



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Madras, India

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Dear Fellow-harvesters in God's fields,

I am writing to you from Madras, a city on the southeast coast of India. Madras (now called Chennai) was the seat of the British East India Company before the heyday of the British Raj. It was here in Madras during the first century (C.E.) that the Apostle Thomas was martyred and buried. Gloria and I visited Mount St. Thomas, the place where jealous pagan priests murdered him while he was praying. There is now a Catholic chapel built over this site. We also visited St. Tome Church on the seacoast where he is allegedly buried. Because of his evangelistic efforts in southern India, there were thriving Church of God fellowships numbering into the thousands until remnants of these groups were stamped out at the coming of the Portuguese Jesuits.

We had an informative visit with Mar Theophilus, the bishop of the Mar Thoma churches in Tamil Nadu State. Mar Theophilus had previously been posted to the Manhattan and eastern U.S. Mar Thoma congregations; so he was very interested to meet us and talk about America. The Mar Tomans are not Catholic but adhere to the Syrian tradition. They trace their roots back to the early first century Church in India founded by Thomas, however, little is left of his teachings in their practice. But the seeds planted by God through Thomas have not died out. There is a remnant of the True Church of God still obedient and faithful in southern India. They are currently scattered and number only a handful, but their light is beginning to shine once again and God is beginning to call others to the Church.

Gloria and I gathered together with 5 other baptized members to take the Passover in the home of Michael Hubert. Michael, with the financial help of several western fellowships, has built a meeting hall on the top of his house for Sabbath and Holy Day meetings. When not in use for these occasions, Michael and his wife Terencia, use this room as a classroom for teaching poor and abandoned street children. Through their registered charity, **Shabnam (Early Rain) Resources**, Michael and his wife sponsor several educational programs for the underprivileged in Madras and children at a health center suffering with leukemia.

He took us into the streets to see several programs initiated and funded by his foundation. All of his projects revolve around education of children and teens because he sees education as the best way to overcome the cycle of poverty, disease and ignorance. He told us that he NEVER just gives handouts, but rather all projects are aimed at teaching a skill or providing education. Some of these children have been on the streets since they were very small. Others have been rescued

from child prostitution. It was heartwarming for Gloria and me to see the difference Michael and Terencia have made in the lives of literally hundreds of children.

Yesterday, we gathered with over 20 persons – mostly prospective members - to observe the First Day of Unleavened Bread. Some few of these were already faithful members of the Church for some years. But most were new to God's Truth.

The day before the Passover we traveled about 150 kilometers from Madras to a small remote village called *Thiruvallavar* where we met several individuals who were interested in learning more about the Truth of the Bible. Mr. Hubert had visited this village by chance while attending a seminar close by. When they found out he was a Christian, they began asking him questions. One thing led to another and now they have asked him to come back and teach them more! Who knows where this will all lead. Please pray that God leads us to those He is choosing to call in southern India, and equally as important, that God provide trained laborers who will become solid shepherds for those God is calling.

Mr. Hubert is translating bible study lessons into the Tamil and Tegal languages, two of the languages of southern India. He has completed the first 3 lessons in Tamil and is currently translating them into Tegal. This is a VERY IMPORTANT step in God's Work because *language* is a critical key that unlocks the Truth of God to thousands who could not receive it before! It was interesting to see how this works during the Holy Day service. I gave a sermon about Passover and Unleavened Bread. Of the 20 adults present, only 3-4 could understand enough English to grasp the meaning of the sermon without translation. But, with Hubert translating, ALL heard the full meaning of what I was saying. The same is true of the written word. Without translated materials to lead them to the true doctrines of the Bible, they have no light to show them the way.

It was shocking to learn that a number of years ago, one COG minister from USA told Mr. Hubert that God was only calling Indians who could speak English! That kind of thinking is imprudent. Not only does it limit God, but, the scriptures demonstrate otherwise. At the first Pentecost, there were devout Jews from all over the world gathered at Jerusalem. When the Apostles spoke, by a miracle they all heard them *in their own languages*. The same day 3000 of these were added to the Church. I guess God should have only called those who spoke Aramaic, the language of Judea! Or perhaps God should not have worked it out for the Bible to be translated into thousands of languages. Maybe he should have only had one – in English –and limited conversion only to those who could learn that language!

