



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Dear Fellow-laborers in God's Harvest,

Urgent prayers are needed for the Legacy School land purchase in Chiang Mai. We want to do whatever God wills. He tells us to seek and knock. But it is God that opens the doors and no man can shut. But sometimes, He also closes the doors and no man can open. We seek God's will and your help in doing so!

This year, we have 18 students studying at Legacy School. 5 of these students come from Church of God families in Burma. One young man is the son and grandson of Church of God (7th Day) elders. Interestingly, his grandfather served the Church of God in the Chin Hills and Mizoram, India until his death at age 94. Now the grandson is studying English and the Bible at Legacy Institute so that he can return to Burma and follow in the footsteps of his father and grandfather.

It is imperative that we get young people, *trained in the Bible and righteous leadership principles*, into God's fields to serve His Work! The Church of God is growing exponentially in Thailand and Burma. Let me give you an example.

Three years ago there was no Church of God congregation in central Burma. Then Lazum Brang visited his wife's village near Taungoo (his wife is from the Karen tribe). There he met a Protestant lay pastor named Saw Htoo Saw (also a Karen). Saw Htoo Saw was a graduate of a Baptist seminary and pastored a small Protestant group. Lazum Brang began to teach him the Truth from the Bible and Htoo Saw began to listen.

As a result, I baptized Saw Htoo Saw and his son 2 years ago. Once baptized, Htoo Saw began diligently evangelizing the Taungoo area. Several families started to obey God's Truth and a small Church of God congregation was raised up. There are now about 24 people obedient to God's Word, keeping the Sabbath and Holy Days, and faithfully tithing on their increase (usually with rice, bananas, eggs or a chicken once in awhile).

Last year Pastor Htoo Saw fell out of a tree and a month later died from his injuries. With no pastor, I *thought* this fledgling flock would be scattered. But God has other ideas for Central Burma!

God is incredible! His Plan is incredible! His ways are beyond our feeble understanding! We never know how things are going to work out. I baptized 4 more people in this congregation at Passover this year, including Htoo Saw's widow! Lazum Brang visits when he can and now he tells me that there are 5-6 more wanting to be baptized – all since Passover just 3 months ago! The Taungoo congregation continues to grow – IN SPITE of setbacks and the death of their leader! At the rate this congregation is growing, I predict it will DOUBLE within the year!

This is only one isolated example of the growth that is taking place. This same story is being repeated all over Burma and the border area of Thailand. We need *trained people* to help serve these new and growing congregations. And that is the purpose of the *Legacy Institute Leadership Training Center* we founded 2 years ago in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Legacy Institute teaches the truth of the Bible to our students. But we teach far more than just Bible knowledge. We also teach character! We teach the important building blocks of character by teaching AND setting examples of honesty, truth, service, diligence, selflessness, kindness and all the other ingredients that make up a righteous leader and a TRUE disciple of Jesus Christ. Once they graduate – we send them out to teach others THESE SAME PRINCIPLES, through *word* and *example*, as well as the Bible, English and computer. The Legacy Institute Center here in Chiang Mai was raised up by the Head of the Church, Jesus Christ, to serve the Divine Plan of Almighty God! We are only the servants of His far greater plan for this part of the world.

But nothing in God's Work is ever easy. And Satan is always lurking about trying to throw a wrench in the works or stop what we are doing completely!

We really need a permanent place to build our school. We believe that God has given us a good location right here where we are leasing about 1 ½ acre that we call “the farm”. Legacy Institute has been given the chance to purchase this land. There is already a big house and some other buildings that can be used as classrooms. And there is enough area to build student housing, etc. Our lease expires this year and the owner wants to sell. In fact, this property is in what we would call *receivership*. The owner has not paid bank principle and interest for over 10 years! (Thailand has different laws and there is no such thing as foreclosure, so the owner still, somehow, retains title!)

We started to investigate the chance to buy the land for the school and asked Queen Sirikit's personal secretary to help us. She kindly called the bank on our behalf and they separated the “farm” land from the rest of the owner's plots in receivership and they cancelled a significant portion of the back interest! So the land itself only cost \$71,000 to clear the debt and purchase the property. We decided to pursue the purchase and have been working on this for several months now.

