



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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“...freely ye have received, freely give.” MATTHEW 10:8 KJV

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Dear fellow-workers for God,

It is always wonderful to feel the satisfaction of knowing when you are on the right track. Three and a half years ago, we started an outreach project called Legacy Institute Leadership Training Center (LILTC). The fundamental model for LILTC was the former Ambassador College. The basic idea was to train teachers and leaders to help support new Church of God congregations in Thailand, Burma and other parts of Asia. At the same time, we made the decision we would not discriminate. The doors of Legacy would be open to all, regardless of race or religious affiliation. Perhaps some would be called to serve God. Others would receive a valuable education that they could never get otherwise. In any case, all would get a powerful witness of God’s way of life.



Baptism of Lawan Tongsathitpoo

I feel strongly that God has given those of us among the various Sabbath-keeping Churches of God a wealth of understanding of His Holy Word. God does not want us to selfishly keep this “*pearl of great price*” as our own personal possession. Instead, once we receive this precious gift, we are obligated to pass along the TRUTH to others – everywhere in the world – no matter their race or religion. Opening our school to people of different faiths and backgrounds could be seen as taking a chance. In fact, I was criticized for not limiting the student body to only those of the Christian faith. But I look at the way Jesus conducted Himself while He was on Earth. Jesus opened Himself freely to persons of all races, walks of life and religions. He is Lord of all, not just a “chosen few”.

One young lady, Lawan Tongsathitpoo, came during Legacy’s first year. She was from the Karen tribal group and lived with her parents and family along the Thai-Burma border. Her parents were Buddhists; poor, but hardworking farmers. There was no money to send her for further education. She found out about the opening of the Legacy Institute Leadership Training Center from our Karen COG deacon, Davidson Lay Bey, and wanted to come to Legacy school to learn English.

When Lawan came for the first year, she could not speak English. All classes at Legacy are taught in English, therefore it is imperative that our students pick up English quickly. Lawan was hard working and soon became one of our top students.

At Legacy School, Bible classes and Sabbath services are required, whether the person is Christian or not. But we do not force or expect someone to convert from their own faith if they are non-Christian, nor do we force or coerce someone to convert to the Sabbath keeping Church of God if they are from another Christian denomination. We teach. God does His own choosing.

Lawan completed her two years of classes at Legacy and graduated with honors. In fact, she received more certificates of achievement than any other student. Last year she completed her “service year” as a Thai language teacher to our students and volunteer teachers. This year she is employed by Legacy Institute as a Thai language teacher and English tutor. She also sits at a table with our Thai speaking students and translates our Church services into the Thai language.

Two days ago, God gave me the honor of baptizing Lawan in the small stream next to the Legacy Farm property. She has repented of her sins and accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. The changes in her life over the past 3 years; her obedience to the Laws of God; and now, her commitment to Our Lord Jesus are proof we are on the right track in the policies we set at the very beginning. It is God who receives the glory. We are only instruments of His Divine Will. He has planted Legacy Institute in northern Thailand to perform what He has in mind for the future development of His Work in Asia. God is very active here and Lawan is one of the many positive fruits of that action.

This year we have 20 students from Burma and Thailand. Eight are from the Kachin tribe. We also have 2 from the Karen Tribe, 4 Chin, 1 Hmong and 5 Lahu. Only 4 of these come from COG backgrounds. Two of the others are Buddhist.

(We had other newly accepted students who waited on the Burma border to come into Thailand; 3 were being sent from Lazum Brang’s COG congregations and one was Saw Lay Bey’s granddaughter from the Delta region of Burma. In order to come into Thailand they needed permission from Thai Immigration and the Thai Labor Department. Regrettably, the Thai government would not open a chance for alien registration and we had to tell them to return home and try again next year. Every year we face the same problem. Students who come from Burma must receive Thai government permission to study at Legacy. Our Burmese students fall under the “migrant worker” legal category. Sometimes the Thai government opens an opportunity for registration and sometimes they do not. Every year we pray God’s will be done with these young people from the Burma side.)

One of our young Kachin students is from the China border area of Burma. He speaks Chinese as well as Kachin and Burmese, so he has started a Chinese class for those interested. So, now we are teaching English, Thai and Chinese at Legacy School.

