



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Chiang Mai, Thailand

Dear Fellow-laborers,

Much has happened since my last letter. Gloria and I completed our speaking tour in America and we held our graduation of 5 more students at *Legacy Institute Leadership Training Center* in Chiang Mai on March 6th.

We were all shocked to hear the news of the shooting at church services in Wisconsin. For those of you who may not have heard the tragic news; an upset member of the Living Church of God entered Sabbath services and opened fire – killing the pastor, his teenage son and 5 others before killing himself.

Tragedy can strike anywhere and at any time! We at Legacy grieve for the church members and families who experienced – and will continue to experience – the trauma of sudden death and destruction. It is not just a blow to the Living Church of God congregation alone – but to all of us in the body of Jesus Christ. None of us have heard anything like this before in the modern era of the Church of God!

It is natural for us to question God. Why? Why did God let this happen? I have no answers. And it serves no good purpose to engage in aimless speculation. I am finite – God is infinite. I know very, very little – God knows all things. I have no power – God has ALL power. All I can know is that our brethren in the LCG who lost loved ones need our sincere prayers and concern. It is time for the family of God, no matter what fellowship, to link hands in support and comfort for our brothers and sisters who will suffer the pain of such a tragic loss for a long time to come. Let's beseech God daily to comfort each and every one of them. I know they would pray for us!

Legacy Institute Graduation and Awards Presentation

March 6th, we graduated 5 more students: *Seng Aung, Kyang Kwi, Gauri Seng Kaw, Doi Ling and Kaw Mai* – all from the Kachin tribes. Officially, they will not receive their diplomas until they complete their “give-back year” – but we went ahead and held an a ceremony for them since 2 will be sent back across the Burma border to help Evangelist Lazum Brang by teaching English in his Bible school. Three will stay and complete their service in Thailand. After completing their second year, students must serve for one year. This we call their “give-back year.” Leaders are to give to their people. They lead by example. Part of every Legacy student's training is to give as they have been given. In this way we set an example of correct leadership.

We expect that about 12-15 new students will be accepted for next year. This means we will need additional dormitory space for them. We are already discussing plans for a building program on the land we recently purchased.

God gave us the land. Now we have to develop the campus. It reminds me of the Book of Genesis. God planted the Garden of Eden. He instructed Adam and Eve to “dress and keep” it. We want to build adequate facilities such as dormitories, school kitchen, classrooms and toilet/bathhouses for our students. Our students will also be able to help with the construction and maintenance as well as landscaping of the grounds. We have 8 students remaining at the school for the break. They are already busily engaged in helping with several landscaping projects.

Please pray that God will direct us in our building program. We must choose the most important needs first. Right now we are finishing up the river wall, which will prove crucial during the rainy season when the river is high, and washing the bank away. We have already lost several very large trees because of erosion. We don't want to lose any more.

Then we will work on getting the old pond fixed up so that we can grow fish to provide food for the school. Next comes the repair of the old water tank and the building of an additional water storage tank to accommodate the student body's clothes washing and bathing needs. We have a good well – but not enough storage capacity for as many as 30 students and teachers. Once the water storage tank is complete, we have to build bathhouses and toilet facilities – one for the men students and one for the ladies. Then we will tackle the dormitories. We are considering building on a “modular” plan. We will build small cottage style dorms, one at a time, as finances permit. Each cottage will house 4-6 students with a bedroom and study area. The students will use centrally located bathhouses rather than an attached bathroom in each cottage.

We will use the house that already came with the land as office and classroom space. We eventually will need to build additional classrooms and some sort of meeting hall. But all this will take time and the blessing of Almighty God. Right now we are looking at the future building program of Legacy school – *one step at a time!* The first step is to get an adequate water supply set up. Then we will go from there.

It is a big undertaking. But God gave us the property so that we can build the school here. He will provide the resources, as we need them. We are moving ahead in FAITH! Please continue to pray for guidance from the Almighty God to direct and lead us in this vast undertaking.

I was talking to Ryan Foster just before he left to visit his family in the USA. He will return before Passover to continue as our school's Academic Director. Ryan commented that the work we are doing at Legacy would actually affect not only the lives of each and every student – but also the lives of everyone they touch! The effects will carry on to hundreds, if not THOUSANDS of others; and actually affect generations to come! It was like a revelation to him! We both talked about how – frankly – awe-struck we are at the implications of what will be achieved at Legacy Institute!

