



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Dundee, Ohio

December 22, 2002

Dear Fellow workers,

Gloria and I are on an extended trip to the USA, having been invited to make presentations telling people about the projects of Legacy Institute. We are visiting California, Texas, Ohio and Arizona. We also came to the US to attend a Legacy board meeting in California. So many things are happening so quickly that we decided the board should meet twice a year instead of just once a year.

Volunteer Teachers Needed

One very important topic discussed at the board meeting was the need for more help in our projects in Asia, especially at the Legacy Institute Leadership Training Center in Chiangmai, Thailand. The school is already into its second semester. It is hard to believe that this time last year we did not yet have a location for the school, no teachers and no budget for it's operation. But we prayed for God's guidance and direction. If He wanted it, He would have to supply us with the means to make it happen. Now we look back in wonder how God blessed everything!

The school year will end in March and we are now making plans for the new school year beginning May 2003. Two of our volunteer teachers, Bonnie Turner and Heidi Hanisko will be returning to the US in March to continue their studies. These girls have been nothing less than fantastic! They have been carrying a very heavy load of teaching responsibilities including English classes, computer classes, public speaking, music and choral, sports, Sabbath school for children and even a class in organic agriculture. Add to all that an assignment teaching English in the local primary school, and you can see they are working very hard.

Legacy Institute Leadership Training Center is envisioned as a 2-year school. We will be adding a second year for those who pass the first year examinations and qualify to continue. We then plan to admit 10-12 new first year students. Our needs are clear. We will need 4 to 5 qualified volunteer teachers to come over to Thailand and teach the returning students as well as new students. We already have several young people from the US who have volunteered to come for the summer in 2003. While we welcome their desire to serve for a few months, what we *really* need are qualified volunteers able to teach the *entire school year* from May 2003 to March 2004.

I understand we are placing a big order before God in prayer. It is not easy to find qualified people from COG backgrounds who are able to come to help teach. Many are willing – but few are able! Many want to come, but are already tied up with other commitments. I fully realize that volunteering for a teaching position takes a lot of sacrifice. To dedicate a year to volunteer service means putting normal life on hold. Some volunteers will choose to give up employment or postpone continuing their education. Volunteers receive no salary and pay their own way over and back. They must agree to teach for a full 9 ½ months, from the end of May until mid-March.

Service in the 3rd World is not glamorous. It means hard work and sacrifice. God has blessed us with adequate “western style” housing for our volunteers (even flush toilets!), but little can be done about the heat, humidity, bugs and living in a culture that is so different from what we are used to at home. While in Thailand, all volunteers must adjust to the society in which God has placed us – *IF* we want to make a real difference. Paul said that he would be willing to “become all things to all men” in order that he might save some. Those of us who represent the same Lord that Paul represented can and should take a lesson from him. He was very flexible while working in different cultural contexts – but uncompromising in his personal character and the basic doctrines of Jesus Christ.

Please send a resume via email or post to one of the addresses at the top of this letter if you are seriously interested in applying for an unpaid volunteer teaching position at the Legacy Institute School in Thailand.

Feeding the sheep of Jesus

God gave us a job to do. After His resurrection, but before His ascension to God’s throne in Heaven, Jesus had one last meal with his disciples. During the meal He turned to Peter and asked him a question. In fact, Jesus asked him the same question three times and in three slightly different ways. But the command he gave after each answer was the same, **“If you love me – feed my sheep.” JOHN 21:13-17** We are to feed the Lord’s sheep.

How important is the command “FEED MY SHEEP” to the Church of God today?

Have we ever taken the time to define *who* the Lord’s sheep are? Who was Jesus talking about? The Jews only? All Israelites only? Only the Church? Only the converted and no one else? Just WHO are the “*sheep of the Lord?*” We must keep in mind that there was *no church* at the time of this conversation between Christ and Peter.

So who are the sheep of Christ today? Is it ONLY members of your particular COG fellowship? Is it ONLY members of all the various COG fellowships? Is it ONLY Sabbatarians? Sabbath keepers and JEWS? – – Americans and British? – – ONLY modern Christians?

Who are the “*sheep*” Jesus refers to time and again? And what is this “harvest” He keeps talking about? We will have to examine Jesus’ own words. He tells us who He considers HIS SHEEP to be!

Please read **JOHN 10:1-16**.

It seems probable Jesus was talking about Israel when He talks about the sheep of the first sheepfold. But who are the “*OTHER SEEP WHO ARE NOT OF THIS FOLD*” which He refers to? Why the Gentiles, of course!

The Bible is filled with prophecies concerning the conversion of the Gentiles. Jesus came to bring life to ALL peoples by His death. But this was not immediately apparent to the Apostles. Remember, the Jews considered the Gentiles “dogs” and wouldn’t even eat with them. Christ was continuously ridiculed because he was willing to eat and talk with Samaritans, tax collectors, former prostitutes and other “sinners.” God had to teach Peter in **Acts 10**, through a very powerful vision, not to call any man “unclean” before baptizing Cornelius, the first Gentile convert to Christianity. Paul preached first to his own people, but later, when they continuously rejected the message of salvation, he turned to the Gentiles. The Jews, for the most part, rejected Christ’s message. The Gentile peoples, on the other hand, were far more accepting.

