



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Dear Fellow Laborers,

March 2, 2009

I am sure all of you who read the Legacy Letter have questioned whether or not you are on the right track with God. I have recently been doing quite a bit of introspection as a result of my health crisis. Am I doing what God wants me to do? Am I doing it the way He wants me to? Is the entire Legacy Institute program in Southeast Asia on the right track? Are we accomplishing the whole will of God?

It is good to take time for personal and institutional introspection. It helps us stay on track. We need to take a look at ourselves and ask God to show us where we need to change and encourage us to go forward if He determines we are on track and doing His will.



Teachers with Graduates. L.toR. Front: Seng Mai, Norah Jaso, Hkawn Din. Second: Jaseefu, Gloria & Leon Sexton, Jay Pabolo, LalPekKima. Back: Nattawut Prayooupana, Ben Pedersen, Elainea Spivey, Erika Pedersen, Nathan Kimmons, Brian Drawbaugh



LtoR: LalPekKima, MyoZaw & Tumar, Hkawn Din

Three recent events at Legacy in Thailand have shown me that we are, indeed, on track in accomplishing His will in taking the Gospel message to this part of the world.

God can be very encouraging, especially when we are in the doldrums of discouragement. These three events, added to the very encouraging letters you have been sending, help us understand that we are going in the right direction.

The first event was our Legacy Institute graduation held on February 22. Seven graduates and other

students were honored this year. The seven grads were Khawn Din, Jaseefu, Jay Pabolo, Lal Pek Kima, Nattawut (Buut) Prayooupana, Norah Jaso, and Seng Mai. They all received diplomas in liberal arts for their three years of training. We also honored students for their academic and relational achievements. Khawn Din was valedictorian and also received the Academic Excellence Award. Jay was honored as salutatorian of the graduating class. La Nu Nan received the prestigious Spirit of Excellence Award for exemplifying the highest standards of the

institution in academics, work ethic, attitude, and personal conduct. Volunteers who served at Legacy also received awards of appreciation for their service. One Legacy employee, Jirapong (Wian) Wanmongkon, was honored for five years of faithful service.

The students, faculty, and Legacy chorale all performed various numbers. Brian Drawbaugh, a visiting minister from Pennsylvania who volunteered to help teach Bible doctrines at Legacy, gave the commencement address. Three of our graduates gave speeches in English. All in all, it was a very encouraging event.

The Bible tells us that we should judge something by its fruits. And the fruits of Legacy school are our graduates. This is the fifth time we have graduated a group of seniors. We have given them our very best in the hopes that they will develop a true and lasting relationship with God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ. We also hope that



LaLuNan: New 2009/2010 Student Body President



L to R: Leon Sexton, Lallian, Seng Aung and Brian Drawbaugh



Brian Drawbaugh puts SengAung under the water with Lallian's help

their three years at Legacy has better equipped them for future employment and any further educational opportunities that may come their way. We continue to pray that God stays with them in their futures. Most of our graduates came to Legacy unable to speak a single sentence in the English language. They are now giving complete speeches in English. Few had ever touched a computer. Now they are publishing the school newspaper, *Legacy Leader*, entirely on their own using computer programs. If you want to see a copy of the *Legacy Leader*, go to our website at www.legacyinstitute.org and click on "Legacy Letters" and then click on "February". We are very excited and encouraged to see the progress each and every one of our graduates has made. If you want to know if the Legacy program is successful or not, just take a look at our graduates and what they can do now!

The second event was very exciting! It was the baptism of two of our former graduates who are back at Legacy for further training. Last Thursday, Seng Aung and Lallian were baptized in the fish pond at the Legacy farm. It was quite an event as all the Legacy students and faculty gathered on the bank to watch the

baptisms and sing a hymn. Both of these young men came to understand the Truth of the Bible and made their commitment to Jesus Christ. Brian Drawbaugh baptized them, and then we both laid hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit. My wife Gloria always reminds me on these occasions that we are not the only ones rejoicing and singing, but that the angels in Heaven are also rejoicing and singing with us. What a shot in the arm to see these young men decide to dedicate their lives to God. It makes worthwhile all the trouble and difficulties it takes to get them over from Burma to come to Legacy.