It is truly a profound honor and a humbling experience to serve God at the grassroots of what He is now doing in Asia! Sometimes I just stand and shake my head at what I see happening here! Jesus said the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of seeds – but grows into a giant bush. He couldn't have been more right!

“He put out another parable to them, saying, The kingdom of Heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; which indeed is the least of all seeds, but when it is grown it is the greatest among herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in its branches.”
Matthew 13:31-32 MKJV

God's Work is like that. It starts like a small and insignificant trickle in the eyes of man, but grows into a powerful and unstoppable flood that changes the lives of hundreds, if not hundreds of thousands of people for years to come.

Napoleon Bonaparte once said: *“Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and myself founded empires, but on what foundation did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded an empire upon love, and at this very hour millions of men would die for Him.”*

That is the power of God. When He wants to do something – mountains are moved!!

Someone once told a friend of mine that he thought I was “in way over my head” here in Asia and we would not be able to accomplish what I envisioned God has in mind or where God is leading us. Well, guess what. Whoever said that was right! We *ARE* in way over our heads! What we are trying to do *IS* a monumental task. We are planting a school that teaches the WAYS and TRUTH of God right in the middle of a pagan world! It is like planting a fortress behind enemy lines and holding out until the cavalry (*Jesus and the Holy Angels*) comes riding over the hill to rescue us. And all the while we must continue to give light to many peoples, nations and tongues living all their lives in darkness! Is it a big task? You bet it is!! Is it dangerous? Yes it is! Satan has us on his radar and is working overtime to try to shut us down! I feel sometimes like Davey Crockett in the Alamo! But, unlike the unfortunate men of the Alamo, Jesus always comes to our rescue.

What we are doing here in Thailand, Burma and India is the **WORK OF THE LIVING GOD!** NOT the work of a feeble human instrument like me. And God is **NOT WAY OVER HIS HEAD** by any stretch of the imagination. This has been, and always will be, a **WORK of FAITH**. Not our work – but HIS Work – and He will accomplish it according to His will!

Take a look at the fruits. What has been accomplished in a few short years is utterly astounding! If this ministry was only Leon and Gloria's ministry, well, then it would very quickly crumble and come to nothing. **BUT – NO**, this is God's Work – and therefore – you can't stop it!

When the Apostles were brought before the Sanhedrin for questioning, Gamaliel, the teacher of the Apostle Paul, gave to all the assembled words of wisdom. Many in the Sanhedrin saw this upstart movement as a threat to their power and authority and wanted to co-opt it or shut it down. What did Gamaliel tell them?

“And he said to them, Men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what you intend to do regarding these men... And now I say to you, Withdraw from these men and let them alone. For if this counsel or this work is of men, it will come to nothing. But if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it, lest perhaps you be found even to fight against God.” Acts 5: 35, 38-39 MKJV

We trust in God – not in men. That is why this Work is going forward, even though it is being carried out by people who sometimes appear to be – and sometimes are – *“in way over our heads”!*

Passover Plans

We are in the process of making travel plans for Passover and Days of UB. It looks like Gloria and I are headed to India; Ryan Foster is headed to Burma and James Hostetter will stay and help out leading Passover and Unleavened Bread in Thailand. Please pray for our safety and good health.

Season of Examination

Passover is when we traditionally take a good look at ourselves. That is a difficult task. I really don't want to dig too deep because I am not happy with what I find! But it is necessary. The Bible tells us, if we take the time to humbly look at ourselves in the mirror of God's word, we can begin to effectively work at changing what we find. But IF we never take a good look at ourselves – or if we make excuses and justify what we see; then walk away and pretend we are “OK with God – we will NEVER change!

“Therefore putting aside all filthiness and overflowing of evil, receive in meekness the implanted Word, which is able to save your souls. But become doers of the Word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if anyone is a hearer of the Word and not a doer, he is like a man studying his natural face in a mirror. For he studied himself and went his way, and immediately he forgot what he was like. But whoever looks into the perfect Law of liberty and continues in it, he is not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work. This one shall be blessed in his doing.” James 1:21-25 MNJV

So, before Passover evening on April 22, we need to MAKE TIME to take a very good look at ourselves. How are we measuring up as Christians? What if we had to meet Jesus this Passover? What if we had to answer to Him for all the things we have thought and done over the past year? Would we be able to face Him? Would he say: “Well done, good and faithful servant”?

Being a real Christian is tricky business. There are many ways we can fool ourselves into thinking we are “alright” with God. Our minds are deceitful. We can tell ourselves lies, again and again, until we actually believe it! We can think we are pretty good Christians – when we are actually only “playing church!”