God's ministers need to learn to read their Bibles before they speak. Paul tells us,

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call upon Him of whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

Romans 10:13-15

We now in the Church have much more responsibility than some of us would like to admit. Saying that God only calls the Indians who speak English is a copout. It is an avoidance of responsibility. Paul doesn't place the responsibility on the people to learn about salvation

through Jesus Christ all by themselves by learning a foreign language. Instead, he places the responsibility *squarely on the shoulders of those preachers who are commissioned TO TAKE*

THE GOSPEL TO THEM, to GO AND TEACH THEM and GO SHOW THEM the way!
Jesus said, “*GO INTO ALL THE WORLD, PREACH the GOSPEL unto ALL PEOPLES.*”
Matt 28. He didn’t say, “*Sit at home and wait until they learn English and come to you.*”

God’s fields need harvesters. We need people willing to do whatever it takes to get the GOSPEL MESSAGE to these people in far-flung areas of the world. If it means translating literature into their own languages, *then we must do it!* If it means hardship in travel and sometimes facing dangers, *then we must do it!* If it means making sacrifices to see that God’s Word is taken to them, *then we must do it!* Pray God will provide us with more harvesters with hearts to help us carry His Message of the Kingdom to these distant peoples.

Michael Hubert, is a deacon and a long-time member of God’s Church in India. He saw a need to provide a meeting place for the scattered near Madras and a place to hold Holy Day services. He built a small meeting room on the roof of his house and organized weekly Sabbath and Holy Day services. Mr. Hubert saw a need and he did something about it. We have been encouraging him to expand evangelistic activities and church organization in other areas as well. He has now organized 3 “house churches” in southern India. He visits each of them on a monthly rotational basis and provides them with translated Bible study materials. He will continue to visit and teach new prospective members as God sees fit to call them. Legacy Institute will continue to train Michael Hubert and to support the development of the Church of God and the Gospel Work in southern India. But he needs help. There is much work to be done and we must work while it is yet day. The night is coming fast when no man can work. **John 9:4**

Please pray the Lord of the Harvest that He send more workers into the harvest.

Singapore Visit

Earlier this month, I made a trip to Singapore to visit scattered brethren there. In Singapore there are 6 members who have held onto the Truth and meet for fellowship regularly on the Sabbath, but have had no pastor for a long time. They had heard about our efforts in Thailand and Burma and had requested I come visit them. I thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful hospitality shown me and the Spirit of brotherhood displayed by these faithful few holding fast in Singapore. Gloria and I will be visiting them again in a few days on our way back through from India.

Two More Baptisms in Thailand

We have wonderful news! Two more have been called and chosen by God Almighty and inducted into the Body of Christ. Several weeks ago Gloria and I traveled by car to Mae Sot on the Burma border and then on to Mae Sariang, high in the mountains of northern Thailand. Our purpose was to baptize 2 prospective members from a refugee camp in the mountains on the Thai side of the Thailand – Burma border. It was a time of great joy for the Karen members because more are being added to the Body in Thailand each year. Actually, there were 7 Karen tribesmen, living in two refugee camps wanting to be baptized. But only 2 could get permission to leave the camps because of security restrictions.

About a year ago they were given one of the Holy Day booklets translated by our Karen members. All on their own these 7 Karen people began to keep the Sabbath, Holy Days and stopped eating pork. They requested a visit for answers to their questions. I was unable to obtain permission to enter the camps, so I asked Davidson Leh Beh (long-time member and son of the late Saw Leh Beh) and David Mya Maung (also Karen member) to visit them, hold bible studies and answer their questions.

