



## LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Chiang Mai, Thailand

August 17, 2008

Greetings, Fellow-laborers,

How time flies! The Feast of Tabernacles is just around the corner! We are looking forward to meeting friends and family who will be joining us from various areas around the world. We will have people joining us here in Thailand from the US, China, Laos, Myanmar, Australia and Malaysia. Preparations are underway to plan the best Feast possible so that festivalgoers can worship together in comfortable surroundings and yet enjoy exotic Chiang Mai and the many adventures and points of interest this part of the world has to offer.

We still have two Karen refugee families remaining in one of the border camps. Most of their refugee COG friends and relatives have already emigrated to the US, England, Canada, Norway or Australia. We are planning for these two families to join us in Chiang Mai, but I recently received a letter from them that they are in the process of being interviewed to go to the US, and cannot leave the camp until the process is over. Please pray that if it is God's will, they will complete their interviews in time and can attend the Feast with us in Chiang Mai.

Some people in the USA still think that the Feast in Thailand is held in bamboo huts in the middle of the jungle! Well, that is not the case. Services are held in the 4-Star Empress Hotel where most of the feast-goers stay. The hotel is completely modern with buffet Western and Thai food, very comfortable rooms, swimming pool, cable TV, Internet and all the amenities of home. There is even a Starbucks, KFC, McDonalds and Burger King only a 15-minute walk away! Thailand is no longer a Third World country and boasts some of the nicest resorts, shopping malls and other "Western" conveniences found anywhere in the world.

### **LEGACY INSTITUTE LEADERSHIP TRAINING CENTER**

The Legacy Institute Leadership Training Center in Chiang Mai is now in session full steam for our seventh year! We have been blessed by God with new and highly professional volunteer teachers this year and we are all working as a team to initiate new and exciting improvements!

**Dr. Dusti Howell** decided to spend his sabbatical from Emporia State University (ESU) with us here at Legacy Institute. He brought along his wife, **Deanne** and 3 children: **Autumn, Trevor and Kit**. Dr. Howell has 2 doctorates, one in Educational Psychology and one in Educational Technology. Deanne Howell has earned a Master's degree in Education. They both are professional teachers and



The Howell Family: From L. to R. Autumn, Kit, Dusti, Deanne, and Trevor

are helping with classes and curriculum development. They are a very big help to us at Legacy because we have never had a formalized curriculum for each of the classes that we teach. Dr. Howell also heads up the joint project between Legacy Institute and ESU. He brings ESU graduate students and undergrads to Thailand during the summer to teach English and computer at one of the king and queen's hill tribe schools in the mountains. We are calling this joint project, H.E.L.P. (*Hilltribe Education and Leadership Project*).



New Deputy Director Erika Pedersen

**Erika Pedersen** has returned to help us again this year. We have appointed her as *Deputy Director* of the Legacy School in charge of teacher and student affairs. She has been doing a very fine job as Deputy Director as well as teaching; and is also attending classes at Payap University where she is working on her Master's degree in *Teaching English as a Foreign Language*.



Deputy Plant Manager Ben Pedersen

Erika's brother, **Ben Pedersen** is also helping us this year as *Deputy Physical Plant Director*, supervising the garden and teaching sports. Ben is a very big help as he already has a degree in engineering. He is busy helping us develop a pond to raise fish for the school among his many other duties.



New Volunteer Teacher Nathan Kimmons



New Volunteer Teacher Elainea Spevey

**Nathan Kimmons** only just graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Business Administration. He is doing a great job teaching classes and helping out in services by giving sermons and Bible studies.

**Elainea Spevey** is from San Diego, California and has a B.A. in Education and a Multiple-Subject Teaching Credential. She is an experienced teacher and has taught in Thailand before.

You will get to read (*below*) answers to interview questions from Erika, Nathan and Elainea. All the teachers are doing a wonderful job! Legacy and our students receive such great benefits from each and every one of them. God is blessing Legacy in so many ways. We are so very grateful!

## **INTERVIEWS WITH OUR LEGACY VOLUNTEER TEACHERS**

### **NATHAN KIMMONS**

#### **1. Why did you volunteer to be a teacher at Legacy School?**

“I have been asked this question numerous times by many different people, and I have to seriously think about it every time. I guess I don’t really have a solid, sound reason for why I chose to do this. UCG Big Sandy mentioned that they would like to sponsor me to go during the FOT 2006. At the time I honestly had no interest. I was pretty wrapped up in my own life with college, girlfriend, work, etc. I thought there was no way I would drop everything and leave the States for a whole year. I always kept it in the back of my mind, though, and about a year later I started to consider it again. I talked with some of the previous teachers and people who were affiliated with Legacy, did some research and thinking, and asked for a lot of guidance through prayer. Ultimately I just decided that if I wanted to do something like this, this would probably be the best time to do it. It honestly just seemed like a great opportunity. The timing was right. The support was there. I figured the only regret I would have is if I **didn’t** go. So far, I think I was right!”

