



## LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Bangkok, Thailand

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Dear Fellow-laborers in God's fields,

We have had a very hectic, but very rewarding and encouraging Fall Festival season here in Thailand. I will talk more about that later. First I want to address the terrible tragedy of terrorism and war that has gripped the world since September 11.

Our world has changed permanently. We now live in a world where we can no longer really feel safe. Here in Bangkok we have been told to stay in contact with the American Embassy and restrict our movements. Osama bin Laden t-shirts are being sold in the local market and street vendors can't keep up with the demand. Anti-war protesters are picketing the Embassy. We are warned it is unsafe for Americans to travel to Indonesia. Now we are reading reports of letters laced with Anthrax being sent to US recipients. Governments all over the world are taking increased security measures for US and British embassies and citizens in their countries. This is a wake-up call to America and Great Britain. But are we listening?

About 330 years ago, my ancestors fled Ireland to come to the New World. They were running from religious and political persecution. My gr-gr-gr-great grandfather, John Sexton, fought in both the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812 to preserve the freedoms of all Americans guaranteed by the Constitution and Bill of Rights. In his time, founding father and common citizen alike honored and paid reverence to Almighty God for those freedoms and their victory over tyranny. The founding documents that form the basis of our American freedoms included invocations for God's Grace and recognition of His Awesome Power over our collective and individual destinies. Leaders commonly used God's name and quoted the bible in their speeches. President John F. Kennedy put it very succinctly in his inaugural speech on January 20, 1961, *"And yet the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe, the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God."*

Since that fateful year of 1776, many young men and women have died to preserve those freedoms. But God, the One who gives *ALL BLESSINGS*, has been forgotten. Today, there is a powerful and relentless movement to have God removed from all public places and events. His Holy Name can no longer be invoked in our public schools. The godless even want to have the Ten Commandments, the foundation of all law, removed from our courts. Our human religious organizations are ordaining homosexuals and women. Same-sex marriages are condoned and even being legalized. Abortion – legal murder - is pandemic. For those of you who live in Britain, I am sure you would report that things there are just as bad or even worse. The *lawless* HATE God and REJECT His rule over them!

If we continue to allow the rejection of God to be socialized, *can we really expect Him to protect us in time of danger?* No, we cannot. **Unless we repent, our nations will not survive.**

What about in our Churches of God? The September 11 disaster ought to be a wake-up call for us all as well. Time is running out. We are fast approaching the climactic events leading to the return of the Messiah and Armageddon. What are we doing about it? Are we pressing forward with zeal to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God to *ALL the world* as a witness? Are we on fire? Are we working with a sense of urgency?

Brethren, I am afraid many of us are asleep. And while we slumber, Satan is quickly marshaling his evil legions for the final battle. We need to wake up!! *We need to get on fire for God once again!*

### **Christian Leadership Training Program**

Asia is awakening to new and exciting avenues for preaching the Gospel. The Holy Spirit is stirring up hearts and minds and people are seeking the Truth! An important part of the effort to reach these people is to prepare workers for God's fields. Just before the Feast, Legacy Institute held its first *Christian Leadership Training Program* in Mae Sot, Thailand. **Lazum Brang**, Pastor of the Kachinland Church of God, came from Burma (Myanmar.) **Michael Hubert**, leader of the COG congregation in Madras (Chennai), India, came. And **Davidson Ley Bey** (son of Saw Ley Bey) and **David Mya Maung** both attended from Thailand. **Herb and Ann Vierra** from California and **Vince and Carol Szymkowiak** from Missouri came to help teach the training course. The purpose of the training program was to *educate* and *empower* the men to evangelize their own peoples and take care of those called in their own local areas.

*(Here is just one example of the dedication and desire of the men involved: Lazum Brang not only traveled 5 days to reach Mae Sot to attend, he also had to get up at 4:30am every day to get a 1 day border pass, go through 2 immigration police checkpoints and walk to the hotel in Mae Sot by 8:30am to begin the training. He told us at the end of the program that, even with taking a Songtao (sort of a taxi) part of the way, he still had walked a total of 180 kilometers across the border to attend.)*

Initially, we had planned on starting the training program the Sabbath before the Feast of Trumpets. That was changed by the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington D.C. on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Because of the delays in getting the Vierras and Szymkowiaks over from the US, we had to wait until the day after Trumpets to begin. On the first day, Herb Vierra covered the following topics:

**What is the Church?** (The Church is a Spiritual entity, not a building or corporate body.)

**What is not the Church?** (This one covered many of modern Christianity's observances, such as Christmas, Easter, Sunday worship and the origin of many of these beliefs.)

