



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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January 16, 2003

Dear Fellow-workers,

I have received several letters from Burma that I want to share with you. The first is from Lashi Naw, deacon in the Kachinland Church of God. He recently returned from an evangelistic tour of the China Border region. He was gone almost 3 months and covered over 1000 miles on foot and mountain bike. You will notice he now needs new tires! (My personal editorial comments are in parentheses.)

December 21, 2002

Dear brother and big teacher in Christ,

Very respectfully I greet and inform you that all my family members and the believers from the church from here are now very quite well by the blessing of God. I want to tell you that I toured to Shan State Burma by my mountain bike in August, September, up to October 10, 2002 ago and I was able to spread the Sabbath message to over 200 villages. But most of the mountainous villages have no post offices and also most of the villagers are more backward and poorer than our villages. The mountain bike cannot go (all the way) to the mountainous villages.

You tour to very far distant lands from country to country. But, I only toured around in my own country. It is a difference that business tour and gospel tour. In the past years I toured to many places for my own purposes, but now I tour for the gospel work. I have notice that most of the people in the mountainous areas never heard about the Bible truths. Please tell the church members to pray for us as soon as you receive my letter. When you come to Burma, please bring two tyres and two tubes of mountain bike for me. I will so please to you.

The China made tyres and tubes are available here, but they size are very different and not so good quality. Although you can not come up to Kachinland (if you cannot come to Kachinland) you can bring them to Yangon. Now I have many gospel tours to various areas especially among the Anamists. Please let us unite our hearts to accomplish the work of God rapidly and please remember us in your ministries very abundantly.

Very respectfully yours,

Lashi Naw

The life of an evangelist in Myanmar (Burma) is difficult and arduous. Many mountain villages have no roads and no post offices. The Gospel of God's Kingdom cannot reach them through the mail. It takes men such as Lazum Brang and Lashi Naw with the willingness of heart to spread the Gospel message on foot and bicycle. The China border region (between China, Kachinland and the Shan States) is particularly mountainous and remote. It is inhabited by mountain tribes with little or no education. This is an area where opium is grown and warlord armies operate. Poverty and periodic warfare are a way of life. I ask all of you to pray for the health and safety of these faithful men who risk their lives to carry the message of hope to this distant region of the world.

I also received 2 letters from Lazum Brang. The first I received while on my speaking tour to the US. The other I only just received upon my return to Chiangmai. (Personal editorial comments in parentheses.)

January 7, 2003

Central Burma and Karen Border Area

Dear brother Leon and sister Gloria Sexton,

I and my wife, three daughter are now in Kyauk Taing village. We plan to stay here 3 Sabbaths. Because, Sabbath-keepers are increased every Sabbath day. Now 7 families are become Church of God members. But they all are very poor: and some new members cannot keep the Sabbath because of their daily breads. So, I purchased rice and I have given them some rice. I mean that I distribute rice to the poor families.

Just a few day ago, I sent to you an E-mail letter from Yangon. From Jan. 1st all the train ticket rates are become triple price. Day by day, month by month, year by year, all the eatable things rates are become more and more. For the poor families in Burma, it is the most difficult time now. Very soon my family will depart from this area, because my children's schools are now opening.

Pastor Htoo Saw family is now very quite well now. Yesterday evening I payed visit to our new church members from house to house. Now they need church compound here and I am searching every day. I find 3 places, but very expensive. One compound is 4 acre; one compound is 8 acres. The fixed price is 500,000 kyats (around \$500 U.S. dollars).

I met with Nyi Mar Wu of Putao (Putao is located in the far northern tip of Kachinland next to Tibet.) in Yangon on Jan. 1st. She is very, very glad and happy for my arrival. On Jan. 2nd she will learn computer 2 months courses. I have already payed fee for computer training and for her daily foods. It is totally 22,000 Kyats (about \$22 USD). Now our church funds is not enough for our new vast mission fields.

All the church members will be united in one organization (gather together) the coming Passover time. Now we have planned to celebrate Passover in Kalay Myo area and to celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles in Yangon.

We don't know about tomorrow; all the plans are on the hands of our Almighty God. Please convey to the American church members that we are requesting special prayers for our ministries.

May God bless you and your ministries there in Thailand very abundantly.

Very Fraternally Yours,

Lazum Brang

Pastor & Mrs. Lazum Brang – Frontier Evangelists

I should explain who Pastor Htoo Saw and Nyi Mar Wu are. Htoo Saw and his son are new members of the Body of Christ I baptized in Yangon (Rangoon) last Atonement. Pastor Htoo Saw is a graduate of the Burma Baptist Seminary and was a lay pastor in the Shan States for over 30 years. He was called by God last year and now pastors a small Church of God congregation in his hometown. He was called by God through the teaching of Lazum Brang and presently evangelizes in the villages around his home area.