What a wonder it is to be participating in what God is doing in Asia! I tell you the truth, sometimes I get worn down and discouraged by the relentless attacks that Satan makes on this Work. I get weary. Then, something like Lawan’s baptism comes along to let me know that God is with us here at

Legacy! It is like He is saying, *“Be strengthened. You are on the right track. I am still here!”* Praise and honor be to Him!

We continue to make progress. With each passing year, God continues to bless us and things continue to grow. We are planning the building of dormitories at the school. *Of course*, we have no funds for this! We are operating the school on month-by-month donations. But, I have the assurance of things not yet seen! I fully believe God wanted this school in the first place and He wants it to grow. He was with us at the beginning, and He has been with us all along. He continues to intervene to help us get the job done. God’s will for Legacy Institute continues to unfold. All of you, my fellow-laborers, are an intrinsic part of this ministry. Please keep praying for us all. We have a sobering responsibility to finish what Our Lord has commanded:

“For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.” ACTS 13:47 KJV

Volunteers to Serve in Thailand

We are now beginning to recruit volunteer teachers for the academic year 2006-2007. At this time, the operation of the Legacy School continues to rely on volunteer teachers. Each year we must recruit 2-3 new teachers as our volunteers usually serve for only one year and then return home. Actually, it is a big sacrifice to give up a year from school or to interrupt a career path to come to Thailand and teach on the Legacy project. But, the rewards far outweigh any sacrifices made! We look for mature people from a Sabbath-keeping background, (preferably with a degree and some teaching experience) willing to spend one year at their own expense, teaching underprivileged hill tribe youths from Burma and Thailand. Volunteers pay for their own tickets and visas. Legacy provides room and board and helps provide opportunities for travel and cultural experiences.

Some volunteers have received congregational sponsorship from Church of God fellowships that support and believe in what God is achieving in Asia through Legacy Institute; while others are sponsored by family, friends or even pay their own way.

Some have asked me: *“What happens if you don’t get any volunteers to come? Maybe you will have to shut down the school.”*

My answer is this. If this school were of men, then I should worry. But, since the Legacy School was started by the hand of God, it is **HIS** responsibility to supply the volunteer teachers we need to have an effective educational program. This project was started on faith and continues to operate *on faith!*

Others have asked: *“Why don’t you just join up with one of the larger COG corporations? Then you would have plenty of financial and other resources to operate Legacy.”*

My answer is the same. IF Legacy were only the creation of men, then I would have something to worry about. God started Legacy Institute SEPARATE and DISTINCT from any other COG organization. He placed us in a unique position to serve Him in Asia – in a location *where no one else was serving!*

We have never received funding from any of the large COG groups – But yet, God has provided the resources to help us contact and serve several scattered small COG congregations in Thailand, India and Burma. He provided the resources to get our school project started – He continues to provide the resources – AND will continue to do so into the future, for as long as He wills!

What kind of faith would I be demonstrating if I became afraid and, for reasons of security, I sought to join one the larger COG corporate church organizations? My faith and trust must be in the One who is ultimately responsible for where Legacy will go and what Legacy will do. Jesus is the Head of the Church, not some human president or board of directors. It is His job to take care of us. The fact is – Gloria and I want for nothing. Our security is in Our Lord Jesus.

Don't get me wrong. We certainly do have concerns and many needs. We must be careful. We operate on a shoestring budget. Gloria and I fly coach fare wherever we go to save money. We stay in budget hotels and in member's homes. But we are content. God always supplies our *needs*! The Bible is the LIVING Word of God and the verses below *come alive* when you put them to the test in your life:

“Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.” MATTHEW 6: 6:25-32 KJV

Stepping out in faith is really tough! The hardest part is letting go of physical security and taking the plunge into the unknown. But, if you are doing the Will of God – you never need to worry about what tomorrow will bring. Focus on the job we all have been given to do and the Almighty God will take care of the rest!