But now we face a serious roadblock. And we desperately NEED your prayers on our behalf as never before!

We have the down payment. But we need to borrow the balance of \$58,000 from a Thailand bank. Well, this is where we have run into a serious roadblock. We have talked to 2 major banks. Both are saying the same thing! They will not lend the balance to me personally because I am a foreigner, and Thai law stipulates that foreigners cannot “own” land. AND they will not lend the balance to Legacy because we are a foundation! They explained to us that they have a serious problem with lending to a school, foundation or temple; because, in Thai culture, IF they have to take a school, foundation or temple to court for non-payment of debt, the Thai people become very upset with the bank *because the bank appears to be “persecuting” a nonprofit institution!*

Now this makes absolutely no sense to our western way of thinking. But here in Asia it has everything to do with not “losing face.” The banks are not willing to take a chance with us because we are a foundation that is here to help the people! It has nothing to do with our banking records, nor our ability to pay back the loan. It has everything to do with them protecting their “face”!

People want to help and have inquired how much we need. Well, the fact is, we now need to come up with the balance of \$58,000 cash or lose the opportunity! The bank that holds the mortgage on the property has given us an extension of 30 more days to sort this out, after which we lose our chance to buy the land. It is such a good deal that I was told there are 2 speculators waiting in the wings to take it if we cannot.

I have asked you to pray about this land purchase before. Now I ask all of you to pray more fervently about this. First of all, **we want it to be God’s Will!** Please pray that God’s will be done. This is His school and we are His servants.

Secondly, pray that, if it is God’s Will that He will bless us with whatever it takes to take advantage of this important opportunity – whatever way He decides to do it.

Lastly, pray that God keep Satan from trying to STOP all this from happening! Why would the Devil want a school permanently established in northern Thailand that teaches the TRUTH of the Bible to young people from the hills of Burma and Thailand so that they can go back and *SPREAD THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD* to their own people?!! Of course he wants to stop us! And he is relentless!

This letter is an appeal to all of you to please pray, starting RIGHT NOW, for God to show us His Will! If He wants us to have that land for the school, then He will have to provide the means. If He doesn’t – then ask Him to show us this answer as well.

From the very beginning, this project has been an act of FAITH! We sincerely and completely believe that God will do as He Wills concerning Legacy Institute. If He wants us to have a permanent location here He will provide the means. If He does not – then we accept His Will in the matter. BUT, I will leave no stone unturned! And the most important thing I can do now is get as many of His Saints praying for this as I can! So this letter is an appeal for all of you to please pray – and pray fervently – for God to perform a miracle and supply what we need – according to His Divine Will.

I thank all of you for your wonderful letters of support and encouragement for the ministry we are involved in over here. And I thank you for your daily prayers.

We will keep you posted as to God's ultimate decision on this.

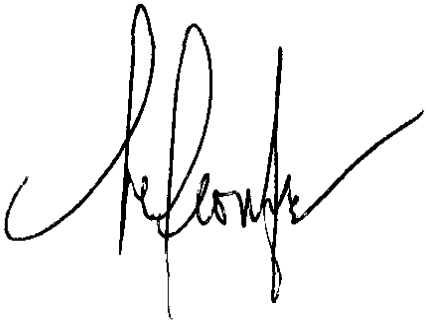
P.S. Other Prayer Requests

I am a firm believer in the power of the prayer of God's people. So, I am going to ask you all to pray for my old high school pal, John White, a long-time member of God's Church. He is fighting a rare form of cancer called "Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma", and the doctors say it is incurable. Well, they didn't ask Our Heavenly Father before they made such a prognosis, did they? So, please, all of you, pray for John. Pray that God will take away the cancer and give him more time on this earth to be an instrument of His Divine Will.

Also, pray for Peter Za Hmung and Kwallian Thang, two COG elders who are heading into the Chin Hills of Burma for a 2-month evangelizing tour. Pray for their safety and their success. Pray God blesses them both with abundant fruits in His Harvest.

Well that's about all for now. I have given you a lot to pray about. But God HEARS the sincere prayers of His Saints. In this I firmly believe!

God bless you all and keep you safe.
In Jesus' service,



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.