Nyi Mar Wu is a young lady from the area of Kachinland next to Tibet. Legacy Institute is sponsoring her education so that she can use the computer to help Lazum Brang develop evangelistic literature in the Burmese, Kachin and Lisu languages.

As you can see, Lazum Brang lets no grass grow under his feet! He is one of the best examples of the pure evangelist I have ever seen. His life *IS* GOD'S WORK! Please pray for him, his family and those God is calling to His Gospel Work.

The next letter I received while in the US. It reveals some of the perils of doing God's Work in this remote area of the world:

December 2, 2002

Kachinland

Dear brother Leon and sister Gloria Sexton,

By the blessings of God I arrived back home safely from Thailand on Nov. 22nd ago. But, I was facing with a wonderful miracle on the train between Yangon and Mandalay in Nov. 15 morning time around 8:00 a.m. On Nov. 14 night time at 10:45 p.m. I left Yangon and I didn't sleep the whole night on train. The next morning time when the sun rising, I become very, very sleepy so that I kept my wallet bag in the upstand (overhead rack); and also I fastened it to another bag.

But, unfortunately my wallet bag was fallen down and hanging a few seconds; and then jumped out through the window. On that time the train was running very fast by 40 miles scale. At that moment time I was amazing; I don't know what shall I do. Later, I absolutely decided to jump from the train. Because, all of my money, national card, train ticket and other important documents are inside the wallet bag.

Our Almighty God takes care of me during the time I jumped out, and I was nothing injured. Maybe it was nearly 2 miles far distant from the fallen bag placed when I jumped out. And I do not remember the exact place where the wallet bag is fallen down. But I first knelt down and pray God for getting back my wallet bag. And God answers my prayer. I myself didn't find my bag; but a young man has taken and brought it to the railway station.

And I was very, very happy and glad to receive my wallet bag from the station master. I cannot express you how I was glad and happy for receiving back unexpectedly. Now I write here a brief story of my events on train.

At present time I am very, very busy in my ministry at home. We all are very fine. I have already given the clothes to the church brethren which I received from you in Mae Sot. They are all very, very happy to receive and thank you very, very much to you. I very much appreciate you for your cordial understanding, kindness and generosity.

When I arrived home I received your letter of Oct. 19 which you sent to me from Bangkok. Please convey to Bronson Manaw that we all are always remembering him. May God bless you and your ministries there in Thailand very abundantly.

Very Fraternally Yours,

*Lazum Brang
Kachinland*

P.S. On my return back home time from Yangon I was alone, I have no acquainted friends on the train. But, I brought 7 big luggages. Before I jumped out from the train, I did hand over all 7 luggages to the train polices. That train is (No.) 7 uptrain. After I received my wallet bag I come back to Mandalay by (No.) 11 uptrain. It was Friday, and I arrived Mandalay the next morning time at 1:25 a.m. And I went to sleep at the nearest hotel. At 7:30 a.m. I went to the police station. The police officers kindly gave back me all my seven luggages. I praise the Lord, our Almighty God with a lot of happiness, I arrived back home safely.

Just another day in the life of a frontier evangelist! Please remember Lazum Brang in your daily prayers.

I arrived back in Chiangmai, Thailand on January 13. The speaking tour to the US lasted over a month. During that time Gloria and I were invited to visit four states and I spoke about God's Work through Legacy Institute 6 times. Many people among the Churches of God are hearing about what God is doing in Asia and are excited and inspired. We are experiencing growth and new opportunities are presenting themselves at every turn. It can be overwhelming at times. But our faith must be in Almighty God. It is *HIS* Work and we are *HIS* servants. He directs and we follow!

The Legacy Institute Leadership Training Center is back in session. The students are becoming more and more proficient in the English language every day. Heidi Hanisko and Bonnie Turner are also teaching music and choral. Next month, we will present a choral program as a "good works" project in 4 local hospitals. The students are excited and working hard to prepare for the program.

Production in the school's organic garden is also improving. The soil is poor and must be developed with additions of compost and organic fertilizer. Dr. John Karlik, a Church of God deacon in California and agricultural expert will spend 2 weeks with us the first of next month. We hope he can show us organic ways of disease and insect control. We also will get a visit next month from Dr. David Hannaway, a Church of God member from the University of Oregon who travels to Thailand frequently. He is also advising us on our organic vocational agriculture project. Also, Mr. Dale Schurter has again just shipped us very useful reference books. Our goal is to become self-sufficient in vegetable production for both the school and local Karen member families by May this year. I know this is ambitious as we only cleared the land and started planting vegetables less than 8 months ago, but we rely on God's blessings in this project.

