



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Chiang Mai, Thailand

Dear Fellow-laborers,

The Feast of Tabernacles is extremely important for Church of God brethren in every location on Earth. Whether it takes place at a church building, a five star hotel or in someone's home – we who are called to be members of God's family should make every effort to gather with others to keep the Feast.

Some of our brethren are poor and need our help every year to provide a means for them to gather together, fellowship with one another and enjoy feasting on the Word of God. They should also be able to have special meals during the Feast, especially on the High Days.



Leon & Gloria Sexton with Kakinada
COG Pastor Chitti Babu & children



Kachinland Pastor Lazum Brang
preaching a sermon

Because of you, our fellow-laborers, and your generosity – our poor brethren in remote areas were able to attend and glorify God with other brethren. Here are the reports from 3 sites that Legacy Institute helped sponsor. I have left each message unedited; so that I do not change the flavor of each Pastor's words.

REPORTS FROM THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES

Na Mawn, Kachinland and Upper Shan State on the China Border

Dear brother Leon and sister Gloria Sexton,

Greetings to you again from Kachinland. We all of us from here are very quite well now. Although the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day is over, and sister Violet and her friend stayed at our home until October

17th. Every day they learned more about the Bible Truths and the doctrinal beliefs and faiths of the Church of God.

A widow from Bhamo, is very, very faithful to God; she paid tithes. Before she came here she keeps all the tithes in her hands; and she brought the tithes here. On October 18 morning, they departed from here to their homeland. It is needed 4 days journey by motor car, train and ship between Na Mawn and Bhamo. Before they left, I gave them 60,000 kyats (about \$US 50.) for their traveling budget. I do hope they will share their faiths and beliefs to their friends when they arrive back home.



Gloria Sexton at services with children in Kachinland

In this time I write encouraged letters to the remote areas every day from morning up to sun down. The heavy rain comes every day until today since the Feast is over. Recently, I received a letter from the Northern Shan State. I have to know that the church members from there are also observed and celebrated the Feast of Tabernacles and the Last Great Day there. We are very happy to hear this news from the China border area. We all celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles to commemorate the future time when many prophecies will be fulfilled.

May God bless you and your ministries in Asia very abundantly.

With a lot of Thanks!

Your Elder Brother in the services of God,

Pastor Lazum Brang

God's Servant in Kachinland

Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, India

Very Warmest Greetings to you all from Churches of God India.

Dear Sirs, I am so delight to inform that I have received all of your Generous Gifts for the needs of Feast of Tabernacles 2007. Thanking you so much for your intercessory prayers and lifting us up with your helping hands to be enjoying both physically and spiritually.

In fact, we are so glad that we had sweet time of Fellowship with all of our Three Congregations during Special Time of Triumph the Feast of Tabernacles. Of course there were heavy Rains which hinder few of our programs, although God the Holy Spirit helped us have good Spiritual enjoyment this time ever before.

We expected that there are two ladies being counseling for Baptisms. But we praise God there is a man who accepted the Truth, stood up and received Baptism on Last Great Day of the Feast, and added to the Church. Please continually pray for this newly saved people. So that they will stands firm for Truth, and grow in the love, obedience to word of God until death. We served delicious food at the end of programs and we all of were satisfied through physically and spiritually. We buy some Telugu Bibles, and distributed those who needed. All the recipients are sending their heartfelt thanks to those who provide the Bibles.

Please do pray for us so that God the Holy Spirit would strengthens us and wrap up with His Spirit to be strong leaders of God's True church until He comes. We too continually are praying that our Gracious Lord will fill with love in your hearts abundantly to serve others and pull many from eternal darkness into everlasting Light. We trust that you would share how you would celebrate the Tabernacles 2007.

Thanking you so much for all of your prayerful assistance to proclaiming the Message of Hope and Salvation to many at this end hour. May Lord who made the heaven and earth would bless you all for His Glory. Please convey my hearty Greetings to all who you know, and share this news to the Saint who does not receive this FOT update through Email. The Salutation By the hands of me remember my bonds, Grace and Pease be with you all from God our Father and Lord Jesus Christ.

