



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Greetings to our fellow-workers;

Gloria and I were invited to keep the Passover in Burma (Myanmar) again this year. This time we went to Na Mawn, Kachinland – the home village of Evangelist Lazum Brang. We have not been to Na Mawn for over five years, so we looked forward to visiting the area and once again seeing our brethren.

Burma is rich in many ways yet a sad country. It is blessed with a wealth of natural resources; natural gas, rubies, sapphires, jade and other gems; gold, platinum, and vast teak forests. Under British rule, Burma was the largest exporter of rice in the world. Now it is only a shadow of its former glory. The military junta that runs the country keeps an iron grip on the people and rules by fear. Individual freedom as we know it in America is non-existent.



Lazum Brang's house in Na Mawn



Leon (with bandana) and Gloria take local transportation

Travel is never easy in Burma, and this trip was no exception. The more remote the place, the harder it is to get there. Na Mawn is located in Kachinland near the inland lake called Indawgyi Lake. Kachinland is in the far north and borders China and Tibet. Gloria and I had to fly, take a train, and then travel by four-wheel pickup over unpaved mountain roads to get there. As usual, many obstacles were strewn in our path to try to stop us from carrying out our mission. I will talk about each obstacle one by one and show how God intervened to help us.

Obstacle #1 Obtaining Visas for Our Trip

Gloria and I flew to Bangkok on Wednesday, March 21 so we would have time to get our Burma visas before departure. Anything having to do with Burma is full of delays and difficulties, so I learned a long time ago to make sure I put extra time into my planned schedule. With visas to Burma, it normally takes a 2-day turn around and only one day if you paid an express fee. This time, things were different.

For some reason when I went to the Burma Embassy and applied for our visas, they told me I couldn't get them until the next Monday. I explained that our tickets were to leave on Sunday. The official said sharply: "change your tickets". That was it. There went all our "buffer time" in Burma!

We changed our tickets to Tuesday morning, which meant we had extra time in Bangkok. We contacted Queen Sirikit's secretary and informed her we were in town and she invited us out to lunch. Dr. Tanphuying (a Royal title similar to "Lady") Pharani Mahanondha is a good friend we have known for many years. She is a close Lady in Waiting to the Queen and a personal secretary. She accompanied Queen Sirikit on her visit to Ambassador College in 1985 and is very familiar with the Church. We always enjoy the opportunity to go out to lunch with her, but she never lets us pay! She always uses the excuse that she is older than we are so it is her responsibility to take care of us as the "older sister."

Let me update you on the current political situation in Thailand. Last year, Prime Minister Taksin Shinawatra was ousted in a bloodless coup. The present government in Thailand is overseen by a Military council. An interim Prime Minister (Surayut Chulanond) was appointed by the king. He has been diligently working to rid the government of the blatant and destructive corruption that was previously encouraged to grow to excess. Under the administration of ex-Premier Taksin, an army of corrupt officials came into power and turned Thailand into their own personal feeding trough!

Ex-Premier Taksin was recently quoted as saying that corruption should be accepted as an intrinsic part of Thailand's culture. That is like saying cancer should be accepted as a natural part of life and nothing can be done about it! We all know that if we allow cancer to stay in our body, it will spread to other parts of the body and soon everything is diseased.

The people of Thailand, and finally the army, got fed up with former PM Taksin's blatant abuse of power and did something about it. Now new cabinet members are in power and making every effort to try and root out the disease of corruption that was destroying Thailand.

It is a very tough job. Once cancer comes in and is allowed to grow to all parts of the body, it is very difficult to excise. It is an uphill battle facing Prime Minister Surayut, who is an honorable man and former Privy Counselor to the king. Please remember the King and Queen in your prayers and remember PM Surayut as well. Ask God to help restore dignity and integrity to the government of Thailand.

