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Chiang Mai, Thailand

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

God has a vision for all the earth. King David describes that vision in **Psalm 67**:

*“God be merciful to us and bless us,  
And cause His face to shine upon us,  
Selah*

*“That Your way may be known on earth,  
Your salvation among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
Let all the peoples praise You.  
Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy!  
For You shall judge the people righteously,  
And govern the nations on earth.  
Selah*

*“Let the peoples praise You, O God;  
Let all the peoples praise You.  
Then the earth shall yield her increase;  
God, our own God, shall bless us.*

*“God shall bless us,  
And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.”  
NKJV (emphasis my own)*

This is a truly wonderful and inspiring prophecy. Please notice what these verses **DO NOT** say. David’s words (*under inspiration as a Prophet of God*) **DO NOT SAY**,

*“That your ways may be known in the Church of God.” Or “Let all the people of the Church of God praise you.” Or, even worse, “Let all the people of only our particular COG organization be blessed.”*

Catch my point?

The vision of God is much greater than anything we can imagine. Do you think that Jesus, Our King of Kings and Lord of Lords, came *only* to die for members of the various

and sundry organizations calling themselves the Church of God? Did Jesus suffer and bleed to death on the cross for YOUR or MY salvation only? Did He empty Himself of divinity so he could come to earth as a lowly human in order to die and be DEAD for 3 days and 3 nights – just so you and I can be in the Kingdom?

Was His mind *only* on future Church of God members? Or perhaps he died for ONLY ONE PARTICULAR Church of God group that claims to be God's *only true church*. Or just as bad, a group that *pays lip* service to *the idea* of the Church being greater than any one organization, but in practice *rejects* fellowship with other COG groups unless they become part of them?

If you think that Jesus was an exclusivist, you've got the WRONG Jesus!!

Jesus shared Himself equally with all.

He selected a reviled tax collector as one of His disciples. He ate with social outcasts and sinners. He spoke to the Samaritan woman (*a no-no to the Jews*), teaching her the Good News. He healed all who came forward. He fed thousands with bread and fishes, even though He *knew* they were there for only the physical food. He spent His short life on Earth in service with caring love and concern to all.

Back in the old WCG days, we all had the idea that we were the “only” true church. Every other group was “pagan” or “worldly” or “that dead church” or some other derogatory label. We took great pride in remaining aloof from others, even others that were Sabbath-keepers and kept most of the same doctrines we did. Oh, we were so SMUG in our self-righteousness!

Many of us have changed. We have been humbled. I used to think that way, too. But God humbled me in many, many ways.

I wish I could lay the memories of all the exclusivist, self-righteous, prideful experiences away for good. But I can't. Why can't I you ask?

Because it is *still going on* in the various fellowships of the Churches of God! It *STILL* affects you and me! If you are honest with yourselves, you will admit that I am right.

I wish we all could get beyond our petty differences. I wish we all could stop trying to reconstruct the past and move forward *TOGETHER* into the future.

God is not an exclusivist. His mind is not only on any particular COG group – or more importantly, only on our various COGs at all! God's vision is far greater than that. His mind and heart is on *ALL* the Earth and *ALL* who live or have lived on it! *ALL* are His children.

When Jesus died on the cross, He was sacrificed for the sins of ALL mankind – so that, eventually ALL can have salvation. That includes Catholics, Protestants, Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, other COG groups – EVERYBODY!

*“That Your way may be known on earth,  
Your salvation among all nations.”*

David understood the mind of God. Under that same God’s inspiration, he wrote the hymn called Psalm 67. Salvation is for everyone.

The job of any particular COG group is NOT to try to get every other COG group to join up with them, or to “shun” others who are not a part of them. The Purpose of the Church is clearly outlined in Matthew 28:

*“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.” NKJV*

Notice that the above scripture DOES NOT say, *“Go therefore and make everyone else who is ALREADY a baptized member join your particular COG organization.”*

God’s purpose is to save the nations. He is doing this through His instruments – faithful children who are members of the Body of Jesus Christ. The purpose of the Church is to help SAVE the NATIONS! We cannot do this if we are engaged in “church wars” at home.

The commission talked about by Jesus is NOT for some future age. We are NOT to sit around and wait for 2 witnesses or anybody else. THE TIME IS NOW! Jesus said the fields are ALREADY RIPE for the harvest!

How does this thing called “salvation” work. Does God come along and “ding” you with some sort of spiritual magic wand?

Let’s look at what the Apostle Paul says,

*“For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on 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 unless they are sent? As it is written:*

*"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!" Rom 10:12-15 NKJV*

People cannot be given an opportunity to be saved UNLESS they HEAR the Gospel message. They cannot HEAR the Gospel message unless someone is out there PREACHING to the nations (*Jews or Greeks – Israel or Gentile*)!

So, this is God's game plan. He calls us to His Church so that we can go and preach the Gospel.

How many of us feel we are actively engaged in the preaching of the Gospel to the nations? How many of us are EXCITED and SUPERCHARGED every day about the commission Jesus gave to every one of us. If you don't feel that you are 100% engaged, WHY NOT?

God did not call us and set us apart so we could have personal salvation only. He called us in this Church Age so that we could be holy instruments in His hands to SAVE OTHERS!

He did not call us and set us apart so we could recapture the way things were done 30 years ago. He called us so that we could be holy instruments in His hands to SAVE OTHERS!