Your fellow servant in God's Field,

Mr. Mrs. G. Chitti babu & congregations.

Kenya

Dear elder Leon and esteem legacy foundation board,

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! It's my pleasure to send this email to you after feast of tabernacles 2007. On behalf of church of God Maasai mission, board and members I take this opportunity to send our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for sponsoring our year feast site. This year feast is unique and better than any time before and this because your help! Unlike other year where we either meets only on first and the last day of the feast.

Before we got your help we are preparing for the same regulation, after getting your love offering us able to change the plan and booked reservation at nearest town for some church members and also communicate every church pastor or leaders about the new plan. The \$ 400 was of great help to buy food and accommodation plus rent for hall this with additional money raise local for this year feast.

The 50 members attended representing every local church with exception of elderly people and children. Means of transportation here is not easy work, especially to mention group of people. Due to limited fund to meet needs of every person to stay here the whole eight days, youth and nearest people come every morning and travel back home late in evening. We thank God some manage to travel to and fro during the whole feast week, some walk to 20 kms at night! It's their joy to do this for the kingdom of God.

Yesterday left Narok where the construction of tank is going on and I left Pastor Jonah to supervise the work, which will be completed by now. Without doubt the \$300 for the tank will finish this project and we expect to start serving people during the next rain. Narok is dry by now. Pastor who went ahead of me call me and told me to buy water at kisii and told me he suffered the last previous night with thirst. We hand to buy some chemical to treat water before I left Narok.

We are also glad that \$200 for widows and orphan have also distributed while aim at Narok by Pastor John Barta of Shankoe church. It was shared between two widows and two orphans from different congregation, one from each church. I will send more on this soon.

Thank very much and God bless your endeavor for the saint at this end time.

Greet all in Christ for us,

Julius

UPDATE ON KING BUMIBOL'S CONDITION

I have good news. King Bhumibol is out of the hospital and recovering at Chitralada Palace in Bangkok. He is undergoing physical therapy and improving rapidly. He is even strong enough to take up a few of his normal duties. Next week he will celebrate his 80th birth anniversary. He has been on the throne for over 60 years! Great festivities are planned for all over the kingdom. The king will address the nation on December 4th and 5th. Please pray that Our God will increase his strength to weather all the special functions and duties that the king must perform.

At the same time the king's 84 year old elder sister, Princess Galyani Vadhanna is still in the hospital receiving treatment for stomach cancer. The princess is the only one of his siblings still alive. This has to be a serious concern to King Bhumibol. It would be a major blow if she doesn't survive. Please pray and ask God to intervene for the king's sister according to His will.

IMPORTANT SPEECH BY QUEEN SIRIKIT

Every year on the eve of August 12, her birthday, Queen Sirikit of Thailand addresses the nation on national television. This year the queen gave an especially important speech because she chose to talk about several very important issues that are damaging to the future well-being of the people of Thailand. Her Majesty was unusually candid and visibly emotional about the issues she was addressing. I have not had an opportunity to include her speech in one of my Legacy Letters until now.

Queen Sirikit had only just returned from a State visit to Russia in July where she was the honored guest of President Vladimir Putin. She started her speech by talking about her trip and the things she saw there. But soon she launched into several issues that were weighing on her mind; destruction of the environment and pollution.

She began discussing the deforestation of the north. Great forests of golden teak and other woods were one of the great blessings given to Thailand. Teak is a beautiful wood traditionally used for building houses because its oil is a natural insect repellent. There are presently many houses made from teakwood still standing in Thailand that were built over 200 years ago. There is even a very large palace built over 100 years ago in Bangkok called Viman Mek that is constructed entirely of teak.

In recent decades, there has been a serious increase in illegal logging in northern Thailand with the collusion of unprincipled local politicians and businessmen. Added to this is the clear-cutting of Thailand's forests to plant orchards, plantations, vegetable farms, and for building resorts and golf courses. The previous government (*known for its blatant corruption*) came up with the "brilliant" idea to cut down forests in the North and Northeast in order to plant rubber tree plantations to sell rubber to China!

