



LEGACY INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 7, Dundee, Ohio 44624

www.legacyinstitute.org

anita_showers@legacyinstitute.org

Kathmandu, Nepal

January 6, 2002

Dear Friends and fellow-workers,

I am writing you this letter from Kathmandu, capital of the Himalayan kingdom of Nepal. As I write, I am sitting in the shadows of some of the highest mountains on earth. It is truly an awesome backdrop for composing this letter to all of you. Nepal is a landlocked Hindu kingdom nestled under the great snow covered Himalayan range of mountains, which divides it from the Tibetan plateau. It is one of the most beautiful places on earth. But it is also very poor. Much of the population lives as they did several hundred years ago. Fifty percent of its 23 million people are illiterate. The infant mortality rate is one of the highest in the world. Yet, Nepal's corrupt politicians continue to first stuff their own pockets with outside aid, leaving very little to trickle down to the people who really need it. It is a land of unbelievable beauty, but also a land of hardship and tragedy.

On Friday evening, June 1 of last year, a distraught and drug influenced 30 year-old crown prince murdered his father, mother, sister, brother, uncle and others in a palace blood bath which shook this small traditional kingdom to its very core. The crown prince later died on the operating table from an alleged self-inflicted wound and left the crown to his uncle, an unpopular prince. While there is no doubt among the ruling elite of Nepal that the Crown Prince was, indeed, responsible for the massacre, the average person on the street believes it was a conspiracy. The late King Bhirendra was extremely popular with the grassroots people and his murder has created an atmosphere of mistrust and uncertainty. Maoist insurgents in western Nepal have wasted no time in taking advantage of the uncertainty and turmoil following the tragedy to increase their attacks on police and army installations. If it weren't for the fast-acting new king's orders to send out crack Gurkha troops to deal with the Maoists, Nepal would have a full-blown revolution on its hands. And it would be an international disaster to destabilize Nepal, which provides a buffer between India and China, the two most populous mega-nations on earth.

There is no doubt that the world is becoming a more dangerous place with each passing year. Nepal used to be a peaceful backwater land of beautiful mountain vistas which climbers and trekkers the world over flocked to enjoy. Now tourism, Nepal's number one income, has dropped by 80%! People are not traveling. And if they do, they surely won't go to any place that makes headlines with palace massacres and Maoist insurgents bombing police stations.

Jesus told us that there would be an increase of wars and rumors of wars as this age comes to a close. And war, death and destruction are not just taking place in far-off places with strange sounding names. The Red Horse of War has now reached the shores of America. For over 200 years, America has been a place of refuge and security for not only Americans, but also refugees

of war and political upheaval from all around the world. September 11 changed all that. Americans can no longer feel safe just because we are Americans. We can no longer feel safe just because we live in LA, Denver, Dallas or New York (let alone Bangkok or Kathmandu!) The future is scary. The world is getting worse and not better. From now on, our only TRUE refuge is in the Hands of Almighty God (it always was anyway!) And it is to Him we must look for our safety and survival.

So, with all the recent turmoil going on in Nepal, what are the Sextons doing here? Well, it's a long story. Gloria and I have had a long history with this exotic kingdom. My first trip to Nepal was in 1984. At that time I was working as Asia liaison for Ambassador Foundation, and was sent to help set up Herbert W. Armstrong's visit with King Bhirendra and Queen Aishwarya.

There is an interesting anecdote about that trip I want to relate. When Mr. Armstrong received an invitation to visit Nepal again, his advisors counseled against it because they said Nepal was too high and the altitude would hurt his 92 year-old heart. As a result, the trip was cancelled. Now when one mentions Nepal, the home of Mt. Everest, the world's highest mountain, our minds picture snow-capped mountains, swirling snowstorms and freezing cold, thin air. But I have always been fascinated by geography, so I knew that Nepal also had tropical jungles populated with tigers and elephants. I decided to visit the library and check out the actual altitude of Kathmandu.

