



LEGACY INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 7, Dundee, Ohio 44624
www.legacyinstitute.org
anita_showers@legacyinstitute.org

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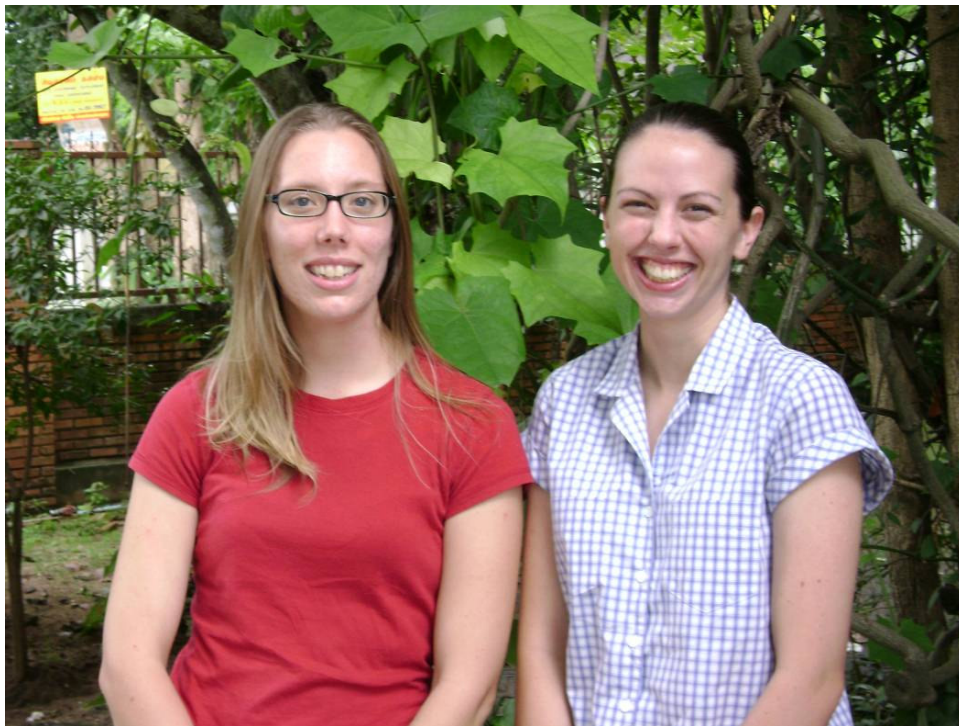
Chiang Mai, Thailand

Dear Fellow-laborers,

The school year at Legacy Institute has started again! This is our SIXTH year! I just can't believe it. How time flies!

We are starting out short-handed this year. We could really use one or two more teachers. But the volunteers we have are doing an incredible job filling in the holes and making the school run smoothly with a minimum of difficulties. Our volunteer teachers this year are Stacey Seelig and Erika Pedersen.

Stacey has already taught one year at Legacy and is a veteran. Erika is what we affectionately call a "newbee". But she will not stay that way for long!



ERIKA

STACEY

Stacey Seelig grew up in Pasadena, California and went to school at the Art Institute of Pittsburg where she earned a BS in Computer Graphic Design. She teaches Basic Computer, Advanced Computer Design, Journalism and English Composition. I asked her why she came to Legacy. Her answer was: "A desire to live a service oriented life." I then asked her what she did in her

spare time (HA-HA)! She said: “Read, write and draw.” The reason for the “HA-HA” is that she is teaching 21 hours per week!

Erika Pedersen comes from Minneapolis, Minnesota. She comes highly recommended from one of our former teachers, Heidi Hanisko. If Heidi says someone will make a good teacher – that carries a lot of weight with me. Heidi was one of our pioneer teachers who helped get the school off the ground. She teamed up with Bonnie Turner, Marjorie Riggs and my son Bronson who made up the first year teaching team. Bonnie and Heidi *always* came through when the going got tough!

Erika likes Thailand because it is warm here. She went to the University of Minnesota, has a BS in Marketing and International Relations, and spent time studying in France. Erika is teaching English, Music Theory, Choral and Sports.

Why did she come to Legacy? She said, “I just *knew* I wanted to come.” In her very limited free time she is learning to play the guitar.



Students from the Lahu, Kachin and Karen mountain tribes study Bible at Legacy

Serving as a volunteer teacher at Legacy in Thailand is tough. We demand a lot from our volunteer teachers and they step up to the plate! They are the *heart-beat* of Legacy School. It is very difficult to describe the responsibilities that teachers are asked to perform. It is kind of like the Marine Corps where soldiers are told they must *learn to think on their feet*. Legacy teachers must learn to improvise and adapt. The curriculum changes every year based on the training and skills of new volunteer teachers. I must confess that I *throw them into the deep part of the pool* and they must learn to swim! Ask any of our volunteers. They will tell you all about the challenges they have faced and **overcome** at Legacy’s project in Thailand.