We *do* have many *needs*. We *need* to build several small dormitories and a dining hall. We *need* additional classroom space. We *need* to put in a water system, bathrooms and septic system. Perhaps one of our most important *needs* is volunteer teachers for the next Legacy School year. There are many of you whom I call “*fellow-laborers in the fields of God*” who faithfully continue to support Legacy Institute in the mission God has given us. We believe that God inspires you and moves you to provide financial support and MOST IMPORTANTLY – fervent prayers on our behalf. Now I want to ask all of you to pray that God will send the right people to volunteer as teachers for the 2006 – 2007 Legacy Institute school year.

Let me tell you a little about the project itself and what is expected of a Legacy Volunteer. Our criteria is rather simple:

A volunteer teacher must be at least 20 years of age and from a Sabbatarian Church of God background. We prefer someone who has completed at least 2 years of college or vocational training. Volunteers pay their own round-trip air tickets and visa fees. Legacy will provide room and board. Volunteers should have their own health insurance acceptable in Thailand.

We are NOT looking for people who want to come to Thailand for the summer. Legacy Institute School is not a summer camp experience. We are NOT looking for people who want to come to Thailand to “get away from Mom and Dad”. We are not running a baby-sitting service. Legacy school is a serious educational institution educating young people in important vocational skills and also setting an example of the True Way of Life.

We need volunteers who are *already* living this way of life and able to set a good example for our students.

Bonnie Turner was one of our pioneer teachers. Before she left Thailand for home in April 2003, she wrote an email letter which she sent out to her friends to see if any would be interested in coming to serve at Legacy. Bonnie’s letter “tells it like it is” about the impact her year at the Legacy project had on her life. If you or anyone you know is interested in serving in Thailand, Bonnie’s letter is a “must read”!

“For all of you who don’t know, I am and have been working at Legacy Institute for the last eight months. Legacy is a Bible boarding school designed to teach leadership and self-sustaining skills to people who are unable to pay for these educational “privileges” that so many of us take for granted. It is geared toward Christian hill tribe people who wish to study the Bible, English, computers, music, agriculture, health/hygiene, and sports and are willing (in exchange for the opportunity to live here and learn for free) to volunteer their time after the education period. The school is located in the ‘suburb’ area of Chiang Mai Thailand at the foothill of the mountains. It is in a small community that offers almost everything one would find in a western community (i.e. food, clothing, transportation, local school, etc.), without the hectic chaos of the city, yet it still has a ‘chaos’ of its own; at least to my western mind.

“The reason I am writing this is to seek out individuals who are willing and wanting to be a part of this school and do something more with their lives than just work a 9-5 job, paying off credit cards, and fulfilling a routine, run-of-the-mill life. I am here because I wanted to do something more with my life. I am taking the opportunity to travel and fully experience cultures and societies completely foreign to the one in which I was raised. I’m here because I was blessed to have been born in a country where I was able to receive a decent education, afford ALL my needs, and plenty of my wants, and I want to share that with others who were\are not so luckily placed on the totem pole of life. ”Freely you have received, freely give” comes to mind. My expectations of this school were WAY off from what I met when I started and what I still meet every day. I believe that the Bible is the Word of God and that it is the most important thing you can teach anyone and help them understand especially when they come looking for it. There is a need and desire here and that is the purpose of this school: to provide a place for people in SE Asia to learn the Truth concerning God. We are also trying to help the people who come here to learn to be TRUE leaders in their own societies and cultures. One way of doing that is to educate them in areas that will help them obtain jobs to provide for themselves and their families so that they will no longer be dependant upon charities (thus the

English, computer, health/hygiene, and agriculture). Music is incorporated because music is as old as language, it adds beauty and enjoyment to life and it provokes cognitive thought. Sports are a fun way to stay healthy, learn teamwork and get dirty and sweaty for at least an hour in the day, and provide for a refreshing break from the drone of the classroom setting. The school is not only about academics and theology, but how to have a balanced, healthy lifestyle and be educated in a broad spectrum of issues.

“I think it’s safe to say that there is no other school like it. It’s cause is truly a noble one worthy of support by any Christian with a charitable attitude willing to sacrifice themselves to measures beyond believed possible, in order to serve and aid other fellow Christians who wish to improve themselves.

