



LEGACY INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 7, Dundee, Ohio 44624

www.legacyinstitute.org

anita_showers@legacyinstitute.org

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Dear Fellow-laborers in God's fields,

Jesus said, *"My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work. Say not ye, there are yet four months, and then cometh the harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; **for they are ripe already to harvest.**" John 4:34-35*

These words of Jesus are ringing louder and louder with each passing day in the countries of South and Southeast Asia.

The Feast of Tabernacles is just around the corner. In Thailand this year it looks like we will have over **60 Karen people in attendance!** Three years ago we had 28. In 3 short years, the festival attendance among the local Karen people has doubled! This is miraculous and the glory goes to God.

"Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are ripe already to harvest."

Over the last 3 years, we baptized 5 people in Thailand. This year, *we have 5 new people who want to be baptized at the Feast.* Before God sent us to Thailand, the few Karen people still involved with the Church were scattered and spiritually demoralized. We started with a Sabbath Bible Study in Bangkok with 2 families. Now we have a growing Church fellowship of over 12 families. *And 8 of these families were not formerly associated with any COG!*

I just received a letter from one of the new prospective members who lives in a border refugee camp and wants to be baptized at the Feast this year. It was written to me in the Karen language. Here is an English translation:

To sir:

With best wishes I write some words to you as follows.

Dearest Sir, Jack and David sent us 5 tapes of sermons with you speaking about Church of God beliefs. We listened to them as the ones before and we really want to be baptized. When we finished listening to the tapes, we felt very glad and joyous and they made us want to be baptized even more. I met with Mr. David and he told us about the Feast and that he will plan our transportation travels to the Feast and we have decided to go for sure. We hope that you and your family will remain healthy and strong.

*Sincerely,
Karen refugee church members,
Saw Hser Nay*

Here is another translation of a letter Jack Aungmin recently received from a lady in another border refugee camp interested in the Truth of the Bible:

Dear Jack,

May the Lord bless you, your family and everyone who works with you. Jack, I want to let you know that I already sent one letter to you, but I didn't get any answers yet. Because I really want to know the real truth I am sending another letter now. I find and I believe that God's Sabbath is a Saturday, and Matthew 5:17-19 is a witness for me. I used to rest in Sunday, but at that time I didn't understand nor compare anything. I followed my parents and grandparents. Now I know that Sunday is wrong so I wrote a letter to you to help me and my daughters. Two of my daughters are Elsa and Puppu. Therefore, I beg you to help me become a Church of God member.

*Sincerely yours,
Monday*

As you can see, the Holy Spirit is active among the Karen peoples living in the border region of Thailand-Myanmar. 8 adults and 9 children from the Karen tribe now living in this border refugee camp will be able to attend the Feast this year. They are all new people. You can see from reading this letter that the adults are eager to receive remission of sins and become a part of the Living Body of Jesus Christ. This letter also demonstrates that our project of translating tapes and written sermons is paying off. We are now able to reach people who do not speak English, but only their own Karen language and sometimes Burmese.

The amount of work we are undertaking is overwhelming. I get tired and my health suffers. Sometimes I am tempted to become *weary in well doing*. Then I get a letter like this and it makes whatever hardships I might have to endure *all worthwhile*.

This growth in Thailand is also why we need the *Legacy Institute Leadership Training Center* so much. If growth keeps up like this (and I am confident it will!); we will need energetic, newly trained workers for God's harvest – and very, very soon.

Jesus also said, *“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Pray the Lord of the harvest, that **He will send laborers into His harvest.**”*

Matthew 9:37-38

Things at the school are going well. We lost one volunteer teacher who had to return to the US because of family matters. But our youngest son Bronson who is here with us was able to fill the gap by picking up her classes and we continue to march forward. In a recent teachers meeting I talked about “raising the bar.” Throughout the field event of the high jump, the bar keeps getting raised. As the bar is raised, the participants strive to jump higher and higher. I encouraged the Legacy Institute teachers to continue to “raise the bar” so that our students keep striving toward higher and higher standards of achievement.

Our teachers are, other than me, Heidi Hanisko, Bonnie Turner and our son Bronson. All (except yours truly!) are in their 20’s and their energy levels are astonishing! The classes being taught are Bible, English, Public Speaking, Computer, Music & Voice and Health & Hygiene. In addition, every Friday, we have them learning a little about organic gardening. Some day the organic farming principles they learn may become necessary to feed their families.

The Legacy Institute Leadership Training Center has only been open *for 3 months!* Already we have young Karen and Kachin with limited English language training – *NEVER having* spoken publicly before – now giving complete speeches in English! They are singing Handel in *4-part harmony!* They are already typing in English and learning Excel on the computer, *most having never studied computer before!* And most important, they are learning the TRUTH OF THE BIBLE!

We will continue to “raise the bar” and the transformation of these young people will continue to be miraculous! All because God’s Spirit is at work in a few individuals sent to teach young people in Southeast Asia.