**2. Where do you come from and what is your field of training? What is/are your degree/s and from where did you graduate?**

“I am from Mississippi. I just graduated from Mississippi State University in May of 2008 with a Bachelor’s of Business Administration. My major was marketing. I have also worked several jobs in the service industry while in college.”

**3. What classes do you teach?**

“I am currently teaching the following: Reading 2, Writing 2, Discussion 2, Public Speaking, Leadership, Bible 3 (Life and Times of Jesus Christ), Choir, and co-teaching Soccer/Athletics.”

**4. Which is your most fun class and why?**

“My most fun class is probably Bible 3. Honestly, I really enjoy this because of the opportunity to get to do all the research for this class. It’s nice to be able to take the time to research this part of the Bible and try to organize it in a simple way that makes sense to people with limited English ability. It’s quite a challenge and I think I’ve learned more than they have!”

**5. What challenges does teaching at Legacy bring to you personally?**

“There are two main challenges for me personally teaching at Legacy:

“First: Being away from my family and friends back in the States is probably the biggest challenge. I really miss them, but it could definitely be worse. We have reliable high-speed internet readily available for teachers, so it’s easy to keep in contact via email, Skype, facebook, etc. This isn’t the same as face-to-face contact, obviously, but it’s still nice. Also, the other teachers and I have fun together and they’re great people to be around. We jokingly refer to ourselves as “default friends,” but I really couldn’t ask for better, more positive “default friends.”

“Second: Teaching is a challenge. (Not to mention teaching someone whom communication with can be difficult.) I’ve had no classroom teaching experience before here. When I first got here, it seemed a bit overwhelming. Constant prayer and help from others have given me the confidence to get through every day, though. After just two weeks I could already see improvement in the reading and pronunciation skills of my students. That was highly encouraging, and every breakthrough they’ve made since then is like fuel to keep going and trying harder. The appreciation and work ethic of my students also makes it much easier on me.”

**6. How has your experience or will your experience as a teacher at Legacy school made/make you a better person?**

“Well, I certainly hope so! Teaching and living in a foreign culture for an extended period of time will obviously impact my life in many ways. Just from the two months that I’ve been here, I think I’ve definitely further developed some Christian values: **patience**, understanding, humility, patience, responsibility, communication skills, patience, appreciation, foreign culture relations, etc. (Did I mention “patience”...?)”

**7. Do you like Thailand? What are your favorite things about Thailand?**

“No, I love Thailand! I know it sounds cliché to say, but my favorite thing about Thailand is the smiles. They call this place “The Land of a Thousand Smiles.” This is not true. I’ve seen way more than a thousand people smiling in just the two months that I’ve been here. Almost all people are genuinely friendly to strangers. This is refreshing after coming from the individualistic, cynical mindsets that many Americans slip into. The scenery is also incredible. Beautiful plants, flowers, etc. are everywhere to be seen. I love photography, so there’s a plethora of unique, colorful plants and animals everywhere. The food is great! I’m a fan of spicy food, though. There are also lots of different fruits here readily available, so that’s nice.”

**8. What are some of the challenges you face living in a foreign environment?**

“The language barrier is tough. Although it is really fun to try to learn new phrases of a foreign language and practice them in town and Chiang Mai, it’s difficult to get things done efficiently.

“It’s also tough to develop any kind of real friendships outside of Legacy because of this language barrier. Getting past pleasantries is almost impossible when most Thais’ English is no better than my Thai.

“An obvious answer here would be to intensively work on my Thai while here or prepare ahead of time. The problem here is that Thai is not the native language of most of the Legacy students; therefore, it wouldn’t really help them any for me to be intensively learning Thai. Also, if I started now, I would just begin to get the hang of it and have to leave. What good would Thai really do me in the States in the future?”

**9. Tell us about your visa runs to neighboring countries (if you have done one).**

“I haven’t taken one yet. At the end of this month, I’m planning on taking my first one. We’re planning on going to Cambodia, so I’m really excited about that.”