The advisors were incredulous when I told them that Kathmandu was situated in a valley only 4500 feet in altitude. I had to actually make a copy of the page in the almanac as proof I wasn't off my rocker! Needless to say, Mr. Armstrong did finally go, and the trip was very successful. He not only had over an hour-long audience with the king and queen, but actually addressed the country's leadership at a dinner held in his honor and told them all they would eventually be replaced by the coming Kingdom of God. This is astounding since Nepal is constitutionally a Hindu kingdom; King Bhirendra was supposed to be an incarnation of the god Vishnu and teaching Christianity was punishable by arrest and imprisonment!

Later, in 1986, Gloria, our two sons, Brandon and Bronson and I lived in Nepal for over 9 months. We were sent there, along with Michael Johnson and Robert Burbach, to set up a data processing and information analysis center for the Social Service National Coordination Council (SSNCC) chaired by Queen Aishwarya. The Queen was trying to develop a program to bring some sort of order and coordination to the over 5000 non-government social welfare and development organizations (NGO's) operating in her country. There was no central coordinating body at all in operation in Nepal. This meant that these various non-governmental groups were operating without oversight or coordination. It was total chaos and confusion. A lot of money and resources were being wasted.

Queen Aishwarya asked Herbert Armstrong to help her. The last project he approved before he died in January 1986 was to send us to help the Queen by setting up a computer processing center and develop programs to help keep track of NGO's and train the Nepalese in computer operation. This Ambassador Foundation project was pioneering in that we were some of the first to introduce the use of computers into Nepal.

While in Nepal, we got to know Major General Aditya S.J.B. Rana and his family. General Rana was the great-grandson of the last ruling Rana Maharaja of Nepal and an A.D.C. to the king. The first time I had met this man was in 1984. He had been assigned by the Nepalese king to take care of Mr. Armstrong during his visit to Kathmandu. General Rana was a well-known figure in Nepal because of his loyalty and many years of service in the Gurkha army. He was also someone who quickly grasped that the "Ambassador people" operated by a different spirit than others.

Over the next few years, we got to know this very interesting and insightful man and his family very well. General Rana was our liaison with the palace. While we stayed in Kathmandu working to develop the computer center, we lived in a house next door to Babar Mahal, the Rana villa. I spent nearly every day talking with him about principles of leadership and the right approach to development. Over the 7 years that I knew him, we became very good friends and had many deep discussions about spiritual matters.

While visiting the General and his family as guests in his home in 1990, he suddenly died of a massive heart attack on his 60th birthday. It was a great shock to Nepal and a great loss for me personally. The last time I saw him alive, he was sitting up in his bed reading a *Plain Truth* magazine. They cremated him the same night in a Hindu ceremony at Pashpatinath Temple on the banks of the Bagmati River.

After his death, the family had to observe 12 days of ritual morning by shaving their heads (men), wearing white, sitting on the floor and eating only rice and water without salt or seasoning. As word of his death spread throughout the country, many hundreds of people began to show up at the villa to pay respects to his widow, Princess Sunita, and tell her about all the things General Aditya had done for them. Some walked for days by footpaths out of the Himalayas. The family had never known how much he had done for the country and how many people he had helped. It was a sobering testament to the memory of a great and giving man. No wonder he had recognized what he called "*the Spirit of Ambassador.*"

So, last June when Gloria and I heard the news about the palace massacre, we tried to contact the Ranas. The telephone number I had was an old one and it didn't work. We sent faxes and even contacted the Nepalese Embassy. No response. We were very concerned because we knew that the Aditya Rana family was closely related to the murdered king's family. Finally we were able to contact the family via Internet. We were relieved to learn everyone was OK, but decided it was way beyond time we go to Nepal and visit our old friends. A trip was planned for sometime after the 2001 Feast of Tabernacles. We also wanted to find a church member named Bhuwan Ghale who we lost contact with since 1986.

So here we are.

Kathmandu has changed a great deal. But the friendship forged with the Rana family is still strong. They all fondly remember Mr. Armstrong, my family and the Spirit of Ambassador. I have been introduced to many important people in Kathmandu as "*Daddy's (Gen. Rana's) best friend.*" This has been a sobering honor for me. Once again, it is a clear reminder to me that Christian example as a product of the Holy Spirit continues to bear fruit years down the road.

