



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Bangkok, Thailand

My Fellow-laborers,

Legacy Institute held its second graduation exercise for 4 graduates on February 26, 2006. The graduating students (Seng Aung, Seng Raw Gauri, Doi Ling Dumdaw and Kyang Kwi) were all members of the Kachin tribal group. Three of these graduates gave speeches in English and 3 other undergraduate students received awards for excellence in academics and leadership. The fourth graduate, Doi Ling, was not able to be present. She was in Kachinland starting at the University of Myitkyina.



LEGACY GRADUATES, UNDERGRADUATES AND VOLUNTEER TEACHERS POSE FOR GROUP PHOTO.

For 3 years, these Legacy students have been studying English, Bible, Computers, Organic gardening, Leadership and other classes. Each takes away a wealth of knowledge and understanding unavailable at most other institutions. Where else will they get the truth about Bible doctrine? Where else will they learn the principles that lead to happiness and fulfilling lives? To my knowledge, Legacy Institute is the *only* school of higher learning that teaches God's Way of Life *in all of Asia!*

Legacy does not discriminate as to race, nationality or religious beliefs. Some of our students are traditional Christian; some are from a Church of God background and some are Buddhists.

There are no guarantees that some or even any will end up with converted hearts and minds. I have been criticized for Legacy's non-discriminatory policy. Some have said we should accept *only* Church of God youths into our program. Well, if we were to do that, we would be limited to

teaching only a handful of students. Anyway, this was never the policy of Ambassador College when it first opened its doors, was it?



LEON AND GLORIA SEXTON PRESENT THE "ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD" TO SECOND-YEAR STUDENT, ZA TIN DIM.



GRADUATES POSE WITH VOLUNTEER TEACHERS. FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: KYIANG KWI, JASON BOISE, KEVIN TROYER, SENG RAW GAURI, LAWAN TONGSATHITPOO, RYAN FOSTER, SENG AUNG AND JAMES HOSTETTER.

We DO NOT know and CAN NOT know whom God will choose. He does according to His own council. As a matter of fact; out of the 9 students we have graduated so far, 2 have been baptized during their education time at Legacy. NEITHER one was from a COG background! Calling someone to the Body of Christ is the Father's business. The IF and WHEN are all in His hands.

God does not play roulette. He has a plan. Each and every one of us that are called and chosen have a specific and important role to fulfill in that plan. Nothing He does is by fiat or random chance.

*"...according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth – in Him. In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, **being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will**, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory."*
Ephesians 1:9-12 NKJV

*"...being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things **according to the counsel of His will**"* means just that! God does all things according to His Own Counsel. He doesn't see things as we do. He doesn't do things like we do. He sees a much bigger picture than you or I see. He doesn't even make decisions like we do or base them on the same criteria we might use! So we must trust God in faith to bring those to Legacy who have some part in His Plan.

We teach them the Truth. The rest is up to Him.

During the graduation, we had three of our grads give speeches in English. Below is the text of one of the speeches given by one of our graduates, Kyang Kwi:

"Good afternoon everyone. I am very happy that I finished Legacy School. Today I would like to tell how Legacy helped me. This school helped me with many thing but I will

tell only a few things. Legacy helped me with education, learn the Bible, improve my relationships and change my future.

“The first thing that Legacy helped me with is education. How to speak English. Before I came to Legacy School, I couldn’t speak English, even when a teacher asked me ‘Hello, How are you.’ I couldn’t answer my teacher. Now I can speak some English with all of you and I can give a speech.

“Not only can I speak English, also I can use a computer. I can type and I can use some programs. For example, I can write a letter to my teachers or my friends by email. Before, I couldn’t use a computer. Now I know how to use PowerPoint, Microsoft Word and how to keep pictures in the computer.

“The second thing that Legacy helped me know about is the Bible. I learned how to get eternal life. Before I knew a little bit about the Bible, but now I know more than before. For example, I should keep the Sabbath days. Before, I thought if I didn’t want to church, it didn’t matter. Now I think I must go to church. I also think that I must follow God’s law. For example, love your neighbor by helping them. In the Bible God said, “Love your neighbor as yourself”. Also reading the Bible is important for our life. Before, I almost never read the Bible. Now I have read many books of the Bible. For example, I read the Torah and some books like Daniel, Revelation and the Gospels.

“The third thing that Legacy helped me improve is my relationships. At this school, I learned how to be humble. I prayed and asked God to please help me be humble. If I am humble, I will listen to other people and try to think the same as God thinks about them. For example, one time I had an argument with my friend. Because I couldn’t be humble. If I was humble, I will not have an argument with my friend. I not only learned to be humble, I also learned to have good character. If I don’t have good character, I won’t have many friends. Also, some will be bad friends. If I have good character, I will be nice to people, so people will enjoy staying with me.

“The fourth thing that Legacy helped me do is changed my future. Now I will find a good job. Also, I can earn more money than before. Now I can work at an English restaurant or another job using English or computers. Then I can help my family more than before. I will help if they need money or something else. If I didn’t get education, I wouldn’t be able to help my family very much. Now I can help my children by teaching them how to read English, how to use the computers and how to have good relationships with people.

