



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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

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“And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.” (Ezek 9:4 KJV)

Dear Fellow-workers in God’s Fields,

Do we really understand the job we have been given to do? We might be worshipping God in different Sabbatarian fellowships or as individual families at home, but we are all God’s people, recruited and selected to collectively share in the end-time Work He is now conducting on the earth.

This Work of redemption began in Eden (*Jesus was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world* Revelation 13:8) and continues on today.

God has been carrying out His Plan of Salvation, year by year, for almost 6000 years since the rebellion of Adam and Eve. (*We really have no comprehension how long it had been in the planning stages before Adam was created.*) We may not always see it unfolding, or maybe things don’t happen when we expect them to; but God purposefully continues working toward His Goal, step-by-step, according to His Will. However, God tells us we cannot know exactly *when* this present age will end.

Years ago, in late 1971, while I was a freshman at Ambassador College in Pasadena, California, there was an air of anticipation as January 1972 approached. Students were scurrying about and whispering in corners. Everyone was acting sober and subdued. Since I was new to the Church, I really didn’t know what was going on, just that people were acting very strange.

Later I came to find out that many thought the Church was going to flee to some sort of “Place of Safety” in January 1972, where we would all live in caves until Jesus came back. I had never heard of the “Fleeing to a Place of Safety in 1972” that many believed was eminent. Some students were even afraid they would be left behind and had nightmares about it!

Needless to say, it never happened. School life continued on. Time marched on. And God’s plan continued to unfold. But there was some fallout. A few were offended that the supposed prophecy wasn’t fulfilled in 1972. They decided to leave the WCG fellowship.

People who set dates for when various prophetic events are supposed to occur fall into a snare. They are usually disappointed. If the given event doesn't happen when they think it is supposed to happen, they feel discouraged and even betrayed. But they set *themselves* up for a fall, because Jesus warned us that we should not set dates:

"And learn the parable of the fig-tree: when her branch is still tender and puts out leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, at the doors. Truly I say to you that this generation shall not pass away until all these things occur. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not the angels in Heaven, nor the Son, but the Father. Take heed, watch and pray, for you do not know when the time is."
(Mark 13:28-33 MKJV)

Jesus said we can know *when* end-time, prophetic events are *near at hand*. But it is clear that we are not to know the exact dates which the Father keeps to Himself. Instead, Jesus admonishes us to "*take heed, watch and pray*". Notice what Jesus doesn't say. He doesn't say: "*It doesn't matter. You can't know, so just go about your business and forget what is prophesied to come*". He did not say: "*Prophecies are not being fulfilled according to your timetable, so that means I am delaying my Second Coming* (see Matthew 24:48-50)". Rather, He said: "*Take heed, watch and pray!*"

Because we don't know *when* or sometimes even *how* doesn't stop time from marching on toward the end of the world! It doesn't stop God from unfolding His Plan according His own timetable. It doesn't change the prophecies nor the future players involved in them. Because things don't happen according to our endless charts and myriad calculations or even our secret codes hidden in the words of the Bible doesn't mean God isn't on His Throne! Our ignorance doesn't really change anything at all! The "what" God tells us about. But He usually doesn't tell us "when" and sometimes He doesn't let us in on the "how" prophecies will unfold.

So, the timing belongs to God. If it seems like things are not moving as fast as we would like them to move, it is only our own feeble human perspective getting in the way. Remember, to God, a thousand years is like a day (Psalm 90:4)!

Back in the old WCG days, there was always an air of anticipation. There was always excitement about the "end of the world" and "marching on into the Kingdom". We were excited about the eminent return of Jesus and what we would be doing in His Kingdom. We reveled in the latest achievements in the Work of God. We waited with baited breath to hear the news of a recent baptizing tour or visit with a head of state. We all felt a part of the Work of the Almighty God and were happy to sacrifice to see it accomplished. We were on a roll and we thought we would all roll right into the Kingdom of God. At least that is the way I felt, and I think most others felt the same way. Excitement, anticipation and a sense of urgency are *good* things. They keep us on track as time goes on to keep doing the Work of God.

However, things did not turn out the way we expected.