The Ambassador Foundation project we did here is long over. *Was it worthwhile, or just a waste of time and tithe money?* On the surface, our project was not much different than any of the other thousands of development projects done by foreign NGOs in Nepal. But, sometimes we don't see the results of how we impact people until much later. When we left Nepal, we had made no Church of God "converts." But we left a legacy of a way of life that is still remembered today. How God's people will ultimately impact this small mountain kingdom is yet to be seen.

We must always keep the "big picture" in mind. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church. We are His servants. He chooses WHO to call, WHEN to call and HOW to call. We are the instruments of His Divine Will. We must remember to FOLLOW His lead, in faith, even if we can't see what the results might be.

Some people might think that the Ambassador Foundation projects done years ago in such countries as Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Jordan were all for nothing. Some have complained,

“Why did we waste money on those people, they are not even Christian. No one has been converted! We should’ve spent our money on preaching the gospel!” Well, that kind of thinking is very shortsighted – AND *not even Christian* – if we look carefully at the teachings of Jesus Christ!

When John the Baptist was thrown in prison, he became discouraged and even wondered if his cousin Jesus was the true Messiah. Things just weren’t turning out as he had expected. So he sent several of his disciples to see the Lord. What did Christ tell them were the signs that the Work of the Messiah was being done?

“Go and tell John the things which you hear and see. The lame walk; the lepers are cleansed; and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended of Me.” **Matthew 11:4-6**

Jesus not only preached to the people. He also did what was in His power to help them with physical needs. In fact, this care and compassion for people was *a sign of His Messiahship!* Jesus consorted with publicans, lepers, Samaritans and the poor and needy. Jesus healed THOUSANDS! Jesus miraculously fed THOUSANDS with loaves and fishes. He wept for the people and ultimately He DIED for ALL peoples – ALL mankind, everywhere. But when He died, how many disciples did He have after 3 ½ years of intensive preaching? 120. 108 of those left him over the teaching about His body and blood (**John 6**)! Only 12 remained and not one of them stayed with him during His trial. The only person who publicly stood up for Him at the end was the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate! **John 19:4 and 6** After His crucifixion and burial, it looked like it was all over. Peter and other disciples went back to fishing. But it was far from over. It really was only just beginning.

We cannot foresee the effect we will have on the hearts and minds of people sometimes many years later. Jesus’ ministry lasted 3 ½ years. If the success of His ministry were judged by the number of converts He made during His lifetime; He would have to be considered a dismal failure. Yet, only a short time after His death and resurrection, thousands were converted at Pentecost, and many more thousands in the following years through the evangelistic efforts of the Apostles. God knows what He is doing. God’s does things His Way according to His Plan, not ours!

Our little, seemingly insignificant AF project in Nepal lasted only a year and a half. During that time we did no public preaching of the gospel. But we *DID, in effect*, preach the gospel through our examples and the influence of the Holy Spirit. We don’t know how the seeds planted in Nepal 15 years ago will sprout or when fruit will be born. But what we do know is this: our job is to take the True Gospel of God’s Kingdom into *ALL* the world as a witness. That includes the Hindu kingdom of Nepal.

It is no longer against the law to preach Christianity and the door is open for Christian missionaries to work in Nepal. Maybe the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, has something in mind for us to do here once again. If so, we now know as a result of this trip, that positive spiritual seeds were planted 15 years ago. It is up to Our Lord to show us what He wants done next.

India, Sri Lanka and Singapore

We are already planning our next trip at the end of February to Singapore, India and Sri Lanka. We will visit scattered brethren in Singapore and Sri Lanka and spend over one week with Michael Hubert in India. He oversees a small congregation of God's people in Madras (Chennai.) We are currently working on a set of 12 Bible correspondence course lessons to be translated into Asian languages. Mr. Hubert has completed translation into Tamil of the first 3 Bible correspondence course lessons we sent him. As soon as he finishes proofreading, he will then also translate them into Tegal, Malayalam and Hindi, the other languages of south India. We are helping him develop his overall evangelistic program and this Bible correspondence course will play an important role in spreading the Gospel throughout southern India.