Please pray for Thailand. Pray that God protects and is gracious to King Bhumibol and Queen Sirikit, under whose leadership Thailand has remained free. Here we enjoy real religious freedom and the favor of the royal family. God gives this to us so that we can conduct His Work in this part of Asia freely and without government interference. But Satan is working overtime as usual to hinder us and destroy us. To him, we are the growing cancer! Recently, a new movement has emerged wanting the drafters of the new Thai constitution to include a law making Buddhism the state religion.

Historically, Thailand has maintained a policy of religious tolerance with no state religion. King Bhumibol Aduladej is personally entitled *Protector of All Religions*. You might think making Buddhism the state religion is a mute point as over 90% of the Thai people are Buddhist anyway. So, what's the big deal? Why not? Think about it. How valuable is religious freedom to you? How valuable is the freedom to worship as your personal conscience and convictions dictate? What would our society be like if we did not have this freedom? What if the US government made the Methodist or Baptist or Lutheran denomination the state religion of America? It sounds ludicrous, doesn't it? But what if it were true? What would happen to the Sabbath keeping denominations? Could you get dressed up, get into your late model car, and drive 30 minutes or an hour to a rented hall and freely hold Sabbath services without hindrance?

Freedom of religion is one of the most important fundamental freedoms that Americans enjoy without even thinking about it. It is a freedom guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States of America; a freedom that must be jealously protected and encouraged. Lose this freedom and we would begin a toboggan slide into the abyss – as one by one – we see our other freedoms are taken away.

Thailand is one of the very FEW countries on Earth that has real religious freedom. Changing this would open a religious Pandora's Box where politicians could use religion as a personal tool to achieve their own nefarious ends.

Satan knows this. He would use this potential new law as a means of thwarting our ability to operate freely and without hindrance in Thailand, one of the few countries in South and Southeast Asia where this is possible. Pray God help us and stop Satan!

Obstacle #2: Obtaining Visas for Our New Students

We left for Rangoon on an early flight from Thailand's new Suvarnabhumi International Airport. The flight was less than an hour and we arrived at Rangoon's airport to find Zin Maung Zaw, Lal Peka and Seng Mai waiting for us. Zin Maung Zaw is the son of Deacon U Myu Zaw. Lal Peka and Seng Mai are new students waiting to come to Chiang Mai. All our students from Burma need what is designated a "Non-immigrant Visa" from the Thai Embassy. Once they enter Thailand with this type of visa, we can extend their stay at Legacy year by year without them having to leave the country and re-enter. Zin had already arranged for a taxi, so we were soon off to his father and mother's home in Rangoon where some Church members were waiting.

After greetings and a delicious Burmese lunch made by Zin's mother (Tu Mar) we checked in at the nearby Liberty Hotel. In Burma, all foreign tourists are required to stay in government approved hotels and guest houses and pay in US dollars. Kyats (pronounced "jats"), the local money, is basically worthless and cannot be exchanged in foreign countries. As well, one must use up all Kyats in-country because they will not change them back into US dollars when departing Burma. US dollars, and increasingly, Euros are in high demand.

The next day we took our two new students to the Thai Embassy to get their visas which are very difficult to get. Gloria is the one who takes care of getting Thai visas for them. First she must contact the Ministry of Culture in Bangkok. We operate in Thailand under the name "*Legacy Foundation*" and we are chartered under the Ministry of Culture. Gloria asks the Ministry of Culture to write a letter to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs explaining our status as an official Thailand foundation and requesting consideration for visas for our students coming from Burma. Then, Gloria must contact the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs, Consular Section, to request Non-immigrant visas for each student. Once approved, a telex is then sent to the Thai Embassy in Rangoon authorizing the appropriate visas. After that, we go to Rangoon and take the students to the Thai Embassy to fill out the necessary forms and pay the application fees.

After filling out forms and paying the fees, we were told to come back in the afternoon. We always pray for God's help because we know that, invariably problems come up. Because of so many steps involved, it is easy for mistakes or oversights to occur, and, guess what! This time was no exception!