Is this what it is going to be like in the millennium? Will Jesus send us out to teach the nations like we are teaching these 12 Karen and Kachin? Will we *all* be sent out to help others experience the transformation of hearts and minds from a way of life that leads to misery and death into the way that leads to LIFE and true HAPPINESS!?

Time is short. The cosmic clock of prophecy continues on its countdown to the end of the age. As we increase our evangelistic efforts in Asia, we experience more and more resistance. We are helping Evangelist Lazum Brang in Myanmar spread the Gospel of the Kingdom in Kachinland, lower Burma (Myanmar) and the border regions of China. His efforts are paying off and every year more and more people among the Kachin, Karen and China border tribes (like the *Lisu*) are coming to the knowledge of the Truth. But Satan is not sleeping. Both the Chinese and Burmese governments are becoming more and more repressive against Christian churches. They see Christianity as a threat from a “foreign element.” In Myanmar, they are shutting down churches and forbidding people to

meet. Here is an excerpt from a recent report in the March-April 2002 issue of *The Sabbath Sentinel*:

...The military dictatorship has banned Christians from meeting in buildings less than a century old. More than 100 church buildings have already been closed in the capital Rangoon and the nearby Shwe Pyi Tar since June. All church buildings have been forced to close in the southern township of Hlaing Tai Yar...

As you can see from the above report, our job to spread the True Gospel message in Myanmar is not getting any easier. In fact, the more we scatter the seeds of God's Truth, the more resistance we encounter. Satan wants to keep these people in the dark, enslaved to a way of life that is *against* God. We are scattering the seeds of Truth and Light. We are finding fertile ground. But Satan will do all he can to snatch away these precious seeds of the Truth of God. And, as is his usual modus operandi, he uses this world's governments as his lackeys. Please pray earnestly that God protects all of us in our travels to carry forward His Work.

Gloria and I are invited to Yangon (formerly Rangoon, Capital of Myanmar) for the Day of Atonement. Evangelist Lazum Brang is holding Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles in Yangon this year. Travel in Myanmar is very difficult because of poor roads and little public transportation. One of the forms of transportation that still works (some of the time!) is the railroad system built by the British. It is actually easier for people to travel by rail from the various areas of Myanmar and Kachinland down to the Capital of Yangon for the Feast rather than to some other location.

So Lazum Brang has asked us to stop in Yangon to keep Atonement on our way to India for the Feast of Tabernacles. He wants us to help baptize a number of people from various parts of the country who will be gathering there for the Feast.

This is wonderful. We are excited that we have been asked to participate in the baptism of new additions to the Body of Christ. But what about the policy of the Myanmar government against Christian churches? We are never sure from one year to the next what problems we might encounter in Myanmar as foreigners who are also teachers of the Bible. I am not forgetful of the tribulations Paul had to endure in taking the Gospel to the Gentile nations! We need you to continuously pray for our personal safety and also the safety of all our brethren in Myanmar.

After Atonement in Yangon, we will fly to Madras via Calcutta. Gloria and I will be participating in the Feast of Tabernacles in Southern India this year. Herb and Ann Vierra will be coordinating the Feast in Thailand. Herb is Secretary of Legacy Institute and an ordained elder.

We are looking forward to the Feast in Madras. Michael Hubert is coordinator of a small Feast site there. He is expecting an attendance of over 30 persons. It will be good to visit with our Indian brethren once again. Services will be held in both English and Tamil languages. Most of the brethren in Southern India are

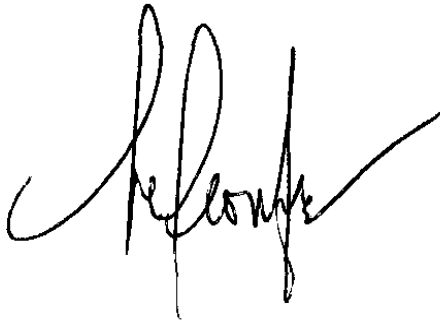
poor in physical things – but very rich in what really matters - spiritual things. It is always good to be around them because it helps us see clearly that the physical is only temporary and subject to decay, whereas the spiritual things of God last forever. Jesus told us to lay up our treasures in heaven where no thief can steal and no rust can corrupt. The brethren and newly interested people in Southern India face many hardships and discouragements in their lives. But they are eager to lay up their treasures in heaven in the hope of the soon coming Kingdom of God.

There is growth in Thailand. There is growth in Myanmar. And there is growth in India. Wherever the Spirit of God is active, we see people of all tribes and languages being called to learn the Truth and become a part of God's family.

This Fall Festival season will see growth in attendance and more baptisms than ever before. We are here to facilitate and nurture this wonderful growth that *GOD* is causing to happen. It is an honor and a privilege to be one who is sent to serve God in this part of the world. Gloria and I want to thank all of you for your many prayers for us and for this important new front in God's Work. May God bless all of you abundantly.

Have a wonderful and spirit-led Fall Festival Season.

In Service to The King of Kings
Jesus Christ,



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.*