Just this last dry season (October to March), the air quality in the north was so bad because of the cutting and burning of the forests that warnings for children and the elderly to stay inside had to be issued. This was unprecedented.

The queen said: "*We have forests with highly valuable wood. Although they are difficult to look after, we still have to protect them*". She said that she had called for the preservation of Thailand's forests since she was a young queen at age 18-19, but her words were not listened to. She placed the blame on greedy people for cutting the trees for quick profit today instead of caring for the future generations of tomorrow.

She said that deforestation creates conditions for mudslides during the rainy season that cause destruction of property and death. As she predicted, recent rains have produced flooding, flash floods and mudslides in the north that have wiped away homes and resulted in deaths without even a warning. The queen cited the teachings of her husband King Bhumibol that trees in the mountains help soak up rainwater and prevent mudslides and severe flooding. But nobody listened! She asked: "*Do we have to see the death of people before we listen to his advice?*"

Queen Sirikit also talked about the pollution of Thailand's waterways, particularly the central Chao Phraya River famous for its many kinds of fish. She said she had a heavy heart about the contamination of the Chao Phraya because she remembered what it used to be like growing up on its

banks in Bangkok. She grieved over the filth and chemicals from factories that were being dumped into the river, destroying the myriad kinds of fish, many of which are now in danger of extinction.

Thailand is the world's leading producer of wetland rice, and is the home of the famous "Hom Mali" type of long grain rice. Water resources and upland forests have been two of the most important natural resources of Thailand. The forests of the North hold the water collected in the rainy season and release it in the dry season, allowing for as many as three crops of rice per year in the central plains. Now farmers can get only two crops. Thailand has developed a cycle of drought and flooding that wasn't a problem 50 years ago. Weather patterns are also changing as the trees that cooled the air are disappearing.

China is building a series of dams on the Mekong River to divert water resources for China's agriculture and power production. As a result, the water level of the mighty Mekong has dropped dramatically, posing potential future scarcity of water resources for the downriver countries; Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Her Majesty the Queen said that Thailand has plenty of its own water resources, but if not managed properly, the nation could end up having to buy water from other nations.

She called on government agencies and ministries responsible for the country's natural resources to increase their efforts to manage resources effectively to preserve the nation.

Thailand could take lessons from the U.S. about the destruction of the natural resources and annihilation of entire species on our own continent. It was the visionary thinking of such men as Theodore Roosevelt who turned the tide and set aside vast tracts of land as protected national forest preserves. Otherwise greedy men would have killed all the animals and cut all the trees. It remains a constant battle between those who would exploit the world's natural resources and those who want to preserve them.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN THAILAND

The queen then switched to the topic of religious freedom. Thailand is one of the few countries on earth that has real religious freedom. King Bhumibol Adulyadej himself is protector of all religions in Thailand. All people are free to worship according to their own consciences.

However, recently there was a powerful movement to enshrine Buddhism as the National Religion of Thailand in the new constitution. For over 400 centuries, Siam (called Thailand today) has enjoyed a history of religious tolerance.

Now, I ask the question: Why make Buddhism the state religion when over 90% of the people are Buddhist anyway? There is certainly no threat from Christianity, Islam or any other religion for that matter. The only answer I could think of was that the move was politically driven. It would not be the first time that religion was used as a political tool!

Queen Sirikit addressed this issue on national television. She said that Buddhism should remain above politics.

Can you imagine how relieved I was to hear the queen's words? Legacy Institute is a Christian organization. In order for us to operate freely in Asia, we need the protection and favor of a country that practices religious tolerance and freedom. Thailand's neighbors do not have religious freedom. Laos doesn't have it. Neither does Burma, Vietnam, Malaysia or Cambodia. China certainly doesn't have religious freedom. India's religious intolerance erupts periodically in cruel and brutal episodes of atrocity against one another, whether Muslim, Hindu or Christian.