After the death of Herbert W. Armstrong in 1986 and the subsequent break-up of the Worldwide Church of God, our collective feelings about the work began to change. Many felt disillusioned,

discouraged and betrayed. Some gave up on God completely and returned to their old way of life from which they came. Others decided to pursue personal quests and agendas. Some chose the pursuit of riches and the accumulation of the physical trappings of success.

Nevertheless, there were those who held fast to the faith they had received. These were the ones who faithfully began picking up the pieces and starting all over again.

*“But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brothers beloved of the Lord, because God has from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and **belief of the truth**, to which He called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my brothers, **stand fast and hold the teachings which you have been taught**, whether by word or by our letter.”*

(2 Thessalonians 2:13-15 MKJV)

Now it is 2005. Almost 20 years have passed since the death of Dr. Armstrong. It is now over 30 years since some thought we were to flee in 1972 to a place of safety to await Jesus while the Great Tribulation decimated the world. Time marches on. Still Jesus hasn't returned.

Does this change anything? What if Jesus doesn't come back in your lifetime or mine? Does it change our responsibility to Him? Does it change the fact that God chose us and commissioned each and every one of us to be an important part of His Plan? Does it mean we should slack off on our responsibility since Jesus' return may not appear to be eminent?

Let's not forget what He told us in Matthew 24:

*“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 24:48-51 MKJV)

None of us can afford the luxury of slacking off. No matter whether or not any of us live to see the Return of Christ, *That Day* is closer each and every moment than before. EVERYONE that is chosen by God in this Church Age has a special calling. That calling is to take the Gospel of Jesus' Kingdom to a sick and dying world. Every time I pick up and read the Bangkok Post here in Thailand, I get sick to my stomach. What people are doing to one another in this evil world is largely unrepeatable! People are getting colder and colder. Violence to their fellow man, especially the innocents such as women and little children, is getting more commonplace and more cruel and perverted as time goes on! People have become desensitized to acts of cruelty. Have you become desensitized to the evils swirling around you?

The shootings in the Living Church of God Sabbath services should be a wake-up call to every one of us! Violence can happen SUDDENLY and *even* in our own comfortable and seemingly SAFE environment! Cruelty and death are all around us!

Jesus predicted that as we get closer to the end, people would become colder.

“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.” (Matt 24:12 KJV)

Paul told Timothy the same thing:

“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.” (2 Tim 3:1-5 KJV)

As things in this world get worse and worse as the End of the World approaches – WHO WILL STAND IN THE BREACH? WHO will take the ONLY message of HOPE to this sick and dying world?!

If you think this job belongs to someone else – YOU ARE DEAD WRONG!!

Why did God call us? WHAT did He call us to? Why now? Why you and me?

Certainly, He DID NOT call us so that we can have salvation only. NO! He called us NOW to accomplish His WILL! He called us to DO A JOB! He called us to TAKE the GOSPEL of His Kingdom to those who live in darkness and blindness!

Think about it! Where were you BEFORE God called you? What were you doing? Where was your life headed? If you were like me, you were spiritually deaf, dumb and blind; living a self-serving life as a slave to the one who controls this evil world – the Devil!

“Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.” Eph 2:2-3 KJV

But God did not leave us there. He selected us and called us out of blindness and slavery in order to GLORIFY His Holy Name on the Earth TODAY!

“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” Eph 2:4-6 KJV

Did you read that!?! We are to sit in heavenly places with Him! We are to share the responsibilities of Our Lord Jesus the Christ! And His chief job at this time is to make sure the Gospel of His Kingdom goes out to give hope to our potential spiritual brethren living in the same state we once did before God had mercy on us! What a calling! What a great and awesome responsibility!

Now, some will say that the Gospel has already been preached by somebody else and all we need to do now is “hold fast” until Jesus comes back. Others will say that the job of reaching the world will be done in the Millennium. Or they might say that the warning of the world will be done by the two witnesses of Revelation. Others will claim that God is “only calling the few now” and He will deal with the rest in the 2nd Resurrection, so we don’t have to worry about them.

Brethren, these excuses for doing little or nothing are simply COP-OUTS! Do we really understand why Jesus came to the Earth in the first place and what His “job description” is?

*“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**’ And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, **This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.**”
(Luke 4:16-21 KJV)*

Does that sound like Jesus is waiting until the Millennium? Does it sound like He is giving His job to the two witnesses to perform? Do the words you have just read tell you that He is waiting until the Second Resurrection to begin fulfilling His job?

