



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Bangkok, Thailand

August 31, 2001

Dear Fellow-laborers,

I am writing you from Bangkok once again after an all too brief visit to Dallas. Now we have only a few short weeks and the Feast of Tabernacles will be here!

Do we really appreciate this wonderful gift God has given us? The revelation of His plan of redemption for the whole world is outlined in the Annual Holy Days we observe each year. Many millions of people live and die every year void of the knowledge of whom they are, why they were born and where they are going. We have this knowledge. God gave it to us. It is the most precious knowledge anyone could have at any time. The entire Gospel message Jesus preached is outlined by the Annual Holy Days. From Passover to the Last Great Day, we rehearse, each and every year, the path of ultimate destiny of mankind. God gave us a wondrous and awesome gift. But do we really appreciate the precious Truth of this revelation, or do we sometimes take it for granted?

We need to examine ourselves with this question. Are we aware that there are brethren scattered around the world who will not be observing the fall Holy Days with the rest of us? It is not because they do not want to. It is because they have nowhere to go! Can you imagine wanting to go to the Feast, but not having any place to go?

America does not have this problem. We have just the opposite. We have so many Feast of Tabernacles sites available; one needs a program just to keep track of them! I remember attending a Feast in Branson, Missouri a number of years ago. There were 5 different COG groups keeping the Feast in or near the same town. This is not unusual today. Americans have no problem finding some place to go. Add to this the foreign sites one can choose from, and we find a veritable shopping mall of Feast sites!

Well, this is just not the case in some third world areas. Some must travel many hundreds of miles to keep the Feast. That is, if they can afford the transportation and cost of stay. Others just plain have no place to go! I was recently told by a Sri Lankan member that the island nation of ***Sri Lanka hasn't had a Feast of Tabernacles in 10 years!*** This is ludicrous. *On one end of the globe we have so many Feast sites that no one can keep track of them. On the other side of the world, the brethren have no place to go!*

Legacy Institute is doing something about this. We will try to provide Feast sites for as many brethren in scattered areas of the world as we have resources. Why? Because gathering together for the Fall Feast is very important to people who may have nothing else. Maybe they have no regular Sabbath

services. Maybe there are no COG congregations near them. Maybe they do not have the resources to travel to another country to attend the Feast. Well, in that case, the mountain must go to them. Every church member in the world needs to attend the Feast of Tabernacles. The Feast gives them a precious and important gift. The Feast gives them *hope!*

### **Legacy Institute sponsored Feast of Tabernacles sites for 2001**

Plans for Legacy Institute-sponsored Feast of Tabernacles sites are falling into place. This year we will help sponsor 4 Feast sites. The first one is in Chiangmai, **Thailand** for the Karen church members. The second will be held in Na Mawn, **Burma** for the Kachin brethren. We are helping sponsor a third Feast site in Madras, **India** for Tamil brethren and also a fourth in **Angola** for our Angolan brethren.

Plans are also in the works for a fifth site in **Sri Lanka in 2002.**

All this is made possible because you, our fellow-laborers in the Lord, care enough to help these scattered brethren join with the rest of us in observing this most important time. May the Great God bless you all for your kindness and generosity.

### **Leadership Training School**

Now I want to tell you about an idea I have had for some time now. It is an idea born out of necessity. When Herbert W. Armstrong began his evangelizing efforts in Oregon, he quickly realized he couldn't do it alone. He soon discovered that he could not travel around the countryside, do evangelistic campaigns, raise up churches and then take care of them all by himself. He needed help. This necessity is what sparked the idea of Ambassador College. The fundamental purpose of Ambassador College was to train young men and women for the Work of God.

The same situation is happening here in Asia, particularly in Burma. Lazum Brang travels over 9 months out of the year all over Burma on evangelistic tours. These travels are arduous and sometimes dangerous. In his last letter, he told me that he miraculously avoided a train wreck in northern Burma that killed over 400 people. He was delayed in getting to Mandalay and missed catching the No. 41 train north to Kachinland. That night, this same train plunged into a swollen stream because flooding washed away the bridge.

There are pockets of true believers cropping up all over northern Burma. Some are in and around his home area of the Lake Indawgyi region. Others are near Myitkyina, the capital of Kachinland. There are groups in the Chin Hills next to India. There is a small group up on the Tibetan border. The China border region has become very active recently and he is getting many visit requests from there. Pastor Brang also travels to Mandalay, Rangoon and even the delta region south of Rangoon to visit scattered brethren and counsel those who are being called. He has been invited to bring the True Gospel message to Assam in India, Yunan in southern China and even Laos. Lazum Brang needs help and he knows it.

