



## LEGACY INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 7, Dundee, Ohio 44624

[www.legacyinstitute.org](http://www.legacyinstitute.org)

[anita\\_showers@legacyinstitute.org](mailto:anita_showers@legacyinstitute.org)

Chiangmai, Thailand

November 2, 2001

Dear Friends,

In my last letter, I talked with you about the implications of **Romans 11: 25-27**, and how the Holy Spirit is becoming very active among the Gentile peoples scattered in remote parts of the world. Because of these passages in Romans, I foresee that the next “*great effort*” of God’s Work will be the calling of many thousands of Gentile people into His Church just before the return of Jesus. There are more out there who have not “bowed the knee to Baal” than we ever imagined! God has not been sleeping. Over the past 10 years, while, sadly, many have turned away from God and others have been busy re-organizing or involved in “church wars”, God is raising up servants among the Gentiles to carry on His Work around the globe. And Romans 9-11 tells us there is more to come! Please read on.

### **Sabbath Church of God in Nigeria and Sudan**

I never heard of the *Sabbath Church of God* until Alan Kendall in Australia forwarded an urgent request for aid for a COG group in Nigeria whose members had lost their homes in floods. I knew nothing about this group other than the fact they were in sore need of emergency aid. Because of your kindness, we were able to send enough aid to rebuild 16 mud and thatch houses. While this was only a small part of what was needed, it was appreciated very much. I recently received a letter from their Pastor-in-charge, Mr. Hope Bassey. Below are excerpts of his letter:

*“Dear Leon,*

*We appreciated your financial supports, thank you and may God bless and keep you, your family and ministries alive!!!*

*Greetings come to you today in the blessed name of Jesus Christ, Our Savior. Please forgive me for taking so long to write to you. There has been tons and tons of problems with us here and also my wife, Ester was involved in a severe car crashed and sustained serious injuries which affected her brain. Six people died instantly in the public bus she was traveling with, which collided with an on coming truck.*

*Since August 8, we rushed her to the University of Lagos Teaching Hospital – 689 kilometers from here, where brain experts was to carry on brain surgery and operation on her head and torn flesh.*

*As at today, God is work very fast in her health. Ester can now speak clearly and her memory and sense of thought is okay. Though she is still have to undergo various surgery, “but we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him,” that Ester would soon be alright.*

*Regardless of trials, we may be facing, we know that, WHEN EVERYTHING ELSE FAILS, GOD STILL LOVES US! We have to let the love of God inspire us. Let only the love of God comfort us. God will never fail us! God's love will never fail!*

*Please my dear brother Leon, pray for the speedy recovery of my wife, Ester. Pray for me and my family more strength and wisdom from God to enable us to continue reaching others for Christ. Pray for our brothers and sisters here in Nigeria who are passing through various hardship, trials and persecution in their Sabbath faith.*

*Brother Leon, I am delighted and elated to be able to correspond with you today, since the Lord brought you our way (through Brother Alan Kendall in Australia) to help us carry the burden of our unfortunate brethren who were affected by floods in Utabi, Ogoja, Northern Cross River on July this year. You may not realize what an impact your assistance means to those poor brethren of ours, you have touched the lives of countless people in Utabi. There was jubilation among the displaced brethren. Much prayers were offered on your behalf for God to bless, protect, provides for your every needs. The brethren in Ogoja have also set aside every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month to pray for you, your family and your Legacy Ministries for special blessings upon your lives and for an open doors of opportunity, to enable you continue to reach out to those who are passing through one crisis or the other. Last week, I had a very sad reports that 237 members of our Church of God, living in Fegge, Woliwo and Okpoko layouts in Onitsha, Anambra State – Eastern Nigeria were among the 50,000 people rendered homeless as a result of floods. The government has been very, very reluctant to helping them, especially our Sabbath brethren.*

*Since the event occurred, our brethren have... no homes to live in. I am worried over the circumstances there. Onitsha as whole is a land of restlessness, politically, economically and spiritually. Most of the 2.3 million people residing there are Catholic and Mormon Christians. But since we planted our fellowship centers there, many have accepted the Sabbath faith and joined the Church there.*

*Also, in Jigawa State, flood washed 6 of our churches away. 39 families of our Sabbath keepers' brethren lost their homes. But in Kano, only 4 of our Churches of God were destroyed and 14 families of our brethren lost their homes.*

*As if that was not enough, In Jos, Plateau State, religious crisis broke out last week between Christians and Muslims. Several of our worship centers were burnt. Hundreds of people were killed... Death bodies was all over the Streets in Jos. The 105,000 Tiv indigenes of Nasarawa State, who flee their home to Benue State, due to communal or ethnic crisis, over 3,250 are our Sabbath Brethren... I will close for now and will write again, as soon as I hear from you with more pictures of us and the homes of the brethren you help to construct in Utabi, Ogoja so you can see how it looks like.*

*Your brother, because of Jesus, Hope Bassey, Pastor”*

Since his first appeal in July, Pastor Bassey writes that over 300 *Sabbath COG* families lost their homes due to flooding and many *Sabbath COG* members have become refugees from the religious and ethnic riots and bloodshed that continue to escalate in Nigeria. As I sit here in front of my computer writing this letter from my air-conditioned room in Chiangmai, it is hard to imagine the plight of these poor people in Nigeria. They live in a divided land of political, economic and religious upheaval. And yet, in spite of all this, many are turning to the True God.