**10. In what way has your experience at Legacy helped you understand people of other cultures and ideas?**

“My experiences at Legacy have given me the opportunity to interact daily with Thais, Burmese, and several various hill tribes of Thailand and Burma. Getting to know these people has been the biggest insight into other cultures. I love to just sit and talk with the students and hear stories about their homes and experiences they’ve been through. Some are quite amazing and shocking. Interactions with Thais and tourists (Europeans, Australians, etc.) outside of Legacy have also been fun and helpful in gaining some perspective.”

**11. What will you take home with you when you leave Legacy?**

“This is hard to say. I’ve only been here for two months, so I’m not sure exactly. I will definitely take home all of the spiritual rewards and experiences from Legacy. (Along with tons of pictures and memories.)

“As far as physical things go, probably just a lot of things for my friends and family and maybe a few little reminders for me as well.”

## **12. In your opinion, what areas need improvement at Legacy School?**

“**Curriculum.** Hopefully this is headed in the right direction, though, with our efforts and the help of Dr. Dusti (*Dusti Howell*).

“**Increased Capacity.** The more people we can help, the better. This is a slow process but hopefully we’re headed in the right direction here as well.

“Everything that we need improvement on, everyone seems open to acknowledge and work on. So if I really thought there were problems, it would be my fault for not voicing concerns and trying to bring about improvements. I think everything seems to be heading in the right direction.”

## **ELAINEA SPEVEY**

### **1. Why did you volunteer to be a teacher at Legacy School?**

“God has blessed me with many passions. One of which is teaching. I love everything about it—all of the challenges it invokes, both good and difficult. I have had opportunities to teach overseas and serve. From these opportunities, God has developed a passion in me to reach out to those who may not otherwise have the prospect of an education. Teaching English as a Second Language is something that has also been an interest of mine for the past four years or so. Taking all of these factors into consideration, I wanted to serve where I could utilize the passions and gifts God has bestowed upon me and gain valuable experience. I wanted to help/serve others in a meaningful way using the calling and passions God has put in my life. I felt that Legacy Institute would be an ideal way to do that.”

### **2. Where do you come from and what is your field of training? What is/are your degree/s and from where did you graduate?**

“I am from California. My field of training is elementary education. My degrees include: BA in Liberal Studies (Education) and a Multiple-Subject Teaching Credential.”

### **3. What classes do you teach?**

“I am teaching Reading 3, Writing 3, Discussion 3, Intro to Bible, Journalism and Health.”

### **4. Which is your most fun class and why?**

“It is hard to pick only one class. Each class has its own challenges and reasons for being fun to teach. If I had to pick, I would have to say discussion. It is fun to see the students form opinions and ideas about given topics. Nathan and I are team teaching this class as well, which gives it a unique

element. I really enjoy hearing what the students think and seeing their improvement with their English skills.”

**5. What challenges does teaching at Legacy bring to you personally?**

“The number one challenge would be, being so far away from family and friends at home. Having access to the Internet definitely cuts down on this challenge as well as having amazing people to work with. It challenges me in my walk with Christ. I know that there are students who look up to me. We all live together, therefore giving me an extra push to ensure that I am living rightly.

“Another challenge at first that I faced was teaching students who are older than me. My training was in elementary education, which has some differences from higher education. It has been challenging, yet fun figuring out how to teach this age group. When working in another culture, there are always challenges. People have different mindsets when they are from different cultures. It’s interesting to see the differences. Some of these make teaching even more challenging. Coming up with my own curriculum was really challenging at first. It has become much easier with time. As with teaching anything, it just takes experience. You learn the most by trying different things and actually teaching. It still has it challenges at points, but nothing like it was when I first arrived. *Mai Phen Rai* (is Thai for “it doesn’t matter”) — Can be difficult to handle when you’re first adjusting, if you have never had to deal with this attitude. It took a couple of days of adjusting this go around.”

**6. How has your experience or will your experience as a teacher at Legacy school made/make you a better person?**

“Teaching at Legacy School is impacting my life and the way I think. It is causing me to be stretched in ways that I didn’t know I could be stretched. Whenever the LORD is stretching us, we are being molded into becoming more like Him, which should be our ultimate goal.

“I would consider myself to be a busy person in the States. In Thailand, I am also busy, but not to the extent that I am in the US where I rush around like mad all of the time. I take the time that I need to invest in relationships and others—stopping and smelling the roses. Not becoming too bombarded with the things I NEED to get done. No matter where we are, we should have this mindset. It’s much easier to keep this in mind being here. It is something that I have been learning over the past few years.”

