



LEGACY INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 7, Dundee, Ohio 44624
www.legacyinstitute.org
mshowers@wilkshire.net

2 May 2005
Madras, India

Dear Fellow-laborers in God's Fields,

Gloria and I are at the end of our Spring Holy Day visit to Burma (Myanmar) and Tamil Nadu, South India. We are very encouraged by what we have seen and experienced over the past 12 days. God is blessing the Church in Burma and India with growth. New members have been added to Our Lord's Body and more and more are hearing the call. The Holy Spirit is very active in this part of the world. The call is going forth – and fruits for the Kingdom of God are being born.

Some of the people being called are former Buddhists and Hindus who have never before heard the message of the Kingdom of God! It is miraculous to see their hearts and minds change so dramatically. It reminds me of the scripture in **Romans 10:12-17** where Paul says:

“For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in 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!

“But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, ‘Lord, who hath believed our report?’ So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” KJV

Jesus commands us to “GO FORTH” into the world and preach the Gospel! Wherever Gloria and I have “gone forth”, we find fruit being born. Jesus told us that the fields are already ripe for the harvest:

“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, ‘The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.’” Matt 9:35-37 KJV

I remember back in my Ambassador College days we were taught that we were being called and trained to be teachers in the “World Tomorrow”. Now, while this concept is not wrong (indeed, we WILL be teaching in the Age to Come), *our FOCUS should be on taking God’s TRUTH – RIGHT NOW – INTO THE WORLD TODAY!*

Paul certainly didn’t think that any of us needed to wait until Jesus came back to reach out to the masses, both Jew and Gentile alike, living in this sin-sick world! Otherwise he wouldn’t have written Romans 10:12-17!

God works through us. The Gospel of the Kingdom does not go out through some sort of “spiritual telepathy” where all we have to do is sit back and wait for the harvest to come to us! God works THROUGH those laborers He has called to His Harvest. He works through Gloria and me – He is working through his servants in Burma and India. To name just some: Lazum Brang, David YeGyan, Peter Za Hmung and Michael Hubert – and, He is working through others we may be totally unaware of! He is God after all! And He doesn’t have to tell us anything about it! I am only ONE of His chosen servants. He chooses as He pleases. His ways are beyond our feeble, human understanding.

We who come from the West can help these men on the front lines of evangelism in Asia by providing education, encouragement, financial and other resources.

Feast of Unleavened Bread Trip Report

Gloria and I were planning on going only to India for the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread, but I received an urgent email message from Lazum Brang imploring me to come to Taungoo for Passover because some were coming all the way from the China border to be baptized. So we decided to split our trip into 2 parts.

Tuesday, April 19: We arrived in Yangon (Rangoon) by flight from Bangkok. We were met at the airport by David Ye Gyan and Lazum Brang. We went directly to David Ye Gyan’s house to meet the Rangoon brethren and have lunch together. After lunch, we headed for the hotel and, after some lengthy price negotiations, settled on a reduced room fee. As foreigners, we must pay for everything in US dollars at inflated prices. The locals pay about one quarter of what we pay! So, we negotiate when we can. Later we met with the brethren again to discuss travel plans.

Wednesday, April 20: Today we interviewed a young Kachin man who wants to study at Legacy school in Chiang Mai. He sounds like a good prospect as he is related to one of our graduates and was already filled in on what we expect from him.

In the evening we boarded the night train to Taungoo. David Ye Gyan stayed behind as he would be conducting Passover ceremonies in Yangon.

Thursday, April 21: We arrived in Taungoo about 1 AM and went straight to the Myanmar Beauty Hotel where we would hold Passover services. This hotel is owned by a Chinese husband and wife team of doctors. It consists of two wooden teak lodging houses equipped with ceiling fans. We kept the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread here last year. We stayed at the hotel while Lazum

Brang went to the Kyaik Taing village to gather the members and bring them to town. Gloria and I are not permitted to go to Kyaik Taing village because it is in a restricted zone due to insurgent activity.

Since 1954, ethnic minority groups have been at war with the central Burmese government. Most insurgent groups have negotiated a cease-fire with Rangoon, but some such as the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) have not made peace. Armed guerillas loyal to the Karen army are active near Kyaik Taing village.