Thailand is a safe haven of religious freedom. God has blessed us with the favor and protection of the royal family. We can accomplish whatever God has for us to do here without fear of persecution. Buddhism in Thailand is a benign form of Buddhist practice. Monks in Thailand traditionally remain aloof from politics. This is not the case in Burma and Sri Lanka where monks periodically get directly involved in politics and sometimes protest in the streets.

If Buddhism were made the state religion, this could change. Unscrupulous politicians could use religion as a tool to incite nationalistic antagonism for people of other religions and "non-conformist" forms of Buddhism.

In America, religious freedom is one of the foundational pillars of our nation. The Founding Fathers enshrined in our constitution non-involvement by the government in the religious rights of the people. They DID NOT say that we should take God out of the schools and the government. *They DID say we should keep government OUT of religion!*

I grew up in Ohio taking religious freedom for granted. Where I lived we still had the notorious "blue laws" which were instituted to enforce Sunday rest observance. But for the most part we never experienced religious persecution of any kind. I don't expect religious freedom to last forever in America. Slowly our constitutional right to freedom of worship is eroding away.

Satan wants to roll back our freedoms into the Dark Ages! But I believe that God is holding him back to allow us time to get the True Gospel out to ALL the nations, not just the English speaking world. America was built on the foundation of religious freedom. But it cannot last. And the POWER given to us to get the Gospel out is eroding even as I write. Let me give you an example.

Here in Thailand, the monetary unit is called the "baht". Presently, the exchange rate is 33.85 baht to one US dollar. Two years ago at this time, it was 42.35 baht to the dollar. That is a decline of dollar buying power in Thailand of 20%! And the US dollar continues to weaken each year. I have to keep an eye on this because most of the funds people send us to do the Work of God in Asia are in US dollars. Americans do not experience the decline of the dollar as powerfully. Why should they? It is their own currency. As the value of the dollar erodes on the international scene, so does our financial power to do the Work here in Asia. While it is important for our planning to take this into consideration, we have always – and will always – rely upon Our Heavenly Father to supply our every need. In the meantime, as we expand our efforts to train young people to carry the Gospel of God to their own tribes and peoples here in Southeast Asia, our costs keep rising.

We do what we can to keep costs down and are always planning in the direction of self-sufficiency in order to offset this decline. But, the point is, *the power of America cannot and will not last forever*, and with it, the resources to accomplish the Work of God will also decline.

The time to do God's Work is NOW! Jesus tells us that the time is coming when NO ONE CAN WORK! If we believe God and His Holy Word, we cannot take for granted all the blessings and resources of America, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. ALL that we possess are blessings given to us by God **because of the obedience of our father Abraham!** And as we separate ourselves further and further away from God, those national blessings will decline with the decay of our nation's moral and ethical standards.

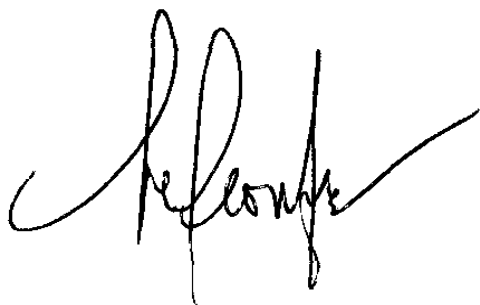
We are grateful to Thailand's king and queen for protecting our religious rights. And we are particularly grateful to Queen Sirikit for taking a stand on the subject of religious tolerance and freedom in her public address on national TV.

NEW WEB SITE

We have just put up a new website www.LegacyLeader.org focusing on the *Legacy Training Center* in Thailand. You will find information about the school, volunteer teachers and students which you will not find on our original site. Take a look! We are also working on updating the www.LegacyInsitute.org with new and exciting changes to keep you better informed about the latest news from Legacy Institute's operations in Asia.

I will stop here. I want to thank all of you, our Fellow-laborers for your sacrifice and unflinching support for Legacy. This Work of God demands the participation of every one of us who have a heart to see that His Work gets done. There is truly so much to do! And so little time! May God increase your blessings – both spiritual and physical until we finish our jobs and, *together*, accomplish the Will of Our Heavenly Father!

In Christian Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Leon Sexton', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

T. Leon Sexton

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