NO! In that synagogue in Nazareth nearly 2000 years ago, he said He was starting His WORK right then and there!

When He ascended to Heaven, who did he turn His earthly task over to? Who did He commission to CARRY ON HIS WORK!?

The 11 Apostles of course! And then by extension, YOU and ME!

We share in His duty! We share in His responsibility!

Whether He comes tomorrow, or waits another 30 or 100 years is not our business! It is God’s business!

We all must play a part in preaching the Gospel. And the timing of Jesus’ return has nothing to do with whether we should – right now – be 100% engaged in that duty or not!

The Work of God is FAR FROM OVER! I believe the end-time Work of God is only just beginning. We need to be getting on with the job He gave to Christ and the members of His team – you – and me!

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him

immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants."
(Luke 12:34-38 KJV)

As I said before, we were not called and chosen in this age so that we can receive salvation only. Rather we were specially selected to carry on the Work of the Church – the Preaching of the Gospel message – Jesus began in that Synagogue in Nazareth.

Now I know that not all can be a preacher or pastor. But there are many ways we all CAN play an important part in evangelizing the whole world. If you don't know what you can do to help, then you just need to pray and ask God to show you what that is. The key question is this, "Where is your heart?" If your heart is somewhere other than getting done the job Jesus gave us, *you are off the track!* And if you ARE off the track, there is no better time than right NOW to get back on the team, the team God has chosen to carry His End Time Message to ALL – even to those living in the remote parts of the world!

New School Year Starting

Please, please continue to pray for all of us here on the front line of evangelism in Asia! Satan never sleeps and does all he can to disrupt our program for bringing the Gospel Message to the people of Thailand, Burma and India! Once again, we are starting our school year. We have 2 returning volunteer teachers: Ryan Foster and James Hostetter; and 3 new volunteers: Jason Boise, Kevin Troyer, and Daniel Fehr. We are accepting 15 new students: 8 from Thailand and 7 from Burma. These new students are from the Hmong, Lahu, Kachin, Akha, Chin and Karen tribes.

One of the problems we run into is that the students who come from Burma need to have the permission of the Thai government to stay at the school and study. This may not sound like much of a problem, but every year about this time something happens to prevent students from Burma being able to come. This year, it is several things:

1. Our students need to be registered with the Thai government. Each year there is a one month window when this is permitted. As yet the government has not opened the time for registration, and there is a strong possibility that they won't open one this year. This means we will not be able to accept students from Burma – unless the government relents and opens the chance for registration!
2. Within the last 3 months there has been a lot of emphasis on the stopping of human trafficking in the border regions of Thailand and Burma. The UN and others are engaged in high level meetings (*and probably high level funding*) of preventive and policing measures to stop this commercial exploitation of children, young women and others. What does this have to do with us? Well, we are trying to get students, some of them young women, across the border to attend Legacy School! Guess what? Now the Burmese will not let girls under 25 travel in the border regions (*unless heavy bribes are paid, of course*). So, we may not be able to get all the

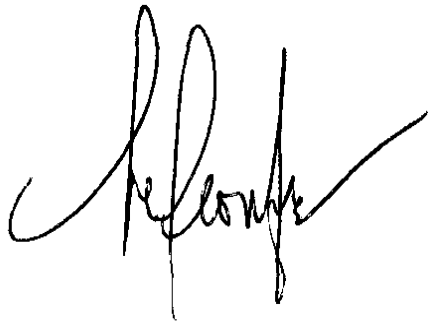
students we have accepted across the border safely and transport them to the School in Chiang Mai.

Each time it rolls around to begin a new school year, these kinds of problems emerge to make it difficult if not seemingly impossible to get our new students to Legacy School! Please pray that God intervenes and causes the Thai government to open up a chance to register our new students and brings those He wills to come safely across the border.

We need the prayers of God's True servants. We are doing our best to make a difference here in Asia. Some would say it is small and insignificant. Well, Satan doesn't think so!! He does all he is allowed to do to stop the Work God has given us. Please continue in your prayers for Legacy Institute. The source of our strength and protection is spiritual, not physical.

Until next letter, may God give you all peace and safety and grant you hearts that are 100% dedicated to The Work He has given the Church to do!

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.