After receiving this first letter, I felt compelled to learn more about these people. I couldn't help asking myself the question, ***are these truly our brothers?*** So, I emailed and asked Pastor Bassey to tell me more about himself and the ***Sabbath Church of God*** in Nigeria. I just received a return email message from him. It is very revealing:

*“To tell you a little bit about myself: My name is Hope Bassey. Founder and president of Sabbath Church of God in Nigeria, with headquarters in Abak and numerous branches scattered all over Nigeria and also in Sudan. I am 56, married to Esther - a God fearing Sabbath keeper and we have three children. Personally, I have been keeping the Sabbath at the early age of 13 with my late father and mother. Though we were brought up in the Seventh-day Adventist, but because the Adventist was*

*becoming mainstream in their doctrine, I left them at the age of 28, to a group called: TRUE SABBATH KEEPERS MISSION.*

*I was ordained as a Pastor at the age of 30 and that same year, I got married to Esther. At the True Sabbath Keepers Mission, the doctrinal Beliefs of the Church of God (Seventh-Day) U.S.A were used. As the year gone by certain brethren introduced "strange" beliefs and said that there was nothing wrong in keeping the Sabbath and going to church on Sunday. Also taking of bread and grape juice at communion every Sabbath day instead of observing the Annual Passover. The worship of Trinity etc. This was, where God gave me a unique call to start a Church, which will follow God's standard. **The Sabbath Church of God** with some faithful brethren was formed. This was about ten years ago.*

*While still keeping the weekly Sabbath and the Holy days, I enrolled with "Truth for the World Bible Institute", Lagos, Nigeria and obtained a degree in Christian Religious Education / BA in Pastoral Studies.*

*God continues to guide us daily and adding people who join together in worshiping His Holy name in spirit and in truth. We are independent and self-supported group, and are not affiliated with any large group in America or any part of the world.*

*You may ask, what does Sabbath Church of God do? We are involve in spreading the Gospel (Good News) of the saving Grace of God to the lost and win them for Christ. The weekly Sabbath is the seventh day of the week, known as Saturday today. It was the commanded day of the weekly worship for 3,000 years before the Ten Commandments were given to Israel. The fourth commandments are a reminder to observe and keep holy the Sabbath day. This is what we do.*

*THE ANNUAL FEASTS AND HOLY DAYS: The scriptures teach there are seven annual feasts and holy days which were ordained by God to be observed as special commanded convocations. These feasts and holy days portray God's plan of Salvation for mankind. The observance of these holy convocations is a sign between God and His people. This we also do.*

*In answers to your questions:*

- 1. The total home of our COG brethren destroyed by flood / Ethic violence is 323.*
- 2. The total worship building of our COG destroyed by Floods and Religious and Ethic crises is 28.*

*We have FOUR (4) Elders. One Oversees the work in Northern region, one in South-Eastern region, one in western region while one in middle belt region. We have 48 worship center scattered here and 3 in Sudan - the Sudanese congregations is a kind of home church.*

***We have 6,582 baptized members scattered all over Nigeria, and 103 in Sudan."***

*--end of excerpts--*

*Pastor Bassey tells us the Sabbath Church of God has 6,685 baptized members in Nigeria and Sudan observing the Sabbath and Holy Days; non-Trinitarian and keeping 14 Nissan Passover!! *Where did these people come from?**

*51 worship centers; 4 elders, and what appears to be a fruitful Work bringing God's Good News to thousands of people in Africa. All this was raised up over the past 10 years under the worst circumstances in one of the poorest areas of the world. And notice very carefully, Pastor Bassey and this group had NO PREVIOUS AFFILIATION with WCG or it's offshoots! This group was formed *separate* from our fellowships. How *many more* Hope Basseys are out there we don't know about?*

*God is not on vacation. He has not stopped doing His Work. It appears He has already begun His final, end-time thrust to reach the Gentile world. Pastor Bassey and others like him are already doing the Work of God in Africa under the worst conditions imaginable and with very little resources. They carry*

out their evangelistic efforts in very dangerous circumstances and have some genuine needs. Please pray and fervently petition the Most High God, who sees their plight and knows well their needs, to intervene powerfully and miraculously, to provide them with shelter and food as necessary. And pray that He will continue to bless their efforts to reach their peoples with the life-changing Truth of God.