The only way to avoid this pitfall is to humbly and prayerfully open the Bible and ask God to show us what we are really like. That is the beginning. Once our eyes are opened to see what we are really like, then we can ask God to help clean us up and put us back on the track to the Kingdom of God.

I have had many strange experiences in my years in the ministry. The strangest of all is when I discover that one member of the Church will refuse to take the Passover in the same room as another for fear that he or she may end up having to wash the other person's feet!! The idea of such a thing is mind-boggling. It flies in the face of the whole reason and purpose of the Passover as Jesus instituted it in the first place!

Anyone who is not willing to wash the feet of another in the Passover ceremony really needs to stay home and re-read, again and again, the scriptures describing the last night Jesus spent with His disciples. There they will find the attitude Jesus himself displayed only a few brief hours before He was falsely accused, beaten, spat upon and finally crucified – FOR THE SINS OF ALL!!

If Jesus was willing to endure all that for us, we should be willing to wash one another's feet – even if it means we have to lay aside our personal hurts and disappointments. Can we do this? Well, that is the test.

You see. Self-examination is not fun! It is tough and it is life changing. In the Book of Revelation, God tells us that it is the **over comer** who inherits the crown of glory – not the person who is good at playing church!

*“He who overcomes will inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son.” **Revelation 21:7 MKJV***

The clock of prophecy continues to tick. It is foolish to allow ourselves to fall into the trap of complacency just because Jesus didn't come back in 1984 or 2000 or some other year. Maybe we were wrong about dates, but that doesn't change the fact that we are closer and closer to the Second Coming with each passing moment! For the person who **is** seeks to avoid washing the feet of another, he/she should carefully re-read the following passages of scripture:

“Therefore watch; for you do not know what hour your Lord comes. But know this, that if the steward of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched and would not have allowed his house to be dug through.”

*“Therefore **you also be ready, for in that hour you think not, the Son of Man comes.** Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his Lord has made ruler over His household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his Lord shall find him doing so when He comes. Truly I say to you that He shall make him ruler over all His goods.”*

*But if that evil servant **shall say in his heart, My Lord delays His coming,** and shall **begin to strike his fellow servants,** and to eat and drink with the drunken, the Lord of that servant shall come in a day when he does not look for Him, and in an hour which he does not know. And **He shall cut him apart and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites.** There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” **Matthew 24: 44-51 MKJV***

Jesus describes some serious consequences to our failure to be faithful stewards of God's heritage. "Playing church" can be dangerous. We can faithfully attend church services every week. We can volunteer on work parties. We can look good and say all the right words to the right people. We can give plenty of tithes and offerings. We can have a high rank or position on church committees. We can earn the praises of colleagues and peers. We can do all this – and STILL end up weeping and gnashing our teeth because it is all a sham! And Jesus KNOWS IT!!

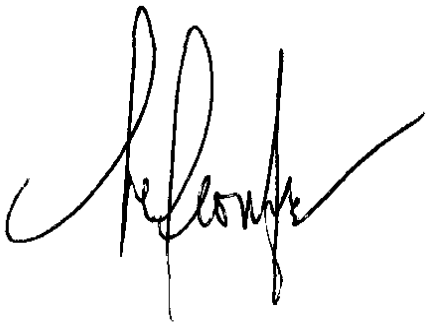
This Passover, let's all take a serious look at ourselves. Are we FULLY and COMPLETELY dedicated to doing the WILL of Our Lord, King Jesus? Are we FULLY and COMPLETELY dedicated to accomplishing the Work of the Living God right up until the end? Are we willing to give up our own selfish pride to MAKE and KEEP PEACE among our various fellowships of the Church of God? Are we willing to HUMBLE ourselves to keep peace in our OWN congregations and our OWN families? If NOT – then we should REPENT and start doing the things Christ says *makes* us a TRUE CHRISTIAN!

If we are unwilling – then brethren, we are only PLAYING church!

We don't have a lot of time. Make every day that you claim to be a servant of the Lord – count for something! Between now and the Passover, please make peace with an enemy **AND PRAY FOR THEM**. Please reconcile with someone who has hurt you. And if you have hurt or betrayed someone else – go and confess your sin to that person! Do this – and you will have no reason to fear the return of the King.

Let this Passover bring a sobering renewal of your commitment to God – AND to your fellow servants.

In Service to Our Great King and Savior Jesus,



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.

Leon Sexton