He did not call us and set us apart so we could fight and bicker among ourselves. He called us so that we could be holy instruments in His hands to SAVE OTHERS!

Let me give you an example of the HOPE and JOY God holds out to the poor and hopeless of this world:

Several years ago, Gloria and I visited an AIDS hostel in India. In India, AIDS patients are treated worse than untouchables. If someone has been found to have contracted HIV/AIDS, they are ostracized from the society. They cannot get work. Their friends and relatives no longer allow them into their homes. Their children cannot attend school. Other children are not allowed to play with them – even though they may not be HIV positive! Many choose suicide over the humiliation of having AIDS. A recent article appeared in the Bangkok Post about a young boy who set himself on fire because both of his parents were found to be HIV positive.

For the HIV positive in India, there is no hope and no future. It is a death sentence.

During the visit, I was asked to give a Bible study. Even though most were Hindu, they wanted to hear me speak. I chose to talk about the future Kingdom of God and the wonderful plan God has for every one of us. I told them that, even though they may die soon in this life – it is not the end because God will resurrect them to life again.

It was only a short “*sermonette*” and I didn't know how much they had grasped, even though Michael Hubert was translating for me. I didn't think much would come of it.

Later I learned that, because of my short sermon, one lady decided not to commit suicide. They asked Michael Hubert to come back and continue teaching them the Bible Truth. As a result, 9 AIDS patients were later baptized!

Gloria and I returned to this same AIDS hostel a year later. You should have seen the faces! A year before we saw only shame and despair. Now we saw faces that reflected REAL JOY and the CONFIDENCE of God's future Kingdom! God's Holy Spirit was obviously there!

Once again I gave a Bible Study. Do you know what their complaint was? They said it was too short and I should have used more scriptures! God is wonderful! His ways are beyond our imagination!

Since that time, several of those ladies have died of the disease. But they died as saints and will come up in the 1<sup>st</sup> Resurrection.

This was a great lesson to me. What would have happened if I would not have visited that AIDS hostel? Probably nothing! They would have continued their short lives in hopelessness and shame. Probably some or many would have committed suicide. That would be it!

God SENT me to that AIDS hostel! They heard the Gospel preached! They responded to the call! They were baptized and will be in God's Kingdom! And all because **Romans 10:12-15** was put into action!

WHAT is *OUR* part in this GREAT PLAN of God? HOW MUCH is God relying on us to get the job done? *WE* are God's preaching instruments! *WE* are His representatives on earth! *WE* are AMBASSADORS for Jesus Christ!

We don't have the luxury of sitting around waiting for 2 witnesses or fighting our petty "church wars"! We don't have time for chasing after the false pursuit of riches or "success" measured by this dying world's standards! We have time for ONLY one thing, and that is to *FINISH* God's end-time WORK of preaching the Gospel to ALL nations!

How long is it going to be before some of us wake up and trim our lamps? Or will we be counted among those who have buried our talents (**Matt 25**)?

Now I know that there are many faithful servants of Our Lord Jesus out there whose hearts are with God and His end-time Work. But there are others who want to shape God and His Church into their own image. God is forward-looking and forward-moving. He IS going to accomplish His Will! His heart and mind are on all His OTHER children out there who need the hope of the Kingdom of God. He wants to save them just as much as He wants to save you and me.

But, He is NOT going to wait around for any of us to catch up with Him. He has a PLAN of salvation for ALL mankind. He is busy accomplishing and fulfilling His plan.

**AND HE WILL DO IT HIS WAY!** Anyone reluctant or unwilling to follow His lead will be left behind. He will find someone else who **WILL FOLLOW HIM!**

Jesus sacrificed His life for the saving of the nations. He expects us to sacrifice ours for the same reason. God bless all of you who are truly sacrificing and serving our Lord Jesus in this Holy Work of Salvation. May He empower your personal and collective ministries to **FINISH His End-Time Work!**

### **Legacy Kachinland Update**

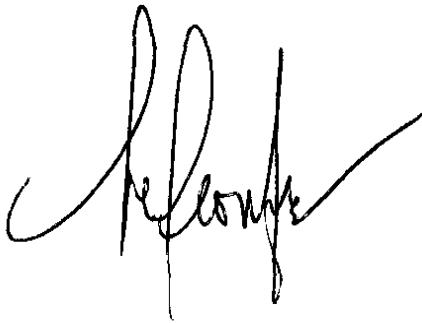
I received a phone call from Legacy Graduate Seng Aung who is setting up the Legacy Institute Branch School in Kachinland. (*He called me from Myitkyina since the phone lines are down in Na Mawn*). Because of the heavy monsoon rains, it is difficult to build the bamboo classroom and dormitories we need. So he rented a large house in town to get things moving. This house is already hooked up to a generator grid, so it has electricity for about 4 hours each evening. This means we can go ahead and get the computer set up.

Legacy Graduate Seng Htun will soon travel to Yangon and get a used computer and printer.

The house is large enough to accommodate Seng Aung and his family as well as 5-7 students. Seng Aung has set up a blackboard already and hopes to get classes started this month. I am very happy with the progress so far. Please continue to pray for these young men who, along with evangelist Lazum Brang, are carrying forward the vision of Almighty God for Kachinland.

Until next time, keep praying for us. Your prayers are the life's blood of Legacy's Work!

A fellow-servant of Our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leon Sexton', written in a cursive style.

Leon Sexton

***“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”*** Matt 11:28KJV