We hope that sometime soon we will have the opportunity to visit Nigeria and learn more about Pastor Bassey and the *Sabbath Church of God*. I believe there are more out there like them. We are just unaware of their existence.

In truth, it should not surprise us that the Gentile world would be receptive to the Truth of God. Jesus Himself talked about this during His earthly ministry,

*“Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent. ‘Woe unto you, Korazin! Woe unto you, Bethsaida! **If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.** But, I tell you, that it will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be lifted up to the skies? No, you will go down into the depths. **If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Sodom, it would have remained to this day.** But I tell you it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you.’”* **Matt 11:20-24** NIV

In Luke 19 Jesus weeps over Jerusalem because His own people are blind to the truth:

*“As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, ‘If you, even you, had only known this day what would bring you peace-**but now it is hidden from your eyes.** The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, **because you did not recognize the time of God’s coming to you.**’”*

**Luke 19:20-24** NIV

This hardness of heart and rejection of the message of God by Israel was prophesied by Isaiah and King David and quoted by the Apostle Paul in **Romans 11:8-10**,

*“according as it is written, ‘**God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear; unto this day.**’ And David saith, ‘Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompense unto them; **Let their eyes be darkened that they may not see, and bow down their backs alway.**’”* KJV

God’s hand was extended to Israel first. Jesus first sent His Apostles to Israel:

*“These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, ‘Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: **But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**’”*

**Matt 10:5-6** KJV

But Israel rejected God’s servants and have continued to reject the message and warnings of His true servants unto this day. Paul began his ministry preaching to his own people Israel, but they rejected him. It was because of this rejection that the Apostle Paul turned to the Gentiles:

*“And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath. Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. And the next Sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of*

*God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spoke against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming. Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, 'It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you; but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, 'I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.' And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord; and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed."* Acts 13:42-48 KJV

Are we seeing a similar pattern, now at the end of the age, as occurred in the first century? For over 50 years, God's TRUE message of salvation was blasted over the airwaves in power and strength to the nations which we have understood to be modern day Israel. Our resources were concentrated almost entirely on Israel. The Gentile nations received table scraps (see **Matt 15:22-28**.) But HOW MANY in Israel responded? And, more importantly, HOW MANY have HELD FAST!?

Now am I saying it was wrong to concentrate on the Israelitish nations? NO! *I believe God wanted us to first go to Israel.* And many seeds from that Work did fall among the Gentiles. But it is becoming more and more clear to me that God is shifting gears. The True Gospel message is now being taken *directly* to the Gentile nations of the earth. The Holy Spirit of God is showing us the way by calling thousands of Gentiles to the Truth, **APART FROM OUR EFFORTS and affiliation with our CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS**, even as God showed Peter His Will by causing the Holy Spirit to fall on the Roman Centurion Cornelius and all his household (see **Acts 10**.) Later, Peter defended his unorthodox act of baptizing Cornelius by saying, "...*what was I, that I could withstand God.*" **Acts 11:17** KJV

**Romans 11:26-27** is clear. Israel is now blind and will not be saved until the "full number of the Gentiles comes in (NIV translation)" and Jesus returns to establish His Government in Zion. But, does this mean that God is no longer calling any from Israel? Paul has the answer,

*"God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, 'Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.' But what saith the answer of God unto him? 'I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.' Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace."*  
**Romans 11:2-5** KJV

So God will continue to reserve a "remnant" in Israel for salvation in this present age.

Brethren, are we willing to recognize and acknowledge the fruits and direction of the Holy Spirit? Time will tell. Meanwhile, God will continue to DO HIS WORK the way HE CHOOSES to do it, regardless of our involvement or lack of it. God does not seek our approval. But we have been given so much. And we must always remember, "...*that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required.*" **Luke 12:47-48** KJV

Sometimes its hard to see where all this is leading, but we must **follow the Lamb wherever He goes!** It is time we carry out *our calling to be teachers of God's way of life to the people He is now choosing to work with.* Pray God grant us the strength, humility and grace to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit.

**LEGACY INSTITUTE School in North Thailand**

I have exciting news about a location for our proposed school. First I want to tell you why we have decided to start a school in northern Thailand. It is for the same basic reason Herbert Armstrong founded Ambassador College. In 1946, an idea began to form in his mind because of a very real need. Here is a quote from his autobiography:

*“As weeks and months sped by, an idea was begotten in my mind. As the work was growing, the need of additional trained help was becoming more and more apparent. Up to this time I had been holding nightly evangelistic campaigns in various towns and cities in Oregon and Washington. Nearly always there had been enough converts to organize a small church group. But there was no ordained minister to pastor the little flock. Not one of them lasted longer than six months. I had to realize that sheep cannot endure without a shepherd.*

*If necessity is the mother of invention, perhaps God created the necessity to get through my thick skull the realization that God wanted a college of His own for the training of ministers, as well as other trained personnel that soon would be required for His rapidly growing work.”*

He needed a school in the USA to train young people for the Work of God. We need a school in Asia to train young people for the Work of God.