Some would say that this present time is the time of the conversion of the modern-day Israelitish peoples and the time for the Gentiles conversion is after Jesus returns. But the Bible does not say this. Everything I read tells me that there is a *great harvest* yet to come among the Gentile peoples just before the return of Jesus to this earth – and that we are not to wait around until He gets here *BEFORE* we do our jobs!

MATT 9:35-38 Jesus was a very compassionate man. He looked on *ALL* the people and felt sorry for their condition. He said they were as “sheep having no shepherd.” He also told his disciples something else. He said that the “*harvest is PLENTEOUS, but the laborers are FEW.*” And they should “*pray God to send more laborers into the harvest.*”

JOHN 4:31-35 Here Jesus warns his disciples NOT to say the harvest is for the future, but rather *that “the fields are already ripe for the harvest.”*

Did you catch that? Jesus has great compassion on people. He tells us that the harvest is PLENTEOUS and the fields are ALREADY ripe for the harvest – but there are not enough HARVESTERS!

Notice what Jesus is NOT SAYING! He is NOT saying that we have to wait until His millennial rule to start harvesting! *In fact, He said DON’T say that the harvest is for some future time!* He also says the harvest is VAST, not small!

If we can open our eyes and look beyond our own Church congregations –we discover that God’s Fields *are the whole world!*

Now, before someone accuses me of having a “you’al come” approach to conversion, let me say that the Bible is clear on just WHO does the calling. That is God’s business -- not ours. And the Bible is clear in explaining that not all who hear the message of the

Kingdom will be chosen by God in this age. But who among us on earth has *the ability* or even *the authority* to decide just *who* the chosen might be or *how many* God will choose to call?

Paul gives us a very telling picture of just how all this works in **Romans 10**. He opens in verse 11 by quoting **Isaiah 28:16**, “*Whosoever believes on him shall not be ashamed.*” He then tells us that “*there is **no difference** between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto **all** that call upon him.*” Now comes a very important “Bible formula” to help us understand how a “calling” is given. Read verses 14-15.

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe on him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except 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.’”

Paul is giving us profound insight into how God calls people. People cannot believe *unless they hear* about Jesus and His Kingdom. They cannot hear *unless it is preached* to them. And unless someone *goes and delivers the message to them*, they can only remain in spiritual darkness, never having THE CHANCE to repent and accept salvation through belief and faith in Jesus their Savior! It is HEARING the message that begins the entire process!

So, instead of waiting on God to call people and have them come to us, it is the other way around. Perhaps God is *waiting on us* to get out there and preach the message -- actively evangelizing the whole world – so that He has something *to call them to!*

We are the ones God gave *the training and the resources* to fulfill His will in the end time harvest. No other peoples on the face of the earth have what we have. We have literally DECADES of Bible instruction. We have had the benefit of an educated, trained ministry and regular Sabbath services and annual Feasts year after year. We have the blessings of *freedom of religion* to engage freely in the study and practice of our doctrinal beliefs. We have been given the *financial resources* to support active evangelism worldwide. And, most important, we have a Lord at the very throne of the universe to give us the direction, strength and power to succeed.

The scriptures are clear. The Work of God is far from over! In fact, there is more **WORK yet to do** than we can ever imagine! So who are the harvesters of God’s fields?

The answer is, you and I are the harvesters! Now is not the time to wait around, and wait on Jesus to show up before we do anything! Jesus is **ALREADY** actively engaged in the Great Harvest of the End of the Age. But are we engaged with Him?

Video CD of the Church of God in Kachinland

We have finally completed the VCD of Gloria's and my visit to Kachinland for the Passover. It is 50 minutes long with footage of church services, Kachin tribal music and culture, a Kachin market and informative interviews with Evangelist Lazum Brang. In these interviews he talks about how he learned about the Truth of God; how the COG in Kachinland was formed and expresses the church's appreciation for the kind support from western brothers and sisters. The format is Mpeg 1. If anyone is interested in receiving one of these CD's which can be played on computer or VCD/DVD player, please write us at the address on the letterhead.

Prayer Updates

Werner Jebens: Gloria's father has recently had a set back and is again struggling with prostate difficulties. His PSA count is currently back up. Please continue to pray for his condition.

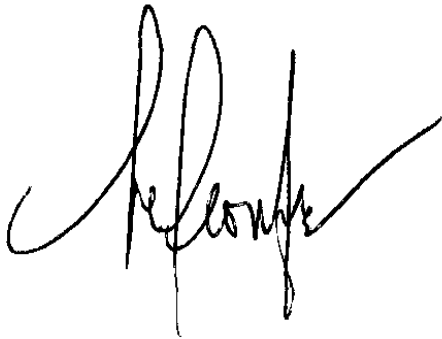
Shannon Showers: My niece Shannon is much improved and now able to go back to school, but still has days when she is too sick to attend. Please continue to pray for her complete healing and recovery.

As this Roman year draws to a close, we want to thank all of you for your much-appreciated support for what God is doing in Asia. What is being accomplished is a team effort with the power of God's Holy Spirit amplified by your prayers. We thank you all.

Soon I will be returning to Thailand. Gloria will stay a few extra weeks in California with her parents. Please pray for our safe journeys and that our health remains strong so that we can continue in whatever God has in store for us to accomplish in the near future to the glory of His Great Name!

God's Grace and Protection on all of you!

A servant of 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.