Friday, April 22: In the morning Lazum Brang arrived with the Taungoo members, joined by the China border visitors and 3 of our Legacy Institute graduates, Kaw Mai, Nu Thong, and Doi Ling. Later Lazum Brang, Gloria and I counseled 5 people for baptism. One was from the local Taungoo area and four were from the China border. Each one demonstrated a clear knowledge of the commitment necessary for salvation and had already shown repentance from dead works by their track record of obedience to the Truth they understood. In the afternoon we baptized them in a water storage tank next to one of the hotel buildings.

This was interesting because when I jumped in, the water was already to my chest. One poor lady was so short the water came up to her chin! With the entire local church congregation as witnesses, all 5 were inducted into the Body of Jesus Christ through the ordinances of baptism and the laying on of hands. Here is a list of the newly baptized members:

1. C.H. Dailum, a man of the Kachin tribe, 51 years old from the China border area, Northern Shan State.
2. Htu Tawng, a Kachin lady, age 48 from China border.
3. Jeremiah Gam Shawng, a Chinese/Kachin, age 49 from China border.
4. Naw La Bwe, a Karen lady, age 34 from Taungoo area.
5. Bawk Ja, a 16 year old Kachin girl from the China border.

Twenty-three took the Passover that evening including these new Children of God. Lazum Brang only had 10 cups so we had to distribute the wine in 2 plus shifts! (*We remedied this later back in Rangoon by purchasing a complete Passover wine tray at a local Bible book store.*)

Sabbath, April 23: Today we held Sabbath services with a few more interested people joining us. Over 40 people listened to my sermon about Israel coming out of Egypt and what that means to Christians today.

Things are always uncertain in Burma. Early that morning, the electricity was cut because insurgents blew up a power station between Taungoo and the Kerenni state.

First Holy Day, April 24: For the Holy Day sermon I spoke about the day of our Lord's Death, the time He was in the tomb, and His Resurrection. I proved from scripture that Jesus was NOT crucified on a Friday and NOT resurrected on Sunday morning at sunrise. I was astonished to learn that most of the people were hearing this for the first time! Our brethren in Burma are so new that Bible truths we take for granted and rarely think about are brand new doctrine to them!

After sunset Gloria and I had to leave for Rangoon by night train. As always, it is very difficult to leave our brethren. It seems that just about the time we start getting to know them again, we have to leave. It is reassuring to know that someday we will have an eternity to get to know one another.

Monday, April 25: We arrived in Rangoon at 7 AM. After checking in at the hotel, we rested. Lunchtime we spent with our Rangoon brethren and Seng Htun, one of our Legacy grads. This time Seng Htun brought a young lady to interview for Legacy Institute Leadership Training Center. Word is getting around and more and more young people in both Burma and Thailand want to come to God's School.

Tuesday, April 26: Today Gloria and I flew to Bangkok.

Wednesday, April 27: In the morning I went to the Indian Embassy to pick up our visas for India. We had applied for 5 year, multiple entry visas and were assured they would be ready. But they were not ready. So, I was asked to come back the next day.

Thursday, April 28: I went back and the visas were finally ready. At 4 PM we flew to Singapore and after changing planes, flew on to Madras (Chennai), India. We arrived at 10:45 PM and were met at the airport by Church of God Deacon, Michael Hubert and his son, Ben Hur. We discussed plans on the way from the airport.

Friday, April 29: Today we traveled from Chennai to Trivannamalai, about a 5 hour journey by car.

Sabbath, April 30: Next morning we held Holy Day services in Hubert's hotel room. The Indian state of Tamil Nadu has a law on its books that makes "forced conversion" of Hindus to Christianity a criminal offense. Of course, the definition of "forced conversion" is left up to the authorities! In the past several years, this law meant we had to be very "low key" in our meetings together with Hindus and others in our task of preaching the Gospel. However, now that the Congress Party led by Sonia Gandhi has assumed power in India, this is no longer the threat it once was. We were able to meet freely in our hotel room without interference and we ALSO are now able to go directly to the villages where the Holy Spirit of God is active.