I have had many discussions with Pastor Lazum Brang in Burma about the need for a school in S.E. Asia to train young people for God’s Work. Hundreds are being called and one man cannot serve all their needs. And please keep in mind that roads and communication in northern Burma (Myanmar) are in worse condition than that of Oregon and Washington in 1946! Pastor Brang is trying to build a small school right now in his home area of Na Mawn. But he is faced with many obstacles. Firstly there is persecution from other Christian groups to prevent the school from being built. Beams for the building are being hand-hewn out of teak logs from the jungle as there is no sawmill. Other building material is expensive and difficult to come by. Not least of all, Pastor Brang has to travel away from home 9 months out of the year just to try to keep up with all of the visit requests flooding in. Who will teach at his school while he is gone?

We have discussed trying to ask for some volunteers from the West to help. But Myanmar is not an easy place in which to work. Visas longer than 28 days are very difficult to obtain. The living conditions in Na Mawn are very Spartan and, chances are, someone not used to Asia could become quite sick easily. The nearest hospital is at least a day’s journey away by foot, truck and rail. The most difficult obstacle of all is that westerners are forbidden to teach religion by law and could face a jail sentence if prosecuted.

So, how can we help Lazum Brang? The answer is to train young Kachin in our school in northern Thailand and send them into Burma to help teach! Young Asians will learn God’s Way of Life and help teach it to others! Pastor Brang will still teach at his own school during the monsoon season. But he will be assisted by fellow Kachin tribes people educated at the Legacy Institute school. The school will also train young Karen tribes people from Thailand and, eventually, young people from other parts of Asia such as India, Sri Lanka and Laos. Our school will be developed along the lines of the Ambassador Foundation sponsored Waterfield Institute in Sri Lanka where English-language based vocational skills were taught; but with one important difference - *we will teach Bible classes at the Legacy school.*

This school will start small, like a grain of mustard seed. And will grow according to the Will of God. Even if only on a small basis, this still is a very ambitious undertaking. If this were just the works of man we were doing, I doubt we could pull it off. But this school is *not the works of man*. It is the Work of Almighty God. It is a Work of faith and we are moving forward *in faith!*

But where do we start the school? Northern Thailand is the best area because of climate, access to bordering countries and lower living expenses. We have found a house on about 2 acres of land with fruit trees located approximately 15 minutes north of Chiangmai. The house is well built with 4

bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and 3 living room areas that can be converted into classrooms. There is also another 4-room/2-bath building that was used as servant's quarters that can be converted into a kitchen and dormitory rooms. There are many trees, ponds and flowering plants on the grounds. The

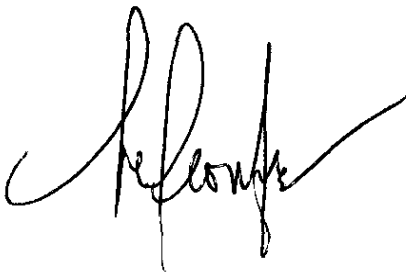
owner will also let us use 2 extra acres to teach vocational organic farming and to raise vegetables for the school. This location is ideal. Please pray that God blesses and guides us in finalizing a lease for this house and land.

Now that it looks like we have a location, we need to address the most important thing of all – TEACHERS! We are looking for volunteers willing to spend a year or more teaching young Asians basic English and English language based vocational skills such as computer, office skills and writing. We also need one or two young people willing to teach organic farming. Teachers will be unsalaried volunteers. Legacy will take care of room and board and provide travel and educational opportunities. We are looking for adventurous spirits interested in serving God's growing Work in one of the most exotic places on earth. Couch potatoes or the timid need not apply!

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a Legacy Volunteer Teacher, please ask them to contact me at [Glomar7@juno.com](mailto:Glomar7@juno.com) or write to me at the address on top of this letter.

Well, that is all for now. I will keep you posted on further developments in this growing and what is becoming a very fast-paced part of the Work of God.

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.

P.S. Utaiwan Han, our deaf Thai church member is still not able to return home to USA. She misses her family and friends very much. She would really appreciate any letters or postcards of encouragement as she gets very homesick. Her address is: 313 River Court, 8/1 Sukhumvit Soi 41, Bangkok, 10110 Thailand. She also has an email address: [Utaiwanhan@hotmail.com](mailto:Utaiwanhan@hotmail.com)