



## LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Bangkok, Thailand

November 22, 2000

Dear Friends and Fellow servants of Jesus Christ,

The Feast in Thailand was wonderful! All 26 Karen people who wanted to come were able to make it and 24 brethren from the USA came over to join us in what turned out to be, in my humble opinion, the greatest Feast of Tabernacles ever held in Thailand!

The entire Fall Festival season was spiritually invigorating. The spiritual joy of the season began on the Day of Trumpets on the Burma border in Mae Sot. Lazum Brang, pastor of the Church of God in Kachinland traveled from his home in the distant mountains of northern Burma to be with us. Gloria and I met with 3 Karen families, Pastor Brang and Utaiwan Han for services to celebrate the meaning of the day. We were able to give Pastor Brang some used clothing (donated by a church lady from Dallas) and several Burmese language bibles (provided by donations to Legacy) to take back with him for the Kachinland brethren. We also were able to provide him with Festival assistance for the poor members who would not otherwise be able to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in Burma.

Lazum Brang pastors approximately 600 members of the Church of God scattered all over the northern and central regions of Burma. He has his work cut out for him! He must travel in a region of the world with few roads and limited transportation. In order to get to the Thai – Burma border for Trumpets, he traveled 6 days by walking, log-truck, train and bus. He had to pass through numerous military checkpoints to reach the border. He then had to repeat this arduous journey to return to his home region in the far north. Pastor Brang spoke on Trumpets about the meaning of the Day and the importance of observing God's Holy Days every year. This was quite inspiring since the Kachin have only started keeping the annual Feast Days since last year! He informed us that the Holy Spirit is now very active in the border regions along India, Tibet and China. He told us he knows this is true because he now is receiving over 100 visit requests each month from people living in these areas who are starved for the Truth of the bible. He has started a bible school for young people from the border regions to teach them the bible truth so they can help evangelize in their home areas. He taught 50 new students in his bamboo house (not all at once) during the summer monsoon season. But his house is very poor and the thatch on the roof needs repair. The students traveled many days to reach Brang's house. During lessons they had to move around to avoid the many leaks in the roof! But the truth of God's Word is a powerful magnet to these young men and women. They want to learn from the bible and take the Truth back to their own people.

At the present time, regular services are held only in Brang's hometown of Na Mawn, Kachinland. He stays in contact with those being called by God mainly through letters. He travels constantly during the time when the roads are passable visiting scattered brethren and teaching new people. During the monsoon season he holds bible classes in his home. He now has land and funds to build a school building which were provided by donations from foreign brethren, but the project had to be put on hold for now

because of persecution from local “Christian” churches who do not want him teaching God’s Truth! We ask you all to pray fervently that the spreading of God’s Word in this area of the world not be hindered by Satan and his human henchmen.

I have only just received a letter from Pastor Brang today. I want to pass it along to all of you:

*Dear Leon Sexton and God's ministers,*

*Greetings to you from Kachinland. On October 24, 2000 I left my home for Bhamo side, China border to see the scattered church members. It is three days journey by vehicle, train and ship. I arrived there on October 27<sup>th</sup>, and was able to meet with the faithful brethren who keep the true Sabbath of God.*

*On October 28<sup>th</sup>, Sabbath day, we all together gathered at a member’s house, and we worshiped there very happily. Among the Sabbath Keepers, one lady is the remnant church member of the Church of God, and she keeps God’s Holy Days herself regularly. Until now she keeps many books of Herbert W. Armstrong, the Plain Truth magazines, the issue of 1966, 1977, 1978 etc.*

*When I arrived there, they all accepted me very warmly and hospitably. Every night I taught them about the Bible Truths. Some Sabbath-Keepers are belonged to the Seventh-day Adventists. But, they all accept the Bible Truths, the annual Holy Days, and they all want to be Church of God members. Among them, three families are very poor. Now they are urgently needing a compound for worship services.*

*The day after tomorrow, I will go and see them again. Because, in the China border areas there are many, many people who are very interesting to study the Bible Truths. I will call one young woman from there to my home, and I will teach her Bible Lessons for two months. The coming Summer time many, many educated young people from there, will come to my bamboo house for Bible Studies.*

*I urgently need \$500 US dollars for a new church compound in the China border; and for the poor brethren those who are faithful to God. Because, some families are getting trouble for their daily foods. And I always need your special prayers for these new projects.*

*May God bless all of you and your ministries there around the world abundantly.  
Your fellow servant in the precious services of Jesus Christ,  
Pastor Lazum Brang – Frontier Evangelist  
CHURCH OF GOD IN KACHINLAND.*

Pastor Brang also sent me an appeal for 2 young Americans to come to Burma as “volunteers for the new vast mission fields” in Kachinland. Please pray that God provides laborers for the harvest as Lazum Brang is only one man and travel to these areas is difficult, even for him.