We met with 7 people from a farming village nearby. Four of these individuals are baptized members of the Church of God in South India. We expected 20 to come. But a sudden death of a relative that morning meant some had to stay in the village to take care of funeral arrangements. In the Hindu culture, bodies are cremated and embalming is not practiced. Cremations take place very soon after death, usually within one day.

I spoke about the story of the "Coming Out of Egypt" and applied this story to our own journey out of slavery to sin and death towards the Kingdom of God. This story has much more impact on those who spend their lives in abject poverty!

We had planned to visit their families in the village, but they told us that it would not be good timing because many would be engaged in funeral arrangements. So we had to say goodbye at the hotel. This is always difficult, especially on Gloria. We both would like to spend more time with our

brethren and get to know them better. But we cannot pasture these people in Tamil Nadu. We can only come in from time to time, teach them more of God's Word and try to encourage them. It never seems like enough!

After goodbyes we traveled 3 hours by back roads to the city of Vellore. Vellore is an ancient fort city that sits at the crossroads of the major travel arteries between the 4 southern Indian states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala.

That evening we visited members and their families in a nearby village. There are 6 baptized members living here. We met in the house of Mrs. Sahayamary. It is a very small house made of mud with half a roof over the 10' by 15' room we met in. I gave a Bible study to about 45 people that crowded into the room and flowed out the front doorway. I discussed how to seek the Kingdom of God through prayer, Bible study, fasting and meditation.

Most of the people in the room were Hindus – mixed in with our Church of God members and families. I always wonder when I am speaking, with Tamil-language translation by Michael Hubert, how much the people are really getting. Do they understand what I am saying? Is the message of the Gospel sinking into hearts and minds? While I preach to them, I have no way of knowing. Most of the people listen intently and even answer questions when asked. Only by our coming back and seeing if there is any growth can we really know.

Conversion is a miracle. God can choose a Hindu or Buddhist just as easily as anyone else. Who He will choose and how He will change their hearts and minds is a mystery. All I know is that we need to be actively doing our job!

Our job is to spread the seeds of the Gospel. God must do the rest.

“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?...” Rom. 10: 14 ... KJV

Sunday, May 1: Early morning we traveled to visit a village near Kanchipuram on the way back to Chennai (Madras). This city is called the “Land of a Thousand Temples” because of the numerous Hindu temples and shrines located here. Nearby, in a small farming village (made up mostly of mud huts) I gave a Bible study to 70 persons gathered inside and outside a small house. As usual, there wasn't enough room for everyone to be inside, so some crowded about outside the doorway. About 10 of these persons are prospective members. The others were relatives and curious onlookers.

I asked them what they were worried about – what their physical needs were. The answers were these:

“I worry about education for my children since we have no money to send them to school.”

“I need a house for my family to live in.” and

“I worry each day about enough food for my family.”

Now these same concerns are commonplace, ESPECIALLY in countries where many of the people are near or below the poverty level. Our first impulse is to give them money for shelter, food and

education. But, even though their poverty pulls on our heart strings, we know that we cannot solve their problems. There are just far too many with far too many needs! What we CAN do is give them what has been entrusted to us – the GOOD NEWS of the coming Kingdom of God!

It reminds me of the time in the Book of Acts where Peter and John met a crippled beggar:

*“And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, **‘Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.’** And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up ...” Acts 3:2-7 KJV*

So, I gave them what I had – encouragement from God’s Word! I preached to them the message of Jesus from **Matthew 7**: “...seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

In India, Legacy Institute tries to assist wherever resources permit. We do this through several of the “self-help” and educational programs of Michael Hubert’s “Shabnam Resources” (*Early Rain Foundation*). I feel like it is only a small drop in the bucket. There are so many physical needs in India, and our small endeavors make only an insignificant dent and the effects won’t last long.

But the *spiritual* gifts we bring to India are of far more value. They lead to eternal life! The more we are able to bring the Gospel to India, the more people we can help put on the path to the Kingdom of God. They will still be poor. Maybe their children will remain under-educated. Perhaps God will not choose to heal them of their many sicknesses. They may stay jobless. But God promises that, if they commit their lives to Him, He will provide for their daily food, shelter and clothing, *AND* give them His Holy Spirit so that they can grow in Grace and the Knowledge of Our Lord Jesus.

