



LEGACY INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 7, Dundee, Ohio 44624

www.legacyinstitute.org

anita_showers@legacyinstitute.org

Dear Fellow-laborers,

July 27, 2003

This last month has been difficult. There were so many demands on my attention that I was unable to get out a June letter to all of you. I must apologize. I am the chief communicator for the Legacy Institute. If I am not in communication with you regularly, you cannot receive updated information on the progress of many of our projects. Please forgive me.

We are taking steps to keep you better informed. We have redesigned and reformatted our website at www.Legacyinstitute.org. We will use this site as an additional way to keep our readers informed. We will post new information each month, so please visit our new site and check it out.

As I said, this last month has been very difficult. Legacy school got off to a good start with 5 returning students and 9 new students. All of our students come from ethnic minority groups. We have 4 from the Karen tribe and 10 Kachin. They have different languages and customs, but most come from poor families and some are children of refugee families. For June and most of July, we had 8 volunteer teachers from America. All come from Church of God families. Two (Justin Showers and Mary Ann Miller) have returned home to continue their studies. We are teaching English, Computers, Music and Choral, Public Speaking, Health and Hygiene, and Organic Agriculture. I have added another Bible class for the second year students. First year students receive a survey of the Bible in the "Survey of Bible History" class. I teach second year students a more detailed approach to the true doctrines of the Bible in the "Life and Teachings of Jesus" class.

Teaching 2 Bible classes, traveling on evangelistic visits in Asia, being Director of the Legacy School AND President of Legacy Institute is grueling. I feel like the juggler trying to keep many plates spinning at the same time. As soon as I get one spinning, I have to run over and keep another, and then another, spinning! But enough of my complaining, Jesus said we must take up our cross and follow Him!

Satan has pulled out all stops to get us sidetracked so that we cannot concentrate on helping accomplish God's Work in Asia. While Gloria and I were in Bangkok working on getting our visas renewed for another year, Satan struck! I received a call from our son Bronson, who helps us administer the school. He informed us that one of our volunteer teachers, Heather Beyer, had to be admitted to the hospital. She had a very high fever and could not keep any food or water down. I hurried back to Chiang Mai and went straight to the hospital. I asked Gloria to stay in Bangkok and complete our visa renewals.

Chiang Mai has several very good hospital facilities with modern equipment and trained doctors and staff. Bronson had taken her to the best private one called, Lanna Hospital, about 20 minutes from the Legacy School. Heather was in bed and receiving liquids and body salts intravenously.

Another of our volunteer teachers, Mary Ann Miller, was staying with her overnight. I anointed her and we all prayed for God to intervene, take care of her in the hospital and bring her to full recovery. Later that night I received a call from the hospital. Mary Ann informed me that Heather had been rushed into the Intensive Care Unit! During the night, Mary Ann saw that she had very cold and clammy skin. So she quickly found a doctor and insisted he examine her. Heather had gone into Septic Shock! If Mary Ann wouldn't have been there to keep an eye on her condition, she might have died as she was in the standard ward and the nurses were only looking in on her periodically.

Bronson and I immediately rushed back to the hospital. The doctors and nurses were busy trying to get her blood pressure back to normal and find out what the cause of her condition was. Her abdomen was very extended and painful. We prayed hard for Heather and I updated her parents in the US.

Heather is only 18 years old, but already has an Associates Degree from a university. She is very bright and talented and had quickly become an important part of our teaching team. Now she was struck down with a life threatening condition and the doctors had no idea what it was! It is at times like these that we must humbly beseech our God and our Savior Jesus the High Priest to intervene and DO SOMETHING because we are powerless to do anything!

God did intervene that night and brought Heather back from the edge. I called Tanphuying Rawichit, Queen Sirikit's Lady in Waiting who takes care of the Queen's medical staff. She immediately sent one of her palace assistants who lives in Chiang Mai to come and confer with the doctors at Lanna hospital about Heather's condition. All agreed that she needed an operation and it was decided she should be moved to Chiang Mai University's Maharaj Hospital close by, which had a very good surgeon on staff.

The operation didn't take long. The surgeon found two abscesses in her intestines that had filled with liquid from her blood, but decided not to remove them. No infection or other condition was found. She was then placed in the ICU room on a respirator. Poor Heather!

I assigned our teachers to be with her on a rotational basis day and night. We got in trouble for this because people are allowed into the ICU room only during very limited visiting hours. But the Legacy teachers were adamant. They insisted they had to stay with her, watch over her and hold her hand until she got better!