Since the Feast of Trumpets, Utaiwan Han has been with us here in Bangkok. After 8 months of filling out an innumerable amount of forms, providing miscellaneous U.S. documents, certification of documents and certification of translation of documents, much travel to and from Rayong – Bangkok – Khon Khaen ... and lots of other red tape in addition to being interviewed over and over again; we finally have a new Thai I.D. Card, new legal Thai house papers and a new Thai Passport. That was the easy part. The next step will need many heartfelt prayers. The hard part will be getting her Green Card reinstated by the U.S. Embassy. Utaiwan is very homesick, so we also request your prayers to give her strength and patient endurance.

After Trumpets, Gloria and I traveled to Chiangmai for Atonement. We observed this day with Jack Aungmin, his family, Mg Mg Cho and his wife, and Utaiwan Han. Legacy Institute is sponsoring Jack’s computer education so that he can help prepare more booklets in the Karen and Burmese

languages. Northern Thailand is the home of over 500,000 Karen people and over 150,000 Karen refugees who have fled Burma. Many of these speak only Karen. There are other tribes living in this mountainous region who do not read Karen, but can read Burmese. Our Karen brethren believe that their people need God's truth and are excited about the opportunity to spread the Word of God to their people in their own languages. They have already published a booklet on the Holy Days in Karen language and are currently translating this into Burmese. They are also working on several other booklets and are starting translation of a Bible Correspondence Course in Karen and Burmese. The few brethren in Chiang Mai have now started a "house church" in Jack's home to gather for the Sabbath. Please pray that God will add to this small flock.

Now news about the first Feast of Tabernacles held in Thailand in 6 years. There were 3 main purposes for holding the Feast in Thailand this year. First, we wanted to provide the Karen brethren with a Feast site where they could attend. The Karen are refugees. They have no citizenship. They cannot leave Thailand and, even if they wanted to, they could not afford a trip to another country for the Feast. Second, the Feast site in Thailand also provided a chance for a few adventurers from the United States to learn more about Thailand and its exotic culture. And lastly, God has given His Church a long-standing relationship with Thailand and its king and queen.

God doesn't do anything without a good reason. There is ALWAYS a reason, even if we can't yet see what it is. I feel that it would be wrong to let this friendship that took years to develop just go down the drain. When God gives us something good, we should maintain and nurture what he has given. In this case, it is an over 30-year friendship with a country, its people and its royal family. The Feast of Tabernacles in Thailand provided an opportunity to continue that friendship, even if only in a small way.

The main purpose of any Feast site is to present ourselves before the Almighty God and worship Him. For this purpose, we kept the traditional format of a service every day and two services on the Holy Days. When not attending church services, we were able to see much of the local sites and learn about Thailand and its culture. Thailand Feast goers experienced the usual sites including temples, canals and palaces, but were also given the unique privilege of seeing some things that no tourists and few Thais ever see.

King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit gave us special permission to visit Chakri throne hall in the Grand Palace, which is off-limits to tourists and guarded by Royal Guards with bayoneted rifles. Sitting on his gilded throne, the king performs many ceremonial functions and receives the credentials of ambassadors. This magnificent throne hall is also used to hold state banquets for visiting heads of state. It was humorous to see the looks on the faces of foreign tourists and Thais alike when the guards stepped aside to allow our little group to enter the throne hall. Of course, when others tried to follow they were immediately blocked by bayonets!

We also received a special invitation to visit Chitralada Villa, the king and queen's palace in Bangkok. Here we toured the workshops of the Queen's Royal Support Foundation. Queen Sirikit originally started this project to help the poor learn skills to supplement their incomes. She started re-introducing traditional crafts that were being lost to modernization and began teaching the poor farmers and hill tribes the skills needed to produce these crafts.

When Queen Sirikit visited Pasadena in 1985, it was miraculous to see the beautiful silks, fine basketry and gold and silver art pieces that were produced by once unskilled hands. You should see what they are doing now! During our visit to the palace, the queen was getting gifts ready for her state visit to China. We got to see many beautiful gold and silver hand crafted art pieces being readied as gifts and for

display during the trip. The queen's SUPPORT project was supported by Ambassador Foundation for many years from its beginning up until the death of Herbert W. Armstrong, and even a few years after. Now there are SUPPORT schools scattered all over Thailand. Hundreds of poor, handicapped and underprivileged are learning the trades of master craftsmen and earning a living; and many of you who receive the Legacy Newsletter helped make it happen!