When we went back to the Thai Embassy that afternoon and the young lady at the visa window told us that there was a problem with Seng Mai's and Lal Peka's visa application. She explained that they had received no telex from the Foreign Ministry in Bangkok! She explained that no visa could be given without the telex authorization from the Thailand Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I told the students what the problem was and asked them to pray in silence fervently to God as we stood before the window! This experience was a real faith builder for us all. The young lady left and within a few minutes returned to the window. She explained that the Thai Consul had gone ahead and approved stamping Seng Mai's and Lal Peka's passport with Non-immigrant visas anyway because she remembered me!

In January this year, I had taken three other Burma students to the Thai Embassy in Rangoon to get visas. On that occasion, the proper telex from Bangkok had already arrived. I made a special effort to meet the Consul, pay respects, and thank her for helping us. So, this same lady Consul had remembered me and the Legacy Foundation from the earlier meeting and decided to go ahead and grant the visas – even without the authorizing telex!

Sometimes God solves our problems even before they happen! The previous meeting with the Thai Consul had made all the difference. God is extremely gracious to us!

Obstacle # 3: Getting to Myitkyina

Before leaving Thailand I had called ahead and asked Zin Maung Zaw to book a flight for Gloria and me to Myitkyina, the capital of Kachinland. The flight we needed was on Thursday, March 29. But the only seats available were on Friday, March 30, so he went ahead and booked them. We needed to get to Myitkyina on the 29th because we needed to catch the early train to Hopin on the 30th. Hopin is the train stop and the jumping off point for the trek over the mountains to Lake Indawgyi and Na Mawn. Flying to Myitkyina on the 30th would mean we would have to travel on the Sabbath in order to get to Na Mawn in time for the Passover. Flying on the 30th was not acceptable, so we asked God to intervene and open up seats for the 29th flight.

Once we arrived in Rangoon I asked Zin if we were able to get seats for the 29th. He said it was impossible and we should just plan to fly on the 30th. Now Zin is a young man. He could only see the physical reality of our dilemma. I explained that we must try to get our flight changed and that God would make sure we got it. Zin did not believe me. I said: "*Zin, watch what God is going to do.*"

We went to the ticket office to see if we could get our booking changed. I explained our situation and asked them to help. They were adamant that nothing could be done. The 29th was fully booked. I asked them to hold the 30th booking and put us on the waiting list for the 29th.

Now here I have to explain that money is the grease of getting things done in Burma. If I had bribed the ticket agents, maybe we would have gotten our seats on the dates we wanted. But we just don't operate that way. Why encourage corruption? God knew we needed to get to Na Mawn on the day we needed to be there. He is in charge of the universe. Instead of "tea money" we chose to rely on Him. God always comes through. But He usually makes us exercise patience right up until the very last minute!

The next day, I called Bagan Airlines again. Guess what? They told us we could leave the very next morning to Myitkyina. The next morning was the 29th! Zin was astonished! I had been confident that God would come through for us because we are His servants and engaged in the Work He Himself has given us to do. I have experienced over the many years I have been working in Asia in His Name that the seemingly impossible becomes possible overnight. But, if we are doing our own pleasure, we cannot necessarily expect miracles on our behalf. It reminds me of the scripture in Zechariah:

*“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,
Says the LORD of hosts.
'Who are you, O great mountain?
Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain.”* **Zech 4:6-7 NKJV**

One of the things I need to address in future letters is the understanding that we are called NOW, in this life – not for our personal salvation only – but to be fully engaged in getting His Work done. Jesus started it – and WE are to finish it! The Gospel must go out to the nations in power and might! It is our duty. *It also must become our lives!* When we are fully – 100% – engaged in His Holy Work – He is then obligated to help us get it done! Changing a flight booking is nothing to God! And, if our faith is what it should be, mountains are also nothing to God!