**7. Do you like Thailand? What are your favorite things about Thailand?**

“Absolutely! I love it! I love the people. They are always smiling and cause me to laugh for one reason or another. They are very respectful. Thailand is GREEN. It’s so beautiful. I love all of the flowers and scenery. I love the culture in general. It’s not rush around like a chicken with your head cut off type of society. Overall, it’s just a great environment in which to live. “

**8. What are some of the challenges you face living in a foreign environment?**

“*Mai Phen Rai*’— this can be a challenge. I do like the relaxed culture, but I feel as though this can sometimes cause people not to worry about things that need to get done.

"Being away from family and friends from home at points can be very difficult.

"Sometimes you can feel lonely. This hasn't happened very often. Even though there are people around nearly all the time, they don't really know you. They know you, but they don't. This happened more towards the beginning of my time at Legacy."

**9. Tell us about your visa runs to neighboring countries (If you have done one).**

"Give me half a month and I'll let you know."

**10. In what way has your experience at Legacy helped you understand people of other cultures and ideas?**

"You get thrown into teaching another culture and people with different ideas. When you live, eat, and work together, you have a different perspective on the culture and the people than you would normally. It's interesting when a student comes without homework completed and you know they watched a movie the night before for example. You are able to see their frame of thought more than you would simply living in an apartment in the city away from the compound. I am able to see what is important to them personally. Applying it to other cultures and people, I would have to say that it's a reminder to have an open mind, be curious about others, and be ready for whatever comes your way. "

**11. What will you take home with you when you leave Legacy?**

"When I leave, I will take with me many experiences, life lessons, memories and friendships that I have made. I hope to take the lighthearted smiling all the time mentality back with me as well— hopefully it will be contagious to those around me. I would also like to take back a little bit of the Mai Phen Rai attitude. Not all of it, but some. There are so many things that I will take with me when I leave."

**12. In your opinion, what areas need improvement at Legacy School?**

"I feel that Legacy is taking steps in the direction of improvement. Erika is doing a great job being the deputy director. It's really nice having her here and being able to ask her questions that may need to be addressed. So at this point in time, I don't have any burning issues that need to be improved that aren't already on the road to improvement. "

**ERIKA PEDERSEN**

**1. Why did you volunteer to be a teacher at Legacy School?**

I met Leon Sexton about 7 years ago when he visited Minneapolis. At the time, the school sounded like a great experience and appealed to my sense of adventure and love of travel. However, at the time it did not fit with school. A couple years ago I decided to switch careers and was looking for

something I would find more fulfilling and a way to give to and help others. I remembered the school and emailed asking if there were openings. I prayed about coming here and felt like God was behind it.

**2. Where do you come from and what is your field of training? What is/are your degree/s and from where did you graduate?**

“I grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I went to business school and majored in Marketing, and International Business with a minor in French. I went to the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota.”

**3. What classes do you teach?**

“I teach first year English and piano.”

**4. Which is your most fun class and why?**

“Piano is so fun because it is easy to see the students’ constant improvement. Of course, English is a tie because as the class goes on you see more comprehension and you see the personalities of the students come out.”

**5. What challenges does teaching at Legacy bring to you personally?**

“It can be difficult to teach here and be away from family and friends. It can also be challenging getting used to a new culture and how to work with people in a different culture. Sometimes, too, if the students don’t reach their full potential it can be challenging not to get discouraged.”

**6. How has your experience or will your experience as a teacher at Legacy school made/make you a better person?**

“I have definitely learned to think more about others. I have learned to focus more on God and allowing Him to show me what to do. I’ve realized more that I don’t have all the answers and that I need help.”

**7. Do you like Thailand? What are your favorite things about Thailand?**

“I really am starting to like Thailand. Getting to know more about the culture and people has been a highlight of the last few months for me. I think Thailand is beautiful, the people are so friendly, and the food is great!”

**8. What are some of the challenges you face living in a foreign environment?**

“Other than missing people from home, the only physical challenges I face are a cold shower and a ‘hardish’ mattress. Sometimes it can be difficult to communicate with so many different languages.

There are also various cultural sensitivities to be aware of. On the whole, I think the people here are very forgiving and just ask that you try to adapt a little to their way of life.”

**9. Tell us about your visa runs to neighboring countries (if you have done one).**

“I have taken 3 visa runs. One to Laos, one to Cambodia, and a quick border crossing into Burma. I enjoyed the trip to Laos for the great French food and the chill atmosphere of Vang Vieng. I thought Cambodia was amazing for Angkor Wat and the history in Phnom Penh.”

**10. In what way has your experience at Legacy helped you understand people of other cultures and ideas?**

“I have lived overseas before, and in general I think exposure to another country and a different way of doing things makes you see what’s really important.

“Sometimes the end result is more important than how you get there. I also have to stop and ask myself why I am frustrated about something. IS it legitimate? Or am I just not being understanding enough? Both have their moments.”