The best diagnosis the doctors could make was that her body had been poisoned by something that put her into toxic shock. We later learned that Heather is very sensitive to Monosodium Glutamate (MSG). In Thailand, MSG is copiously added to everything! Heather's family used nothing with MSG in it at home, and MSG is never used by our Legacy school cook. But Heather had been eating some food from outside the school, and even had eaten hamburgers and other food at the July 4th celebration at the US Consulate in Chiang Mai. This buildup of MSG apparently put her body into toxic shock!

It was a very close call. But at the writing of this letter, Heather is out of the hospital and recuperating at the teacher's quarters at Legacy School. She had to be in the hospital for 2 weeks! Both her parents flew over as soon as they could and stayed with her at the hospital. Whether Heather is able to continue on the project depends on how well she recovers over the next several weeks. In any case, the doctors have forbidden her to fly in a plane until at least 2 weeks have passed. God intervened and saved Heather. She is here on a mission to do God's Work. She is a representative of the Government of God in a gentile land. She belongs to Him. He WILL and DOES take care of His servants who honor and have faith in Him. We can thank God He is on His Throne in Heaven and reaches out to save us when He hears our cries. I want to personally thank every one of you who prayed fervently for Heather. Please continue to pray for her swift and complete recovery.

New Doors Opening for God's Work in Laos

Next door to Thailand across the mighty Mekong River is the mountainous, landlocked country of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos. Until the end of the Vietnam War, Laos was a separate kingdom of Buddhist and Animist "Tai" people with a language and customs similar to that of Thailand. In fact, the Thai and Lao people are two branches of the same racial stock. The Kingdoms of Luang Prabang and Lang Xang (*Land of a Million Elephants*) predate the Thai Kingdom of Siam, which became modern Thailand. Now Laos no longer has a king. It is a Communist republic.

Gloria and I needed to leave the country to get our visas renewed, so we decided to go next door to Laos for our first visit to that country. We also wanted to talk again with a young Laotian man named Ming Oukeobounheuang, who wants to attend Legacy Institute Leadership Training Center here in Chiang Mai. Vientiane, the capital of Laos, is just across the river from Thailand; so we decided to go there. This is the city where Ming lives.

Going to Vientiane is like stepping back into time and reminds me of the Chiang Mai of 30 years ago. The city is very quiet. There is very little traffic and the air is clean and fresh. The Lao people are very friendly and polite. Life is not as hectic as it is in the cosmopolitan cities of Bangkok and even the Chiang Mai of today.

Frontier Evangelist Lazum Brang told me about Ming last year. Ming is a former Buddhist now fellowshiping with the SDA (Seventh Day Adventist) Church of Laos. There are pockets of SDA's in Vientiane and southern Laos totaling over 1200. There is no active Church of God group in Laos that I am aware of. Pastor Brang had hoped that one of us would get the opportunity to meet with Ming as he was interested in the Church of God doctrines.

Gloria and I visited Vientiane for 4 days. On the Sabbath, Ming brought 2 men to see me at the hotel. One was a Lao man, formerly of the SDA, who leads a group of Sabbatarians consisting of 15 families. The other man was a Hmong hill tribesman who is an evangelical evangelist. We sat down and discussed (Laotians can understand Thai language) many topics, including the doctrines of the Church of God and the importance of keeping God's Laws – including observance of the Sabbath. We also discussed the pagan holidays of Christmas and Easter, which most Christians in Laos observe, including the SDA's. They confessed that they were confused as to why Christians keep these holidays since they could find neither of them in the Bible. They left on a cordial note and asked me to stay in touch with them by post.

It is apparent to me that the Holy Spirit is becoming active in Laos, stirring the hearts of His chosen to seek out the Truth. Maybe it will only be a few. Maybe many. We don't know. But we MUST follow the lead of the Holy Spirit. It is our solemn duty to teach God's Truth to those who hunger and thirst. I have said many times in my letters that the fields of God are ripe for the harvest, but the laborers are very few. I look at the magnitude of the Work of God that needs to be done in Asia and I am overwhelmed! It is as if the floodgates are opening! In India, Burma, Thailand and now Laos – wherever we go – we find the Holy Spirit actively opening minds and hearts to seek out the Truth. And it doesn't matter whether they are Buddhist, Hindu or Christian!

Please pray that God blesses the Work of His servants in Asia, so that we can carry out His Holy Will. Also, please ask God to send more harvesters into His fields!