In Thailand, the Karen brethren of God's Church have translated the following 17 booklets and correspondence lessons into the Karen language:

The Two Trees of Genesis and Two Ways of Life.

What is the Holy Spirit?

What is the Lord's Passover?

Why Do We Fast on the Day of Atonement?

Was Jesus Resurrected on Sunday?

Tithing.

God's Annual Holy Days.

Bible Correspondence Course Lesson 1. (How to Study the Bible.)

Bible Correspondence Course Lesson 2. (What is the Gospel?)

Bible Correspondence Course Lesson 3. (What is the Reward of the Saved?)

Should True Christians Keep Easter Sunday?

Unleavened Bread of Truth.

Why do we Keep Pentecost?

Babylon is Fallen.

Baptism.

Clean and Unclean Meats.

Do You Believe That God Exists?

In addition, the *God's Annual Holy Days* booklet has been translated into the Burmese language. We will follow up with more translations into the Burmese language and then the Thai language. The booklets are being printed out by computer on simple copy paper in black and white and then photocopied, stapled and sent out as needed.

Can you imagine what happens when God's Truth is translated into a foreign language? Suddenly, a door is opened to preach the Good News to millions of people who cannot read English or any of our other Western languages. It is like opening a door to a whole new world for these people, a world of Truth and Light!

And please notice that these translations have all been done by the local Church brethren themselves, *WITHOUT* waiting for one of our western church organizations to do it for them. This is an important testament to the Power of the Holy Spirit. God *SURELY chooses the weak things of this world to put to shame the mighty!* **1 Cor 1:26-29**

Computer Parts Needed

For those of you who know about the new school we are starting in northern Thailand, we have good news. Repairs to the house we will use for our new school are now almost complete and Gloria and I plan to move to Chiang Mai sometime in February or early March. The school curriculum will include basic computer courses and we need about a dozen computers when the classes begin in May. If any of you have any old computers you would like to donate, we sorely need them. Please *do not* send monitors or printers. We need computers with at least a Pentium II or better processor and at least 2 gigs of hard drive memory. Please send to: **Brandon Sexton,**

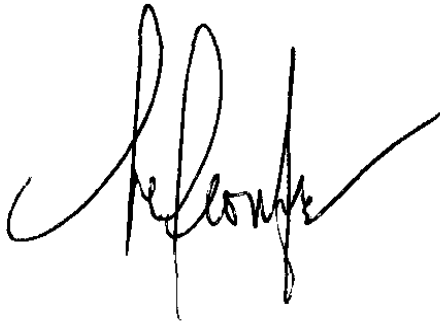
1100 Gate Lane, Terrell, TX 75160. We appreciate your help to get the equipment we need to get the school off the ground.

We are getting excited about the new school. But Gloria and I are also, frankly, overwhelmed by the magnitude of what we are undertaking. Yet, this school is sorely needed to train people for the Work of God in Asia. We cannot teach them the Bible only, we also must teach them vocational skills with which they can earn a living. We cannot know whom among them God will call to His service. So, the school will train people to be Christian men and women of character and God will call to the ministry according to His Will.

That's all for now. I will write more during or after the India-Sri Lanka-Singapore trip. I just want to take a little time and thank all of you for your continued support in this important ministry. Jesus said that without the Father, He could do nothing. And without the Father and Jesus Christ inspiring all of you to continually pray for us and assist us in these far-flung areas of the world, we at Legacy Institute certainly would accomplish absolutely nothing. We thank you all for your kindness, compassion, prayers and faithful support.

May God's Grace be upon you all.

Sincerely,
In Our Saviour's 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. We were unsuccessful in finding Bhuwan Ghale in Nepal. However, I asked Colonel Gaurav Rana, son of General Aditya Rana, to help. He has found 4 Bhuwan Ghales in the Pokhara area and we are now trying to find out if any of these are the Bhuwan we are looking for. Please pray we find him.