Legacy school is a high-energy institution. We take young people from the mountains of Thailand and Myanmar (Burma) with very few opportunities, bring them to Legacy and plunge them into a high-intensity environment that teaches the RIGHT way of life. With the help of Almighty God, our goal is to train them to be servants of a new world – the KINGDOM OF GOD! Many students who come here are fatherless. Some have not completed high school.

Volunteer teachers fly to Chiang Mai at their own expense. Some have been sponsored by local COG congregations. After they arrive, Legacy Institute provides room and board and a little “pizza” money. They serve for one academic year or more as volunteer teachers. Serving in Thailand is a life-changing experience. Ask many of our volunteers about their service in Thailand, and they will tell you that their lives have been changed forever!

Every year we must recruit new volunteers. Please pray God sends us those He has chosen according to His Will. And please pray that God will bless the Legacy School, its students, faculty and administration so that we can all fulfill His Divine Will during this new school year.

CHANGES IN YANGON

I flew to Yangon (formerly Rangoon) earlier this month. While on a speaking tour to the USA in May, I received an email message from the Church of God in Yangon. They were having some serious problems in the church congregation there. I was told that the pastor, David Ye Gyan, had disappeared with his wife and family and could not be found. The reason was that they had borrowed heavily and could not pay back their debts.

In Burma, it is a criminal offense to default on loans. The police had been notified and were searching for them. As a result, they fled to some unknown place and went into hiding. Members in the local church were very discouraged and so I told them that I would come to Yangon as soon as I could.

My biggest concern was that they were without a shepherd and would fall prey to grievous wolves who would come in and scatter the flock. This is what usually happens. A leaderless congregation doesn't last long. It either disintegrates because of internal dissension among brethren, or wolves coming from outside enter in and pick off the sheep.

Based on my previous experience, I was seriously concerned.

I got back to Chiang Mai, started the school year off, and as soon as I could, headed for Yangon. I didn't know what I would find. I suspected I would find few left and the church in a state of confusion and disillusion. Boy was I wrong!!

I am always astonished at the Magnificent Grace of God and stand in awe of His Power. Instead of confused sheep milling around or scattered to the four winds, I found an organized, faithful and strong congregation observing the Sabbath and continuing to keep the Laws of God the best way they understood.

The Holy Spirit is powerful and moving in Yangon! Myu Zaw, the local man I had baptized and



Myu Zaw (center) leads worship services every Sabbath at Yangon

ordained a deacon, took over. He organized regular Sabbath services in an upstairs room in his home; invited all members to attend and maintains order and doctrinal integrity. The Sabbath during my visit, there were 17 adults in attendance and over 10 children. This is the largest group I have EVER seen at Yangon Sabbath services! Two men who attended have their own Sabbath-keeping congregations in Yangon, but join with Myu Zaw for morning services and then go back to conduct afternoon services in their own areas. If and when they speak, Myu Zaw only allows them to speak directly from the Bible. He is jealous of the Word of God and the doctrines of

Jesus Christ! He is very protective of the sheep of God in the Yangon congregation. There was a serious need in Yangon. And our faithful brother Myu Zaw stepped up to the plate!

Again, I have to confess, I expected a disaster. But God is in charge! I am only an instrument of His Divine Will. I cannot – *and am INCAPABLE of* – knowing what He will do next!

In this case, Myu Zaw stayed in the background and quietly supported the local pastor. But as soon as a crisis occurred, he confidently stepped up and assumed leadership without muss or fuss! And I can only say that he is doing a great job. Myu Zaw does not speak because, as he said to me, “I do not know the Bible well enough to preach to God’s people.” He is not short on humility. Others would have grabbed the chance to step into a pastoral role. Myu Zaw sees himself as a caretaker until God provides another leader. Well, it is my impression that God has already provided a leader! Please pray for Myu Zaw and all of your brethren in Yangon that God will continue to bless them and add to their numbers as many as He will call.

The lesson from my visit to Yangon is this: *We look through a glass darkly!* We may think we have it all figured out. But these are just the machinations of a fool! God is in charge. He does what He wants, and He doesn’t ask our permission nor even needs to inform us in advance!

I am always humbled by what I see here in Asia. God is very active here and His Holy Spirit is manifested in many surprising ways. Every day holds a new lesson about God and His Plan of Redemption for ALL mankind; even those in remote places with strange sounding names. I praise His Most Holy Name and stand in awe of the Majestic Power of our Most High God!



Worshippers gather on the Sabbath at Deacon Myu Zaw’s house

Humbled once again,

Your fellow-laborer in the fields of our Great God,

T. Leon Sexton

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