Obstacle # 4: Catching a Train to Hopin

We arrived early morning in Myitkyina, capital of Kachinland. By this time we were wondering what other obstacles might be thrown in our way by The Adversary. We were soon to find out. I don't put much stock in coincidence. There is a spirit world that parallels our own physical world. We can't see it – but we are intimately connected to it. What happens there affects us; most of the time without our knowledge.

At the Myitkyina airport we were met by Seng Htun, one of our graduates of Legacy Institute and a baptized member of God's Church. Seng Htun has a job on the China border working for a Colonel in the Kachin Army. He is a librarian and internet researcher. His position is a non-combatant role and he is free to keep the Sabbath and Holy Days. Seng Htun was teaching computer at the Legacy Branch School in Na Mawn but had to leave due to health reasons. Na Mawn is not a healthy place and there is a lot of sickness. Seng Htun developed a kidney condition due to the water. When Gloria and I go to Na Mawn, we only drink bottled water.

Gloria and I checked in at the YMCA and had dinner with Seng Htun. The next morning we got up very early to catch the only train from Myitkyina – six hours south to Hopin. Seng Htun said it would be no problem to show up at the station ½ hour before departure. That made me nervous. I like to arrive early with plenty of time to spare since invariably we run into problems.

After morning tea, we carried our bags to the train station not far from the YMCA. Guess what. The ticket booth was closed! Seng Htun searched around until he found a train conductor. The conductor told him that the tickets were all sold out. Again, we began to petition God to help us. We need to get to Na Mawn before Sabbath and we needed to get on that train!

Eventually, we found out that the ticket office was closed because the ticket agent was asleep in the back of the booth. The helpful conductor roused him from his slumber and we explained we needed to get to Hopin that morning. He was very unhappy we woke him up and said the tickets were already sold out and the train was leaving in a few minutes. We persisted. He finally relented and sold us 2 tickets in ordinary class – but Seng Htun would have to stand all the way.

Prayer works! The ticket agent did not want to cooperate and wrote out the tickets grumbling all the way. But the end result was... *we got our tickets!* Suddenly the train began to leave! We ran as fast as we could to the platform, threw our bags through a coach window, and jumped aboard the moving train. The problem was we were on the wrong coach! So while the train was still leaving the platform, we threw our bags back out the window and jumped off to find the correct coach. We had to run and drag our bags two coaches ahead. God was with us again. The conductor took pity on us and stopped the train long enough to get on board. Finally we were on our way to Hopin.

There is no end to the experiences we encounter here in Asia! We must constantly rely on God to help us get where we must go and do what we must do.

Obstacle #5: Getting Over the Mountains

We Americans take our freedoms for granted. I want to invite all Americans to spend a week in Burma! Those who do so would have an entirely new appreciation for the values and freedoms we enjoy at home.

Evangelist Lazum Brang was waiting for us in Hopin. Seng Htun got off first and we tossed our bags out the window to him. Then it was our turn. The difficulty is trying to jump OFF the train when so many hundreds of people (men, women and children) are trying to push and shove their way ONTO the train! I was finally able to get off as the train was leaving the platform again. Gloria couldn't make her way through the crowd, so she decided to just lower herself on top of the crowd. Her feet slowly reached the platform and she was able to get free.

Lazum Brang took us to his cousin's house. His cousin comes from China and is involved in the local teakwood trade. Burma is clear-cutting thousands upon thousands of trees in the virgin teak forest and selling the wood off to China, Thailand, Japan and other countries. Teak is one of the great resources of Burma. But no one is replanting. So, like all vast resources, the great teak forests of northern Burma and Kachinland will soon be gone – followed by environmental changes in weather and subsequent flooding.

Lazum Brang's cousin offered to take us over the mountains to Na Mawn in his 4 wheel pickup truck. This was a great help because finding transportation over the mountains is both difficult and expensive. It is only a little over an hour drive from Hopin to Na Mawn, but the road is a treacherous, unpaved dirt road winding steeply up one side of the mountain and winding precipitously down the other side. During the rainy season, the road gets washed out and becomes an impassible quagmire. However, the monsoon season hadn't started yet. We would face mountains of dust, not mudslides.