**Why the Church?** (This material was designed to encourage them to stand on their own... and not to rely on others. It covered information on why we are called now instead of later.)

Other topics included:

- **Baptism and Laying On of Hands** – Leon Sexton
- **Evangelizing in Asia** – Lazum Brang
- **What True Ministers of Christ Will Teach** – Vince Szymkowiak
- **The Role of the Christian Woman** – Carol Szymkowiak
- **Qualifications of the Ministry** - Vince Szymkowiak
- **Tithing** – Leon Sexton
- **Guidelines in Counseling** – Vince Szymkowiak
- **Basic Prophetic Themes** – Herb Vierra
- **The Six Doctrines of Hebrews 6** – Herb Vierra

Q&A sessions were conducted throughout the program and ended with comments from the participants. Time was also made for fellowshiping and planning for the future of God's Work in Asia. If we judge from the closing comments of the participants, the Christian Leadership Training Program was successful in empowering and inspiring them to take a more direct role in doing the Work of God. In the vernacular, we all were pumped. We plan to hold another one next year, perhaps in India.

Sometimes I wonder if you, our fellow-workers, really understand how important and valuable your involvement in such projects as the *Christian Leadership Training Program* really is? These men desperately need to be trained and prepared for the harvest to come. It cannot wait. In our discussions during the training program, all the men commented that they expect an explosion of new believers called in their respective nations.

It is already beginning. Lazum Brang recently received a letter from a small group in Laos asking for information on the Sabbath and Holy Days. He is also getting more and more letters from the China border region. Davidson Le Bey and David Mya Maung are visiting 4 new families in a border refugee camp. These families are keeping the Sabbath and have stopped eating pork. They want to talk about baptism. Without your participation, these men would not receive the training and preparation to teach the new families God is calling. And equally as important, they would not be *inspired* and *empowered* to press ahead! I thank Almighty God that He has stirred up *YOUR* hearts and *YOUR* minds to support such activities.

Many times over the past decade and several times just recently, I have heard comments that go something like this, "*the Work is finished, now our job is to prepare the bride*" or "*the Preaching of the Gospel was completed by Herbert Armstrong.*" There are a number of problems with these statements, not least of which is that *they cannot be substantiated by scripture*. When is our job complete? Certainly not with the passing of one man. Mr. Armstrong did a powerful work under the inspiration of God, but God didn't stop The Work with his death (now nearly 16 years ago!) Jesus is still head of the Church, and in *Matthew 28*, He said we are to take the Gospel to ALL the world as a witness. He also said He would be with us always *until the END OF THIS AGE!* This age did not end in 1986. That means our job is not yet finished!

### **Romans 11: 25-26**

There is an important passage of scripture that somehow has missed our attention, but it is a very important passage for us to understand that we still have a lot of work to do. The Apostle Paul develops an important theme through the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> chapters of Romans and makes a very significant statement at the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter. In **Romans 9** and **10**, Paul is explaining that salvation, which was rejected by Israel, was now open to the Gentiles. He quotes prophecies in Isaiah, Deuteronomy, Joel, Nahum, Psalms and the book of Kings to

prove his point that Israel has been blinded and that through their fall, salvation has come to the Gentiles. Only a few, a remnant, in Israel have obtained the election and *the rest are blinded (Rom 11:7-8)*. Paul uses the analogy of the wild branches grafted into the olive plant to warn the Gentiles not to be vain about their calling in place of the natural branches of Israel.

Then in verse 25 he makes a startling statement. He tells us he is revealing a mystery. Paul says that a partial blindness or a hardening has happened to Israel *until the fullness of the Gentiles is achieved*. In verses 26 and 27 he makes another revelation: “*and so all Israel will be saved, as it is written (quoting Isa 59 and Isa 27), the Deliverer will come out of Zion and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.*”

Notice this carefully. Paul is saying that *Israel is not saved until the second coming of Jesus!* We are currently in the time the Bible calls the blindness of Jacob with only a very few (remnant) elected from Israel. This blindness will end when the fullness of the Gentiles is achieved (come in) and Jesus returns to Jerusalem.