He is trying to build a school in his hometown to teach the Bible to eager young people interested in doing God's Work. He intends to spend 3 months of the rainy season teaching at this school because travel is difficult at that time. But building a school building in Burma is more difficult than it sounds. The problem is not lack of funds. Faithful brethren have already donated enough funds to build the

school. There are other problems. For instance, each teakwood beam must be hand-hewn with hand tools. There is no sawmill near his area. Cement for the foundation has to be purchased in Mandalay and shipped north. This cement was purchased several months ago, but still hasn't reached Na Mawn because the roads are washed out. Added to this is the resistance from Baptist and Catholic leaders in the area who do not want him to build a church school. Last year they lobbied the town authorities to forbid the building of any new church buildings except those built by the Catholics or Baptists!

Lazum Brang asked me if I could find several people from the West willing to teach at his school. While I think I could find some willing to teach in Burma, there are major problems with this idea, not least of which is *it is against the law for a westerner to teach religion in Burma!* Getting a visa beyond one month is difficult. Because of a lack of communications, people would be cut off from the outside world. And, most important are the health issues. If someone got very ill, it would take them at least 12 –24 hours to get to a hospital from Na Mawn. That is, if the train tracks were not washed out!

So this leads to our latest and perhaps most important Legacy project. Why not start a school in *northern Thailand* training young people for the Gospel Work as well as teaching them a vocation to earn a living? Thai law permits teaching of Christianity. Visas are readily obtainable. The infrastructure of roads, communications and hospitals are very modern. And we have the added advantage of being well known to the leadership of the country. This Leadership Training School would teach young people in their late teens and early twenties God's Word and English language based skills like computer, writing and composition, and office training. Later we could add organic farming, small engine repair, sewing, weaving and other vocational skills to the curriculum.

Young people could attend from Burma, northern Thailand, China, Laos and even India or Sri Lanka. After one or two years, they could return to their own countries, find employment and help evangelize or teach others. Students who come from Burma could then return and help teach at Pastor Brang's school.

Now this idea is a very ambitious undertaking. But it is not like we haven't done it before. Fortunately, we have the former Waterfield Institute in Sri Lanka as a model. Waterfield no longer exists. But at its peak, this Ambassador Foundation sponsored institution was turning out young Sri Lankan graduates with good English language based computer and office skills by the hundreds. And each and every one of them had the added advantage of being trained according to the highest standards of academics, social decorum and ethical conduct.

Waterfield was a true success story. And God gets all the credit. The Holy Spirit is a powerful influence on young people, whether they are Hindu, Muslim, Christian or Buddhist. Waterfield achieved the highest reputation in Sri Lanka and is still talked about with affection and a sad longing for what was lost.

The Thailand school will be patterned after Waterfield Institute, but with one big difference; we will teach Bible Courses as part of the curriculum. God's True Way of Life was demonstrated by the personal examples of the student teachers we sent over, but Bible was not taught at Waterfield.

Again, the foundational purpose of this new school will be to prepare young people for work in the Fields of God. We will also teach them English language based vocational skills so that they can better earn a living. One of the foundational principals of Legacy Institute is to encourage self-

sufficiency. Paul sometimes had to make tents for his daily bread. We will prepare young people to become “fishers of men” *and* teach them to catch fish for their daily living.

We have much to prepare. We need native English speaking volunteers to teach English, computers, etc. We need to find a location for the school (northern Thailand is geographically ideal). We need computers, desks and books, etc. And, most of all, we need strong faith and trust in the direction and leadership of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

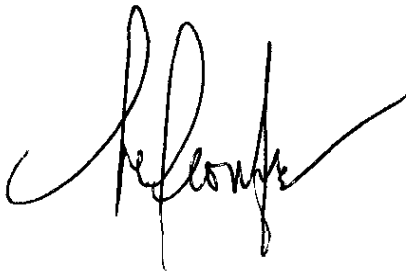
Trying to see into the future is like trying to look through a foggy window. We are not sure exactly how all this will be accomplished or exactly where the Holy Spirit will lead, but we are encouraged by the knowledge of two things: 1) God is with us, and 2) the school is necessary to increase God’s Work in Asia. So, we are forging ahead and making plans for the future.

We would appreciate all of you praying for God’s inspiration, guidance and blessings on our efforts to help get the gospel message out to remote areas never reached before.

May God grant you all a wonderful and spiritually invigorating Fall Feast Season!

Sincerely,

In service to Our Lord Jesus Christ,



Leon Sexton

**WHAT IS LEGACY INSTITUTE?**

*LEGACY INSTITUTE is not 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. Some of you have asked for an update regarding Dina Hibbs. Please continue to urgently pray for her and her family. They have recently been told that her whole body is full of cancer.

P.S.S. Also, my wife Gloria and I request urgent prayers from all of you for her father, Mr. Werner Jebens. He just recently received a doctor’s report that diagnosed prostate cancer and that it is spreading outside the prostate. There is no cancer yet in the lymph or bone. The cancer was in remission and has recently returned according to the doctors. So far Mr. Jebens has been on non-medical and all natural programs. We are urgently asking for God’s guidance and total healing.

Please be so kind and pass on these prayer requests to any others and to any of the COG’s.