Letter from Evangelist Lazum Brang

I recently received a letter from Lazum Brang, the Church of God evangelist in Burma. He is depressed because, just as the Work really starts to take off in Kachinland and Burma and many are being called to the Truth, the Military Junta that rules Burma closed down the banks. The small amount of money Pastor Brang was keeping in the bank (equivalent to USD\$1200) was frozen and he has been unable to withdraw any of it. We were able to give him some money when we saw him at Passover in the Chin Hills, but much of it was used for Church member's travel expenses. The Work is expanding rapidly in Burma. Please PRAY GOD PROVIDES Pastor Brang with whatever is needed to accomplish that Work and take care of the needs of new brethren. Now, here are quotes from Pastor Brang's letter:

“On Pentecost day I was in Yangon, and I gathered some believers for the worship service. And then, I toured to Toungoo to see Saw Thoo Saw and Church brethren. Now in Central Burma, membership is increased very fastly. Over ten families are regularly gathered on the Sabbath day. From house to house they do the worship service. All the Church members from there are very, very poor. Every day they need work hard for their daily foods. If not, they will surely be hunger for foods. But they all are very, very faithful to God. They pay tithe, they keep Sabbath very faithfully.

Some Church member cannot send their children to schools because of their poorness. Some believers have no Holy Bibles to study the Bible lessons. Because they have no more extra money to buy the Holy Bibles. But it is very wonderful that they witness to other people every day about the Bible Truths. God's Holy Spirit now is pouring upon the chosen people of God both in Kachinland and Burma.

Today I have great responsibility to offer them not only spiritual foods but also physical foods. Recently I received your letter of May 19th. I am very sorry to hear that you had to go to hospital because of infection in your leg when you returned back to Thailand. Today you try hard and open Legacy Institute in Chaingmai, Thailand. I very much appreciate your kindness, diligence, help, generosity and support. But you are not a boss of billionaire. All the moneys come from God. We should not spend it for the unfaithful persons. Because, we have to do other more important things than the small one. I have many great lessons in my life time. I have spent a lot of money for the unfaithful persons. I repent so much; I gave many Holy Bibles to the requested persons. But, they do not read, all the precious Bibles become useless. Today the price of Holy Bible per copy is 5000 Kyats (around 5 U.S. dollars). Today Holy Bibles are essential needed for the faithful members those who are willing to study, to witness every day. Now I am getting trouble, because I have no more Bibles to distribute.

At present time, you and Gloria are very important persons for all of us. Because, today we are very much depending upon you for our future great works of ministry both in Burma and Kachinland. Because of bad politic, all the businessmen, workers, traders are now getting trouble around the country in Burma. Among them, I am included. Last year I saved all the funds at a private bank, but still now I can not with-draw the money.

I have many great lessons. It is very, very difficult time in Burma. I praise God so much that my family, our church members, all are very fine; and God feeds us our daily foods in this difficult time. In Central Burma, we have some candidates for Baptism. On the second week of July, I will tour to Central Burma again. This year I publish Bible calendars for the Church members. I will inform you again. Please remember the Work in Kachinland. Whenever you receive more blessings from God, please remember us for the new vast mission fields.

*May God bless you and your ministries around in Asia very abundantly.
Your Co-Worker in the services of God,*

Lazum Brang - Frontier Evangelist”

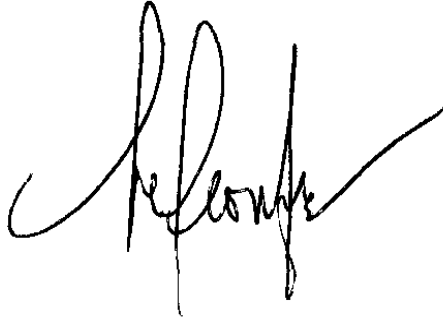
After receiving this letter, I was able to find a source in Bangkok for 700 complete Burmese language Bibles. I was only able to purchase 50 at the time. With a 20% discount, each Bible came to US\$4. We will get these Bibles to Pastor Brang as soon as we can. We are still looking for complete Kachin and Karen language Bibles. Many times Christian groups here serving the hill tribe minorities use only the “New Testament and Psalms” translations. If we are going to give Bibles, we want to give the complete Bible. God’s Holy Word is not divided. The Old Testament is not “done away” as some Christian pastors over here teach. We teach newly called people not to just sit, listen and believe. We teach them to check things out in their Bibles to see if what we are preaching is really faithful to God’s Word. They cannot do this if they don’t have a Bible and we are unable to obtain one for them.

Bibles in the Burmese language and other translations are becoming scarce inside Burma. And even if they are available, they are too expensive for the average person to purchase. Please pray that God Almighty helps us get Bibles to the people He is calling to His Holy Truth.

We need your prayers to help us do this growing Work in Asia now, more than ever before. The needs are urgent. People are being called and new, fledgling Church of God congregations are being raised up. We thank you all for the incredible encouragement we receive from so many of you through your prayers, notes and support.

May God bless you abundantly and stir up the Holy Spirit in you to pray fervently for faithful workers such as Lazum Brang who labor night and day in the Fields of the Almighty.

We pray God keeps you all safe and healthy.
Until next time, in Jesus Holy 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.