Once we arrived in Na Mawn, we had to stop at a Burmese Army camp and present our passports. Later we would repeat this process with both the local police and immigration officials. The Burmese government is very careful to know our whereabouts at all times. At every train station, airport and hotel or guest house we arrive at, we have to fill out a report and turn over our passports to immigration officials or sometimes to the army and local police. This is time consuming and an inconvenience, but we must remember that Burma is a police state run by a military junta. To many people in the world, Burma is a pariah state with a long track record of human rights violations. But this is where God is actively doing His Work and so, this is where we too must go!

Obstacle #6: Where Do We Stay?

Staying in Na Mawn used to be easy. We usually just stayed with Lazum Brang and his family in his bamboo house. But things have changed. Now we were required by the Burmese military to stay at a government authorized guest house 15 miles (40-45 minutes away) on the other side of the great inland Lake Indawgyi. The Burma government needs foreign currency. The US dollars we must use in Burma are in great demand, so we are required to stay in government guest houses so that the government can get foreign currency. We had no choice. We could not stay in private homes.

After our arrival in Na Mawn, we first spent time greeting our brethren and visiting with Seng Aung (Principal of Legacy Branch School), his wife Seng Hpa and their two children. After a few hours we traveled on to Lawng Dong. It was a real convenience being able to use Lazum Brang's cousin's pickup truck that first day. It saved having to try to find transportation from Na Mawn to Lawng Dong. There are regular 4 wheel pickups that travel back and forth, but they are few and far between. There is no set schedule. You might wait 2-3 hours along the rough dirt road in the heat before one comes by and you flag it down. If you are fortunate, it is not already overloaded with people and cargo and there is enough room for you to sit somewhere on top. One day we had to hitch a ride on a truck with a load of pigs because there was no other transportation available.

The Na Mawn to Hawng Dong road sees very few repairs. The log trucks that ply this route carry very heavy loads and when it rains, they sink deep ruts into the road. Other trucks come along and in order to avoid the deep ruts, they go around them, creating newer and deeper ruts! 4 wheel pickups that carry people and cargo are always overloaded and contribute to the dirt road's poor state of repair. During the dry season, great clouds of very fine dust are raised by each vehicle passing along and anything and everything gets covered in a very fine clay dust. It gets into your nostrils, throat and somehow finds its way into every pore of your body and every corner of your luggage. I had to wear a bandana over my nose and mouth every time I rode on one of these vehicles so that the dust would not irritate my nose and throat.

We stayed in a small guest house right at the lake, which is relatively still unpolluted. The rooms were very Spartan and we were furnished with mosquito nets. We had a public washroom and a squat toilet at the end of the hall. The shower was a cement tank filled with water and a plastic scooper. We paid \$10 per night for both of us. This is where we would hold the Passover.

The next day was the Sabbath, so we had to go back to Na Mawn and gather with the brethren for services in Lazum Brang's bamboo house. He is in the process of building a much larger building that will double as a church hall and residence. He has a growing family (his wife Pu Mu Htoo is pregnant with their fifth child) and hopes to get the new building finished sometime this year. He has had a lot of trouble getting this building built as building materials are hard to get and becoming more expensive each year. The

foundation, framework and roof are complete. Now he is waiting for lumber to be milled for floors and siding. He needs to finish this building project soon as his old bamboo house now looks like the Leaning Tower of Pisa!

We gathered for services with about 12 adults and 10 children. I gave a sermon about preparing our hearts for the Passover. Gloria and I spent the rest of the afternoon fellowshiping with the Na Mawn congregation and visiting with Seng Aung and Seng Hpa in the rented downstairs part of a house we use for the Legacy Branch School. We will talk more about some of the problems facing Seng Aung in running the school a little later. About four in the afternoon, we again needed to flag down an overloaded and top heavy four wheel pickup for the return to Lawng Dong.