We not only want to supply food for the school, but we also seek to teach our students and local church families how to produce food to feed themselves by learning to manage the natural resources God has given us. Every year more and more land has to be abandoned for food production in Thailand because of overuse of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides. Presently, large plantation producers just move on and clear

more land. But Thailand is running out of land and the forests and water resources are being polluted at a very rapid rate.

God put Adam and Eve in the Garden to “dress and keep” it. This means man is to *take care* of the land He gives us. If we take proper care of what He gives us, we can sustain the production of food on the same plot of ground year in and year out. But the world’s chemical system, which forms the basis of most of the world’s food production, is destructive and wasteful. The fertility of the land is damaged and eventually becomes useless. Instead of repenting of the wrong ways of greed and exploitation and turning to sustainable organic agricultural methods, we are told that science will save us through genetic engineering of our food supplies.

This road will end in disaster for all mankind. God set up a system at creation based on “kind reproducing kind.” Genetic manipulation of the basic building blocks of God’s creation is doomed to backfire in our faces. Genes from one species are actually placed into another *totally unrelated* species! The natural barriers protecting the genetic integrity of species is broken down. They are actually placing animal and human genes in plants! Tomatoes are inserted with fish genes. Mouse genes are put into potatoes. Human genes have actually been placed into pigs!

The large multinational companies who promote genetically modified foods claim that we must do this in order to feed the world’s growing populations. They claim that it is safe; that there is no proof it will hurt the environment. They try to shift the burden of proof to those who oppose genetic manipulation. It is *they* who must prove it is safe! But history repeats itself. We have trusted our scientists before. And we have reaped the disastrous consequences of using DDT, Thalidomide, and a host of other supposedly “safe” products fostered on the innocent. Satan always poses as an *angel of light!*

But this new menace is different. Before the computer, we could not break the genetic code put in place at Genesis. Now we can. It is a “brave, new world” we live in today and our rebellion against God’s environmental systems will only DESTROY MILLIONS of lives in the end! Anyone who reads and believes the prophetic words of the Book of Revelation already knows the end results. Woe, woe, woe to the people of the earth in these last days!

The nation that ought to be in the forefront of responsible development of food production for the whole world – the United States of America – is instead the leader in the development and production of GMO (genetically modified organism) foods. For Americans, this is particularly dangerous because we *have now become a nation of guinea pigs!* The US government does not require long-term testing of genetically engineered foods. No one really knows the long-term effects on the health of human beings. But at the same time, over 60% of processed foods (canned and packaged for the supermarket) contain GMO’s and you don’t know it because there is NO LAW REQUIRING LABELING! You have no protection – and *no choice!*

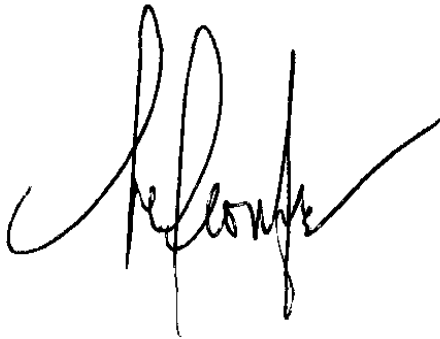
And what about negative consequences to the environment? GMOs are being introduced into the natural food chain and there is no way of knowing the long-term results! GMOs pass on their traits to all succeeding generations. Once the food chain is contaminated by man-made genetic alterations, there is no turning back. GMOs cannot be recalled like a

Chevy truck or Ford sedan. Genetic contamination is spread through pollen, insects, microbes, birds and animals and cannot be controlled.

What about political consequences? I have said for a long time that the one who controls the seeds of a country controls the country! Once a country gives itself over to the GMO system of food production, it locks that nation's farmers into a system of non-sustainable, industrial agriculture, totally dependent on large multinational corporations for seeds and herbicides. Once the seed stock is monopolized and controlled, that nation is at the mercy of whoever controls the seeds; and all in the name of "helping feed the poor". This is a win-win situation for greedy, manipulative multi-national corporations; but a lose-lose for our children and grandchildren. I read the Book of Revelation in the light of recent scientific manipulation of nature's genetic codes and it makes me shiver. John the Apostle paints a gruesome word picture of environmental calamity and the destruction of most of the world's food supplies. The result is worldwide plagues, starvation and death. In the very near future will mankind's wars be fought over clean water and uncontaminated food?

We must pray that God protects us from what is to come. In the meantime, we should not hide our heads in the sand. Instead, we should do whatever we can to protect the health and well-being of our children. Here at the Legacy School, we are teaching our students about God's natural system of environmental management and how they can grow their own foods organically. Please pray that God continues to bless our gardening program.

That is all for now. Until next time,
Your servant in Jesus' 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. If anyone wishes to contribute organic seed packets or books for our gardening program, please send (only one or two at a time) to:

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