What we have to give has far more value than silver or gold.

On the way back to Chennai, we stopped to visit the site Michael Hubert has selected for an orphanage to be operated by Shabnam Resources. I jokingly accuse Michael of constantly “scheming” because every time I talk to him he has some new project he is starting. This orphanage will house about 20 young orphans and provide food, clothing and shelter. He will also arrange for them to get an education at a public school nearby.

This kind of project can make a life-changing difference in these orphaned children’s lives with a modest startup investment and low monthly operational costs. I have encouraged Michael to pursue this very worthy project.

Monday, May 2: This afternoon we visited a small village called Kasimedu in North Madras. Kasimedu was one of the fishing villages hit by the Tsunami of last December. Hubert has been helping people from this village. Soon after the tragic event, he was able to help 75 families with

emergency kits of food, clothing, blankets and plastic sheets for temporary shelters. He was also able to help 9 families by giving the women gas burners and utensils to make and sell “rotis” (a kind of soft, Indian flat bread or pancake). These portable units can be set up anywhere and can be quickly moved if the police chase them from the sidewalk (which is common)!

We held a Bible study in a room owned by the sister of a prospective member (a widow whose husband had died of AIDS). This widow’s home had been washed away by the Tsunami and she was one of the ladies who received a “roti maker” from Michael.

We held the Bible Study in a tiny little room with 30 persons (mostly women and children) crammed inside! Most of these people had lost homes and loved ones in the disaster. I chose the topic of the *Return of Jesus to Restore the Government of God* to this earth and destroy the governments of this world. The listeners could readily relate to this theme as they have been basically forgotten by the local government.

There has been a lot of money donated by western countries to the Tsunami victims. But, besides the initial disaster relief overseen directly by the western military and western charitable organizations, very little of this money ever reaches the victims themselves! The rest goes into the pockets of corrupt and greedy officials.

Here in Kasimedu, the government gave each Tsunami victim family 2,000 rupies cash (about \$US 50). That is ALL the money they received. This was only given to men. If the breadwinner in the family was a widow or divorcee, she got nothing. The men promptly went to the local liquor store and drank up the money. This is not an exaggeration. Photos of hundreds of men lying in the gutters and alleyways near liquor stores appeared in the local newspaper!

Government housing was built for the affected fishermen. But the women I talked to told me it was too far from the sea and built over a water-catchment area. During the monsoon, the land around the houses becomes a quagmire and breeds malaria!

What they really need are their fishing boats repaired or new ones built and re-supplied with engines and nets, so that they can return to earning a living. But this kind of help is not forthcoming.

Once again, the governments of this world prove to be ignorant of the peoples needs at best and downright grasping and selfish at the worst. Satan IS the god of this world! His goal is the total ENSLAVEMENT of humanity! He is the real power behind human government. The only hope for mankind – the tsunami victims – and also you and me – is the advent of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords to DESTROY all those who oppose Him and RESTORE the TRUE government of God to this sin-sick world.

Later we went down to see the damage and what has been done to rebuild this village of 3,500 affected by the tsunami. I took my camera to take pictures. But almost immediately we were told the disaster area was declared a “protected zone” by the government and we were forbidden to take pictures! Well, that was not a surprise since it appeared that absolutely NOTHING has been done to repair and restore the affected areas! This, of course, begs the question: Where did all the money go??

Interestingly, even in the aftermath of disaster, the fishermen were busily repairing boats and nets, unloading their catches; and small shops selling fish were opened up in broken down concrete buildings lining mud streets full of stagnant water! Life in Kasimedu goes on.

Tonight we fly back to Bangkok. It has been a tiring but very rewarding 2 weeks. 5 new brethren were added to the Body of Jesus. Numerous sick were anointed and prayed for. Babies were blessed. The ministry received encouragement. And the poor had the Gospel of the Kingdom preached to them! Both Gloria and I are exhausted but supercharged spiritually by what we have seen and experienced.

May God bless all those He is busily calling in His *End of the Age Harvest*. And may He soon send His Son Jesus the Christ to bring the curtain down on the governments of this corrupt and selfish world we live in.

I will write again soon.

In the Great King's 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.