“There is a desperate need for teachers (no official qualifications necessary) for the next school year. It is increasingly difficult to find people of the character I just described who are willing to donate a year of their lives for such a cause. Most are unable to leave their present circumstances in exchange for formidable challenges that build character and, in the end, hopefully, make you a better person. I have battled with the idea of maintaining my position here, but I cannot continue a life of charity for in this situation, I too am a charity case; and after teaching here, I also realize the importance of returning to my own education.

“For (about) one year you would be asked to work harder than you probably ever have in your life and do things you would have never dreamed. You will sacrifice your time, frivolous pleasures, and humble yourself in ways you thought you already were. You will learn more in one year here than you could in 100 years of ANY classroom education. If you commit to the year, NO exceptions, you WILL NOT be the same person. This is an opportunity to serve and to gain knowledge and experience unattainable anywhere else, in your life or this world.

“On a personal level, more so anyway, I would never have come here knowing what I do now (I think), but I wouldn’t trade this for anything. I’ve learned more about myself, and life, and God, and everything between in the last eight months than in the entire previous 21 years of my life. This is not for everyone. If you can’t hack life where you are, then keep trying. This isn’t a way to change things that you don’t like about yourself nor is it likely to bring you satisfaction or fill any void you may have. You will be here to serve other people and they have plenty of their own problems that you will have to deal with. However, if you’re tired of redundancy in your present existence and don’t like the path on which you’re traveling, if you can accept challenge beyond measure and would like to experience the unimaginable or even describable, then write me back and ask for more. If you’re looking for fun, you’ll find hard work. If it’s adventure you want, that’s guaranteed, but it won’t be the one you expect. Whatever reality you’re used to is NON-existent here. It’s hard, REALLY hard; but when life is easy (like it is for too many) you lose track of what’s important about living (like so many do), and you get weak and soft and end up disappointed and depressed and not liking what you’ve become.

“If you are not (yet) committed to the unavoidable commitments in life (family, college, God, etc.) believe the Bible is the true Word of God, that it should be taught to ALL people and want to help set an example of how to live it, then you’ve been presented with a way to do just that. I believe in what I’m doing here. I believe in this school and I want to see it succeed. I feel that it is pleasing to God and blessed by Him, so I’m asking for others who are willing to pick up where I must leave off.

You don't have to fill my shoes, just replace them. If you, or anyone you know, are interested, contact me ASAP. Time does not stand still. Regardless of your interest PLEASE pass this message along. I will be more than happy to answer any questions you have. This is no candy-coated advertisement and I will be more blunt and to the point with any further inquiries.

*"Some good stuff: I love Thailand, Thai food and Thai people. I've been to Australia, New Zealand, Cambodia, Laos and Malaysia. Before I leave I hope to go to Nepal and Burma as well. The Bible has come to life. I've made great friends and have done more than I ever would have believed – good things. I have stories that will last a lifetime, that will bring laughter, anger, tears and fond memories. It's endless really. I love and respect my family now beyond duty, to true compassion and understanding."
Bonnie Turner"*

Some things have changed since Bonnie left, but I can think of no better way to describe the "Legacy Experience" than Bonnie's personal comments!

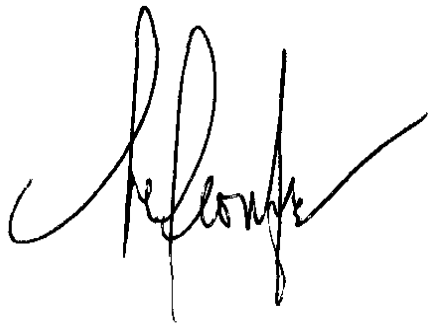
If you or anyone you know is interested in a one-year period of service to God, combined with an opportunity for personal growth and development, then now is the time to let us know. Please contact Herb Vierra at Herb_Vierra@LegacyInstitute.org or accmos@verizon.net or write us at the address on the top of this letter.

Free Legacy CD

We have also completed a *PowerPoint* presentation on CD that presents detailed information about the *Legacy Institute Leadership Training Center*. If you are interested in receiving this special CD (playable only on PowerPoint) *free of charge*, please contact Mr. Herb Vierra or write us.

Soon we will be entering the fall Holy Day season. May God bless and keep you all in your preparations for His Holy Feasts!

In Service to Our Master and Lord Jesus,



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.