resources, the talents we have been given, to preach and warn, to

announce and teach? Or have we decided that God is done with His Work here on earth? Have we decided that we are now “on the shelf?”

The Work of God is the redemption of mankind. Until the last man and last woman living in the last days of whatever last century man has upon the earth, is converted and changed to Spirit; that Work is

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not finished! Jesus earthly Work as a man was completed on the cross. He has now gone to a “far country” and given His servants resources according to their various abilities; and charged them with *CARRYING OUT HIS BUSINESS* until He returns.

My brothers and sisters, my fellow-laborers; isn't it time to wake up from whatever state of lethargy and slumber we may find ourselves in and get on urgently with the Work we have been given to do?

I pray that God grant us all the energy and devotion we once felt; the deep dedication and desire we all shared; to finish His Work here on this earth. God has given us many talents. Let's not bury them any longer.

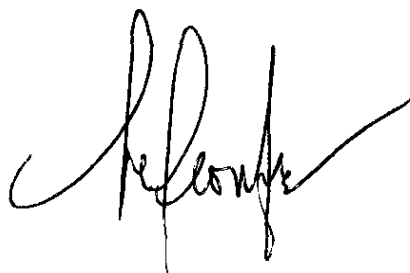
LEGACY INSTITUTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Because Gloria and I are spending most of our time now in Thailand and cannot be in Dallas to take care of the Legacy Institute mail box, it has become necessary to change our mailing address. I have asked my sister Anita Showers to help by processing all of your letters and donations. She lives in Ohio, so we must now change our mailing address. Please send your letters and donations to:

Legacy Institute, PO Box 7, Dundee, Ohio 44624 USA

Thank you all for your kind letters of support, wonderful prayers and generous donations to help Legacy Institute do it's job. Please continue to remember us in your prayers. We need it!

In service to Our Lord and Savior,



Leon Sexton

WHAT IS LEGACY INSTITUTE?

LEGACY INSTITUTE IS NOT A CHURCH. *Nor is it affiliated with any human church organization. Legacy Institute seeks to serve and help mankind in the spirit and example of our Lord Jesus Christ. His instructions were to freely give. This means without discrimination and without prejudice. Your donations to Legacy Institute are tax deductible in the USA.*

P.S.

For any questions concerning donations and other gifts to Legacy Institute, please contact Legacy Treasurer, Anita Showers. Telephone: (330) 852-2709, Fax: (330) 852-4766, Email: mshowers@wilkshire.net

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