The next day we prepared for the Passover. The guest house was filthy. So Gloria cleaned and swept the areas needed for the Passover ceremony. She collected numerous piles of dead insects and washed off all the tables and chairs we would use. The ceremony was to take place on an outside porch area facing the lake. Gloria set up what few chairs we had and tried to make it as nice as possible.

At about 4 PM our brethren arrived stacked high on a rented utility truck. Mats were put on the floor and a small table was set up with bread and wine. As soon as the sun set, services began. We tried to get away with using as few lights as possible as the lights attracted insects from the edge of the lake.

No matter where we are, Gloria and I find that the Passover ceremony is an inspiring occasion, and the one held at Lawng Dong was no exception. When brethren gather together to share the symbols of Christ's body and blood, it is spiritually renewing and rejuvenating. It is like breathing fresh air again after a year of pollution.

The Passover ceremony went very well and soon it was time for the brethren to go back the 15 or so miles to their homes in Na Mawn village. We asked Seng Aung and his family to stay overnight because we wanted to talk to them about the Legacy Branch School the next morning.

Update on the Legacy Branch School in Na Mawn

The idea of the Legacy Branch School came from hours of discussions I have had over the years with Evangelist Lazum Brang. He had the seed in his mind to build a small school in his home town of Na Mawn where students could come and learn the Bible, English and computer patterned after the Legacy Institute in Chiang Mai. Last year after Seng Aung graduated, we asked him and his family to remain in Thailand and help us translate booklets into the Burmese language. Instead, he really wanted to go back home and have his second child born in Burma. I asked him to help us start a "Legacy Institute Branch School" in Na Mawn. He agreed.

To take what is learned at Legacy Institute in Chiang Mai and pass that knowledge on to others in their home areas was one of the founding principles of the institution. Why not do this in the configuration of a small "branch school" that would be a kind of mini – Legacy with a curriculum teaching Bible, computer and English? The idea was a good one – but *vision* is only part of accomplishing God's Work in Asia. There also must be *execution* – how do we pull it off?

Seng Aung was one of our best students so far. After three years at Legacy Institute in Chiang Mai, his English was very good and we used him as an interpreter in Sabbath services. He also had a good knowledge of the fundamental doctrines of the Church of God. Seng Aung also had experience as a math

teacher before he came to Legacy and wanted to teach again. He was a leader among the students and married another Legacy graduate – Seng Hpa. If he really wanted to return to Burma, why not use him to help get the Legacy Branch School off the ground?

After Seng Aung returned home with his family, I traveled to Myitkyina and met with Lazum Brang who agreed to give it a go. We decided to ask Seng Aung to move his family to Na Mawn and make him principal of the school. We asked Seng Htun, another graduate of Legacy, to go with him to teach computer. Lazum Brang would teach Bible when he was at home. Legacy Branch School would also provide an opportunity to screen potential new students for Legacy School in Chiang Mai. Students would first study at Na Mawn for one year. If they did well and proved to be good candidates, we could then transfer them to Thailand for further study. The idea was sound, but would it work? Even if the idea was a good one, was Na Mawn the place to do it? We had to rely on God to show us.

Seng Aung went to Na Mawn with his family and set up the school in a rented house, shared with another family, with the idea of building bamboo classrooms and dormitories on nearby land already purchased for this purpose. We sent Seng Htun to Rangoon to purchase a computer and printer and set it up in Na Mawn for computer classes. Electricity would be supplied by a small generator.

This trip was the first time Gloria and I were able to visit Na Mawn, see the program and look carefully at the fruits. Our discussions with Seng Aung and Seng Hpa were very revealing.

They were able to get the school off the ground with four students. Seng Aung taught English; Seng Htun was able to teach computer once he got everything set up; and Lazum Brang taught Bible. However, there were many problems. One problem was communication. There was a telephone nearby, but the single telephone line into Na Mawn went down frequently. I could not call directly to Na Mawn from Thailand anyway. So, the only way Seng Aung could communicate with me was by letter (no guarantees it would get to Thailand) or go to Myitkyina to call me, a three day round trip journey. When the mountain road washed out during the monsoon, Seng Aung was cut off.