Well, if this is true – and the Bible says that it is – **WHERE ARE ALL THE GENTILES?!**

Brethren, we are living in the time of the *fullness of the Gentiles* and NOT the calling of Israel. The Church of God should be full of Gentile peoples, with only a minority of members hailing from the modern Israelitish nations of northwestern Europe, Britain and America! So – where are they? Where are all the Gentiles?

Look around. There can be only one answer. There is still a GREAT HARVEST to be done before Christ returns. It is the harvest of the Gentiles. Why haven't we seen this harvest over the past 70 years? Because it has been our modus operandi to concentrate all our resources on preaching the Gospel to the Western “Israelitish” nations, with only a few meager crumbs falling to the Gentile world.

But that is going to change. I believe with all my heart that The Holy Spirit is moving powerfully to stir up the hearts and minds of those He is calling in the Gentile world. There are THOUSANDS out there starved for the TRUTH of God's Word. And once the gates are opened, a FLOOD will come pouring forth into the Body of Christ!

That is why I am writing with such urgency. There is no time to be wasted. God is not going to wait for us to get our acts together. He *WILL* do according to His will. We can either get onboard, or be left behind. We have been given the precious TRUTH of God's Word. It is now time for us to pass it along to our Gentile brothers and sisters.

Our course is clear. An important part of our job is to prepare laborers for God's fields, so that the TRUE Gospel of the Kingdom of God will be preached to *ALL the world*, not just to the West. So, we *WILL* continue our Leadership Training Programs. We *WILL* increase our efforts translating the TRUTH into languages such as Burmese, Hindi, Kachin, Karen, Portuguese, Tamil, Tegal, Thai and other languages. We *WILL* start our school in Northern Thailand to train young people from Asian countries for the Gospel Work. And we *WILL* continue to ask all of you for your urgent and heartfelt prayers that Almighty God supplies our every need and directs us *every inch* of the way! We cannot hesitate. We cannot wait. We are compelled to go forward through the doors God has opened for us. We appreciate what all of you are doing and sincerely thank you for being there for us, and more importantly, for being there for our brethren God is so obviously and abundantly working with.

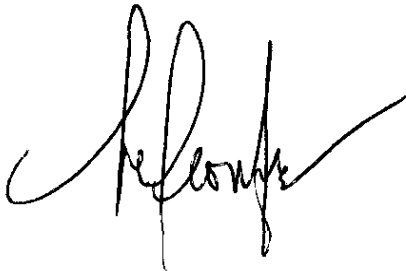
## Feast of Tabernacles in Thailand

Right after the Christian Leadership Training Program in Mae Sot on the border, both Lazum Brang and Michael Hubert returned to their homes to hold the Feast in their own countries. We hated to see them leave because, in a short time, we had grown together like brothers. In Thailand the Feast was held in Chiangmai, situated in the far North. This year we decided to hold a more “local” Feast and let the Karen plan and execute most of the Festival program. We did have a few Westerners attend. Herbert and Ann Vierra stayed on after the Leadership Training Program. So did the Szymkowiaks. Al Garrett came from Dallas. And Aaron and Michelle Dean and their children attended from East Texas. The Karen led songs, conducted special music, gave sermonettes, translated and planned both Family Nite and Talent Nite. One of the special performances during Talent Nite that delighted the Karen was the acrobatic and tumbling program of AJ and Crystal Dean. The Deans also put on a puppet show and Crystal Dean sang a country song. Traditional Karen shirts and dresses were presented to the Westerners so that they would be able to better “fit in” with the locals. Altogether, 35 Karen attended, 1 Thai attended (Utaiwan Han), and 11 *farangs* (westerners) attended, for a total this year of 47.

The *Blessing of the Children* was also conducted with 14 children being blessed. On the Last Great Day, Davidson Le Bey was ordained a deacon and Kanchana Mya Maung was baptized in a special service at the hotel pool. God is continuing to add to His Church those who are to be saved. We will continue to do His Will to the best of our ability.

Until next time when I hope to bring you even more *good news*,

Sincerely,  
In Jesus' Holy and Righteous Name,



Leon Sexton

### WHAT IS LEGACY INSTITUTE?

LEGACY INSTITUTE is a private, non-profit, charitable foundation and 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

**RETRACTION:** *In the last letter I stated that no Feast of Tabernacles has been held in Sri Lanka for over 10 years. I have been informed that is not true. In fact, for the past several years, Living Church of God has held a small Feast there for a number of brethren. I apologize for this error.*