The border area is very sensitive now with so many drugs being smuggled into Thailand from Burma every day. Also, thousands of illegal immigrants are flooding into Thailand to escape the repressive Burmese government and its policy of ethnic cleansing. Sometimes raiding parties of warlord armies allied with the Burmese junta cross over the border to attack refugee camps. The border can be a very dangerous place. In the news recently were two incidents where illegal workers from Burma were murdered. In the first case, 9 bodies of men and women were found shot and dumped in a border stream, allegedly by a crooked job broker who did not want to pay them. In another case, corpses of 13 illegal workers, some of them children, were found stuffed into garbage bags. After investigation, it was discovered that they had suffocated under a truckload of cabbages while being smuggled to Bangkok to work in sweatshops. Man's inhumanity to man knows no boundaries.

The roads from Bangkok to the border town of Mae Sot are very good. It took us only about 6 hours to drive there from Bangkok. But the rest of the journey was much more difficult. It took us *another 6 hours* to travel less than half that distance to the mountain town of Mae Sariang. We had to cross through 6 military and border police checkpoints to reach our destination. In one case we were cautioned by a Thai army sergeant to be careful and not travel after dark because there were bandits operating in the area who set up roadblocks on remote parts of the road and would rob and sometimes kidnap or even kill their victims.

But God is always with us. We had no trouble and arrived safely in Mae Sariang. We found David Mya Maung, a leader in the Karen Church waiting for us. He explained that only 2 persons could get permission to leave the refugee camp to be baptized. The others are waiting to get permission from the Thai military authorities. Gloria and I met with Saw (Mr.) Klo Lwei Doh and Naw (Mrs.) K'Paw Gay and counseled with them the next morning.

Klo Lwei Doh, 47 years old, was the father of Olivia (the young Karen girl who died in the hospital about a year and a half ago of brain seizures – *her case was mentioned in a previous Legacy Letter*). K'Paw Gay is a young teacher in a refugee camp who is married with 3 children ages 12, 6 and 1 ½. Both had been studying the literature we have translated into the Karen language for about a year and had been counseling with Davidson Leh Beh and David Mya Maung.

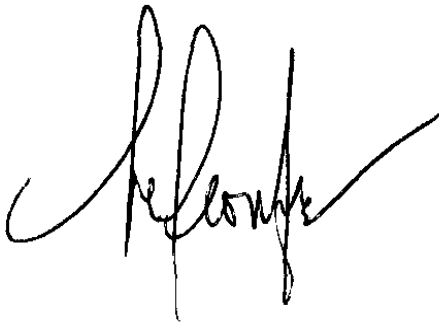
After about an hour discussion, we went to a Thai ladies' house where David had arranged for us to use the swimming pool. Joining us for the ceremony were David Mya Maung's wife and two teenage daughters (the eldest, Kanchana, 18, was baptized last year during the Feast of Tabernacles.) Both the newly baptized will be able to travel to Mae Sot and meet with Davidson Leh Beh to take the Passover. God continues to add those whom He is saving. This Work is far from over and there is still so much to be done!

Donation Receipts

We need to streamline the way we send out donation receipts. Currently, we send receipts on a monthly basis. This has become very time consuming. We are thinking about changing this to sending *only one – at the end of the year*. So, if any of you have a particular necessity to continue receiving a monthly receipt, please let us know.

Well, that's all for now from Madras. We leave for Sri Lanka today. After several days there visiting some scattered brethren and assessing how Legacy Institute might be able to assist them, we will return to Madras and travel to visit prospective members located in several places throughout southern India. We will then return to Thailand via Singapore. We have a lot of work waiting for us at the school in Chiang Mai, Thailand. There is much to prepare and the teachers from the US will start arriving shortly after we get back. Please keep us in your prayers. We cannot do it without all of you pulling for us and petitioning the Almighty on His throne on our behalf. Gloria and I thank you all and remember you in our prayers.

Until next time,
In service to the King of Kings,



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. While in Mae Sot, Thailand, we visited Juliana, wife of Samya. Juliana had been in a motorcycle accident and had to be hospitalized with a severe concussion (she was not wearing a helmet.) She is out of the hospital now but still has dizzy spells every day and this is affecting her work and ability to take care of her 2 small boys. Please pray God will heal her completely.

Also, the Mong Mong Cho and David Mya Maung families will be moving to Chiang Mai next month to assist at the school. Please pray that they will have no problems during their travels and that God will bless us with appropriate housing for them.