“Legacy gave me education, taught me the Bible, improved my relationships and changed my future. Thanks for the opportunity to learn everything.

“Thanks to all my teachers.”

My mother always said: *“The proof is in the pudding”*. We can always learn the value of any program by its results. Legacy is turning out graduates whose lives have improved. Their futures have been changed for the better. Even if they are not called and chosen at this time, who is to say what God has in store for them in their futures? In any case, each of these young graduates will make a positive impact on others. In that way, their families and their society will be improved.

It is the mandate of every Christian to help change this world for the better. Aren't we to be the Salt of the Earth?

As God gives me strength, I want to continue to be His instrument for change in young people's lives for the better, according to the Will of God.

PASSOVER: THE SEASON OF SELF-EXAMINATION AND RECONCILIATION

Soon we will be observing the New Testament Passover. This is when we will take the bread and wine of the New Covenant and wash each others feet according to the instructions of Jesus the Christ in John 13 and Matthew 26.

John 13:1-17

"Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end. And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this." Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!"

"Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."

"Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head!"

"Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." For He knew who would betray Him; therefore He said, "You are not all clean."

"So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them." NKJV

Matthew 26:26-30

"And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom." And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives." NKJV

Observing the Passover is very important to a baptized Christian. Under the Old Covenant dispensation, the person who did not observe the Passover was cut off from the congregation of God:

“But the man who is clean and is not on a journey, and ceases to keep the Passover, that same person shall be cut off from among his people, because he did not bring the offering of the LORD at its appointed time; that man shall bear his sin.” Numbers 9:13 NKJV

Passover is so important that God even made a special “2nd Passover” for those who had missed the first one for legitimate reasons such as being unclean or on a journey, etc.

Passover is important to God. How important is it to you?

For those of us taking the Passover symbols of unleavened bread and wine and washing one another’s feet, it is important for us to come together with the right attitude of unity and reconciliation.

We will come together to share the symbols of the New Covenant with each other and commemorate the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ which blots out our sins. We should never participate in this ceremony in a light-hearted or careless manner.

This happened in the first century Church of God among the Corinthian brethren. They did not understand the serious nature of the Passover and so God chose to punish some of them with sickness and even death!

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.

“Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.” NKJV

The Revised Standard Version clarifies it even further. It says that:

*“...any one who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself. **That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.**” 1 Corinthians 11:29-30*

What does it mean to take the Passover unworthily? Maybe we don’t want to face the answer. Maybe we are RESISTING God! Maybe that is why we see so much sickness in God’s Church today!?

Now by saying this, I do not mean that everyone who is sick in the Church is being punished by God for taking the Passover unworthily! What I do mean is that God chose to punish the Corinthians with sickness as judgment for their sin. This is a warning to you and me to examine ourselves BEFORE we take the Passover.

Paul says: *“For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.”*

So, it clearly has something to do with NOT DISCERNING or not perceiving what the Body of the Lord IS and how we should treat one another as individual parts of that same BODY!

Taking the bread and wine together is symbolic of being united as one family – one people – one church. The bread and wine are very important symbols of UNITY in Jesus Christ!

Some people believe that the bread and wine really become the body and blood of Jesus when they are blessed! This is not a true Bible teaching. The bread and wine are ONLY symbols of the body and blood of our Lord. But because they are only symbols does not make their meaning any less important.

By eating the bread and drinking the wine, we AGREE that we are one body and one people – not many divided groups. We all become ONE in the Lord.

Paul says that we are to examine ourselves so that we do not take the symbols unworthily. But how can we take the Passover UNWORTHILY? — By NOT understanding the meaning of the SYMBOLS!

These are symbols of UNITY! NOT DIVISION!

The Corinthians were divided into different factions and groups WITHIN the Church of God! (*Sound familiar?*)

“Now in giving these instructions I do not praise you, since you come together not for the better but for the worse. For first of all, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you, and in part I believe it. For there must also be factions among you, that those who are approved may be recognized among you. Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper. For in eating, each one takes his own supper ahead of others; and one is hungry and another is drunk. What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in? Or do you despise the church of God and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you in this? I do not praise you.” 1 Corinthians 11:17-22 NKJV

The Corinthian Church was coming together as ONE congregation. They all CLAIMED to be ONE in Jesus Christ – BUT THEY WERE DIVIDED!

Various factions had formed in Corinth. There were cliques.

The example Paul uses of their lack of discernment has to do with their divisions and how they were treating one another. It appears that in Corinth, they ate some kind of meal at the Passover. Perhaps this is because Jesus and the disciples did the same on the first New Testament Passover evening.

However, some were eating and drinking and not sharing with others. It appears that some were even getting DRUNK at Passover! The brethren who were poor were being shamed and looked down on by the richer members.

They did not act like brethren at all! God was judging them and punishing them for their actions toward one another. The Apostle Paul had to rebuke them, and this important rebuke and lesson about Godly unity in the Body of Christ are in the pages of our Bibles so that you and I today can (*hopefully*) learn from the sins of the Corinthians.