The government had put a restriction on taking wood and bamboo from the mountain forest and everything had to be purchased. Building materials were expensive and had to be transported over the mountains. During the monsoon, no building could take place because of the heavy rains. The price for gasoline to run the generator had also doubled.

But the biggest problem was sickness. During the heavy monsoon season, diseases such as malaria and other fevers were rife. Seng Htun had to leave and return to Myitkyina because of kidney problems due to bad water. This meant that he could not continue teaching computer classes. Seng Aung's children were often sick. There is no hospital in Na Mawn, only a small clinic with no qualified health workers and few medicines. Several years ago, Lazum Brang's younger brother died of an unknown fever. Several of our students had to leave Na Mawn because of chronic illnesses, recuperate at home, and then return for studies.

The upside was that two students had successfully finished their one year of study at Na Mawn and were able to transfer to Thailand.

What should we do? Should we try to continue the Legacy Branch School in Na Mawn or do something else? We had to weigh all the pros and cons and pray for God's guidance.

In our discussions, and after prayerful consideration, the answer became clear. We needed to back up and regroup. We decided to have Seng Aung and his family return to Thailand for further training. Seng Aung is a good teacher, and will receive further training as an administrator. Both Seng Aung and Seng Hpa will also improve their English, computer skills and receive more about the Bible.

Once Seng Aung and Seng Hpa have completed their additional training, we will consider another location in Burma – one that is much better because of logistics and health reasons. God must show us the answers. We must continue forward under His divine direction.

Please pray that God reveal His Will to us. And please pray for the spiritual growth and development of the Legacy graduates He will use to accomplish His Work in Thailand, Burma and southern China. Let us all pray to the Lord of the Harvest that He send more trained workers into His fields. Pray for me also. I need God's constant guidance and grace if I am going to accomplish what He wants me to do. Sometimes the future is like "looking through a dark glass." We know WHAT He wants us to do. We know the WHY. We see the clear outline of the vision. But the WHEN and HOW are not always clear. This demands constant and relentless prayer. Please increase your prayers for us.

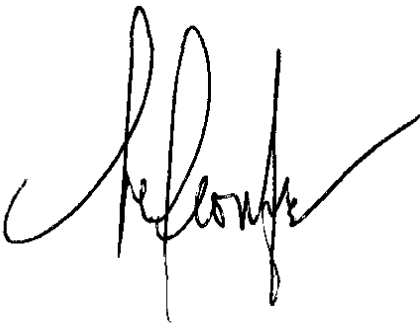
***“For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
And His ears are open to their prayers;”*** **1 Peter 3:12** NKJV

The next day we held Holy Day services in Lashi Naw's home. Lashi Naw is the church deacon for the Na Mawn congregation. His wife is the church treasurer. Lashi Naw works for the government and his wife has a successful dressmaking business in her home. I spoke about the meaning of the symbol of unleavened bread. It can be a challenge to teach people about unleavened bread when they only eat rice! But I explained how my mother made bread and how it would rise in the pan before baking.

After services, we had to head back over the mountains to catch the early train to Myitkyina the next day. It was really good to get back to visit our brethren in Na Mawn once again after five years. In many ways much has changed, yet much remains the same. Living in the Lake Indawgyi region is harsh and difficult. The road in and out is worse than I remember. Maybe I am just getting older. Inflation has caused the price of many commodities to triple over the last two years. The brethren struggle. But no matter how difficult their lives are, they remain faithful to God and the true teachings of the Bible. May God bless them and keep them under His wing always.

Soon we will be leaving for our U.S.A. speaking tour. Pray for us and we will pray for all of you! We are all in this effort together and need one another. Stay strong and increase your faith in Almighty God.

Your brother in Jesus Christ,



T. Leon Sexton