**11. What will you take home with you when you leave Legacy?**

It depends. I’ll be here for awhile yet. I imagine there might be more to add in the future.

**12. In your opinion, what areas need improvement at Legacy School?**

There are quite a few areas that need improvement. However, I do feel that this year we are making some very positive steps in the right direction. Communication, lack of curriculum, lack of accountability (of students), lack of resources (in terms of books maybe), lack of processes for doing things, changes, etc. Like I said, though, I think we’re moving on all those things.



As I said, each volunteer teacher is doing an incredible job and each is making a major contribution to the success of Legacy as a school. Improvements are being made and under the leadership of the Howell’s, we are definitely looking and feeling more like a “real” institution of higher learning with each passing day!

**LEGACY STUDENTS**

Following is a pictorial review of our Legacy students:



Atiwat (Lahu)

We have 7 new freshmen this year.  
Most of them come from  
the Lahu tribe.



Dani (Karen)



Chalernsak (Lahu)



Japur (Lahu)



Dola (Lahu)



Wilai (Lahu)



Wichai (Lahu)

We also have 4 students who have returned for their second year.



Fon (Lahu)



Hkawn Din (Kachin)



La Nu Nan (Kachin)



Narirat (Lahu)

Six Legacy students will be graduating this year.



Buut (Karen)



Jay (Karen)



Lal Beka (Mizo Chin)



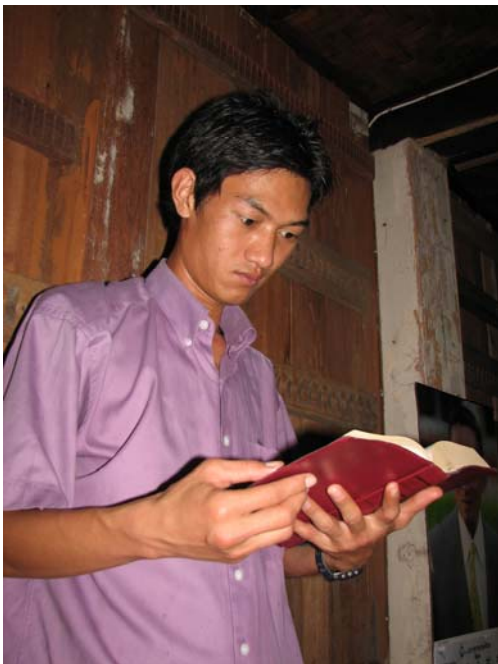
Nora (Lahu)



Seng Mai (Kachin)



Ya See Fu (Lahu)



Legacy graduate Naung Naung (Kachin)

As well, we have Legacy graduate Naung Naung with us. He helps translate and is preparing for a university entrance examination. Andrew (see next page) is our Legacy cook and takes classes part time.

This year there are 19 students and 7 faculty. We hope to increase the student body once we have permanent dormitories built. Everything worth doing takes patience and hard work. I am very pleased with the steady progress we are making. God continues to bless us because He wants this school to be successful. It is His school after all.

I want to thank you for your prayers. My health is improving. I recently went through a fasting/toxic cleanse for 8 days at a clinic in southern Thailand. I lost weight and my sugar levels returned to normal. Now I have to keep up the exercise and watch my diet carefully. Please continue to pray for Gloria's and my health. I must travel to Burma this next week to take some funds for those who had homes damaged or destroyed by the Typhoon Nargis. Things have returned to normal in Burma, if you can call the tragic lives of the poor of Burma "normal"!

I will also be going to the Thai embassy to acquire visas for 4 graduates who are returning to Legacy for further Bible training. Our hope is that they will return to Burma to serve God after their training program.

Please pray for the Church of God in Burma. Satan is doing all he can to destroy the small but growing congregations. Our brethren there need our continued prayers on their behalf. I will have more to report after I return from Yangon (Rangoon).



I know this has been a long letter. But I thought it would be helpful for our fellow-laborers in God's fields to learn more about the students and faculty of Legacy Institute Leadership Training Center. We continue to be blessed by God and thank Him and His Son Jesus Christ every day for their grace bestowed upon us.

Until next time,

In service to Jesus the King of Righteousness,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Leon Sexton'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

T. Leon Sexton

P.S. If you have older legitimate versions of Microsoft Windows OS that can be legally donated, we would appreciate it very much. If we have old Windows programs to start with, we can upgrade them. We can use Windows 98, 2000, XP, etc. If you have purchased new Windows software and have the old program lying around and want to donate it, please send it to the Legacy Institute address at the top of this letter. Thank you.