The Royal SUPPORT Foundation project demonstrates what can be achieved when leaders follow God's immutable Laws of righteous leadership. God's Laws are universal and He is just. People and even nations receive the blessings of following these Laws (even when they sometimes don't know the Lawgiver!)

We were also privileged to visit the king's Ang Khang Agriculture Station high in the mountains on the Burma border. This was where the Work of God's involvement with the King of Thailand began. Ang Khang is the location for the very first project that King Bhumibol and Mr. Armstrong joined forces on. The idea was to educate opium producing hill tribes to replace the growing of opium with cash crops such as apricots, coffee and strawberries. This provided a better standard of living and stopped the production of opium for the drug trade.

There are gainsayers who claim Mr. Armstrong "wasted" God's money on projects such as these. Smug armchair critics would dare claim that he just threw it down a rat hole or used it to "buy his meetings" with heads of state, etc. But Thailand's Feast goers, with their very own eyes, saw the fruits of what Mr. Armstrong and the king began over 30 years ago. We even ate the organic fruits and vegetables now grown at the station where thousands of opium poppies once waved in the cool mountain breezes. Through subsequent projects modeled after this very first one, the king managed to eliminate almost 100% of opium production in Thailand! And the lives of the border hill tribesmen and their families are changed forever. I am humbled and awe-struck that God allowed me to participate through my tithes and offerings in the accomplishment of this wonderful and very successful project.

As I said at the beginning of my letter, this was the first Feast held in Thailand in 6 years. Most of the Karen who attended had never attended a Feast before! We also baptized 2 new people into the Body of Christ – Samya and Ma Oo.

Leaving each other to go back to homes many thousands of miles apart was, indeed, a sad occasion. Here is a letter we just received from Juliana and Samya. Both had never been to a Feast of Tabernacles before:

*Dear Gloria and Leon Sexton,*

*Thank you very much for your good arrangement for us during the feast of tabernacle. We enjoy it very much and by practice we know more about the meaning of the feast. Thank you for take care of us all the time. My children were very happy when playing with their cousins. Now they miss each other a lot. Now my children go back to their school again for the second term in this year. The first term both if them pass their examination very well. Ko Kler Htoo got number 5 out of 35 student in his class and Ni Ni Poe got number 3 out of 30. So they were very please. We always teach them that you have to try hard because Pee (Grandma Gloria) and Pu (Grandpa) Leon help you. We go back to work again. Now it is getting cold and we all get common cold now because the season are changing. Ma Oo and her husband are well. She start to pregnant now. She is very happy and the husband too. Thank you for guide and take care of us.*

*Juliana & Samya*

Please remember one thing. If you, our readers, would not be donating to Legacy Institute, these Karen refugee brothers and sisters would not have had a Feast of Tabernacles and two new brethren would not have been baptized. It is because of your generous support that we were able to get the FOT started in Thailand once again. Legacy's work in this part of the world is bearing more and more fruit.

Legacy Institute also sponsored a Feast of Tabernacles site in southern India for over 25 scattered brethren who observed the Feast in Pondyichery. We sent them hymnal tapes, sermon tapes and financial support for hall rental. Then they too, could share in God's Holy Festivals. It doesn't take a lot. You would be surprised what a few "widow's mites" can accomplish in Asia!

So, this year through your kind and gracious support, Legacy Institute helped sponsor 3 Feast of Tabernacles sites; one in Thailand, one in Kachinland and one in India. We look forward to sponsoring more next year. With all your prayers and support, we will!

### **Refugee Clothing Drive**

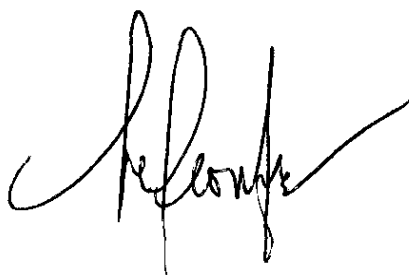
There are 150,000 refugees living in camps along the Burma border. More arrive every day to escape the Burmese army. They cross the border with very little. Many do not have enough clothing or blankets and the cold season has begun. Legacy Institute has initiated a used clothing drive to gather warm clothing, blankets, etc. to send to Thailand for the Karen and Karenni refugees. The Thai Army has agreed to distribute the clothing and blankets that we send to Thailand. If you have any used clothing or blankets you would like to donate, please contact:

Liz McAlister  
10712 Mt. Gleason Ave.  
Tujunga, CA 91042

Or email us at [Glomar7@juno.com](mailto:Glomar7@juno.com). It is now the cool season in SE Asia and the mountains get cold at night. We appreciate your concern.

That is all for now. I will write more soon. The Thanksgiving season for Americans is upon us. Let's all remember WHO is responsible for our blessings, and ALWAYS remember those who are less fortunate.

In service to Our Faithful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,



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.*