What kind of spirit and attitude do we need to have when we come to take the Passover? Well, it needs to be a spirit of humility and reconciliation. How do we expect to get along in the Kingdom of God if we can't learn to get along NOW!

FOOT WASHING

Ever wonder why the foot washing part of the ceremony comes first? It is just AS IMPORTANT as the taking of the bread and wine. Jesus told Peter that he would have not part with Jesus if he did not allow Him to wash his feet. (John 13)

By participating in the foot washing, we **humble ourselves** before one another. We should not take the symbols of the broken body of Jesus for our sins and the blood of the New Covenant, IF we are unwilling to humble ourselves before each and every one of our brethren who are members of the Body.

By participating in the foot washing, we show each other that we are willing to be the servants of one another. If someone has pride and does not want to wash the feet of another person at Passover time, then that prideful person should not be at the Passover!

Jesus was willing to get down on his hands and knees and wash the feet of His students. You and I should be willing to wash ANY feet that belong to a brother or sister in Christ.

But this is not always the case. I have heard of people finding out where someone they dislike is taking the Passover – just so they can go somewhere else! Why? Because they are afraid that they might end up in the same line together and have to wash that person's feet! Sound ludicrous? Unfortunately, it's true!

What about some from one COG group not letting a person from another group take the Passover with them because they have not "joined" their particular group? I have heard of people being turned away because they don't possess membership in the "ABC Church of God" or the "XYZ Church of God" or some other humanly devised, corporate physical church organization.

The Body of Jesus is **SPRITUAL** – NOT PHYSICAL! It is NOT CORPORATE! The Body of Christ is not a HUMAN organization with a board of directors! Anyone who doesn't discern this is off the track and in danger of taking the Passover unworthily! That is why Paul tells us to examine ourselves. Do we REALLY know the meaning of *DISCERNING* the Body of Christ?

One of the biggest problems in God's Church today is that people *pay lip service to the concept that the Body of Christ is **SPRITUAL***. But in practice, they demonstrate that they still cling to the

idea that the “True Body” can only consist of members of their own particular corporate church organization. How myopic. How sad.

PASSOVER: A TIME OF SELF-EXAMINATION AND RECONCILIATION

Paul also teaches in Corinthians 11 that the Passover season is a time of **self-examination and reconciliation**. What shape are our hearts in? If we have something against our brother or sister, we should go to that brother or sister and be reconciled to them **BEFORE** taking the Passover. This is according to the clear teaching of Jesus himself!

*"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. **Matthew 18:15** NKJV*

Sometimes your brother or sister will not listen to you. If not, then you are to take another person or persons along as witnesses and try again.

*"But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that 'by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established." **Matthew 18:16** NKJV*

But sometimes even that doesn't work! So then we must take our problem to the elders of the Church of God.

*"And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector." **Matthew 18:16** NKJV*

If he or she listens and peace is made, then you are reconciled and together in the Body of Christ once again. In this way we fulfill our duty and obligation to one another. How can we take the Passover together if we are angry and offended with one another? This should not happen in the Body of Jesus Christ.

But too often, we do not reconcile – rather we gossip to others and judge one another. God's Holy Word condemns this. It is against God's Way.

"But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written:

*"As I live, says the LORD,
Every knee shall bow to Me,
And every tongue shall confess to God."*

*"So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather Resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way." **Romans 14:10-13** NKJV*

We are to live in peace and tolerance with our fellow brethren. Otherwise we are in danger of taking the Passover unworthily and being judged by God.

We can also be guilty of putting a stumbling block in the way of our brother or sister in Jesus Christ if we are not willing to reconcile and make peace.

Do any of us really believe that we can have hatred, anger and resentment among us and still be considered RIGHTEOUS before God?

Taking the Passover is not an ordinary or common ceremony. Along with BAPTISM, it is one of the most important ceremonies you can participate in. It is more important than the marriage ceremony.

If we do not participate – maybe we will be CUT off from Jesus. But unless we are reconciled (*have forgiven and made peace*) with ALL who are our fellow members of the Body of Christ BEFORE we take the Passover – then we are GUILTY of the Body and Blood of Jesus. See again, **1 Corinthians 11:27**:

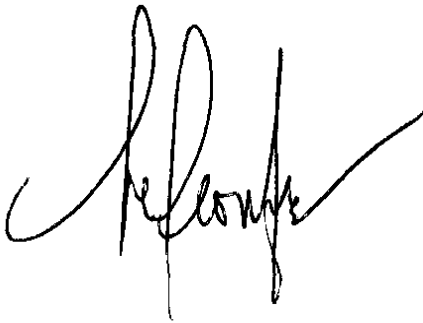
“Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord”.

So, my brethren, this year go to your brother or sister and make peace before you take the bread and wine of the Passover. Symbolically, we must humble ourselves as foot-washers before we take the bread and wine of communion together.

I pray that all of you will be able to safely observe the Passover wherever you are. And I pray that you will be together spiritually united as one Body in Jesus Our Lord as well as physically united at one place.

Amen

Sincerely,
Your brother and servant of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,



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.