The third encouraging event is Lallian's quick trip back to Burma. Now Lallian is returning to his own country for one month. His dream is to open an orphanage school and educate the poor children from the mountainous area surrounding his village in Western Burma. He also wants to continue the work his grandfather started many years ago. Lallian's grandfather was a Church of God 7th Day (Meridian) evangelist among the Mizo tribal peoples in the mountains of Eastern India and Western Burma, until he died at the age of 94. Lallian has told us that the small remnant Church of God congregations in his home area have strayed from the true doctrines. His desire is to restore truth (which he learned at Legacy) to the COGs near his home village. God moved His people to donate enough seed money to get Lallian's orphanage project off the ground. He is returning to Burma to get things started and then he will come back to Legacy to finish his training. We are all excited about this project because it is EXACTLY the kind of fruits we are hoping for in our graduates.

It has always been the policy of Legacy Institute that young graduates from Burma return to their own country to help their own people. Jesus said that the Kingdom of God is like a mustard bush. It starts as a small mustard seed and grows and spreads to become a very large tree. If our graduates do not go back to help their own people in Burma, then the spreading of what they have learned during three years at Legacy will be stunted. We expect Legacy graduates to pass on to others what they have learned.

These three very exciting events show us that we are on the right track and encourage us to press on ever forward to the Kingdom of God – against all odds and against all the forces of The Evil One who hates what we are doing and wants to stop us from doing God's work.

Legacy is successful, NOT because we are supported by a large church organization with a big budget. That certainly is not Legacy! We are not successful because we somehow are better educated or have brilliant minds. That is so very far from the truth. We are certainly among the "weak of the world". But what we DO have, and what all of you have as our fellow-laborers, is FAITH. We trust God. This is His Work. Our boss is Jesus Christ and we trust in Him to lead us and provide for us. God stirs His spirit in all of you, our fellow-laborers, to support in prayers and offerings the work of God that He is doing through Legacy.

I will tell you all quite candidly that donations to Legacy have been severely impacted by the global economy free-fall. It is affecting the whole world. We have had to cut back and are not able to do some of the things to further the Gospel that we would like to do. For example, two young people in Burma cannot come now because we just cannot afford the expenses to bring them. We have numerous necessary repairs to make at the school. They are just going to have to wait. But we trust God will supply all things we NEED -- (and we hope a few things that we "want".)

This is not Leon Sexton's work. Success does not depend on me or any other human being. Legacy will be successful because we are doing God's will. We will rely on Him to supply our every need in order to complete His work that He has given us to do.

There is so much to do! The list is endless. I have to pray several times a day asking God to give me the physical and emotional strength to complete just one more task. Every day I am reminded of the following scripture in Zechariah 4:6:

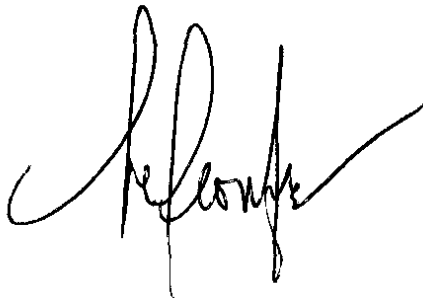
"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit," says the Lord of Hosts."

More now than ever before, I understand what that means.

Tomorrow, Gloria and I will be traveling to the Thai-Burma border to try to arrange for a place to gather for the Passover and Unleavened Bread, which we hope to spend with Legacy students and the two or three Church of God families who live in a refugee camp along the border. Please pray for us and pray that our brethren can leave the camp to come to the Spring Feast. They were not able to come to the Feast of Tabernacles last year because the army had closed down the camp for security reasons and they could not get permission to leave the camp to come to Chiang Mai. Pray God will bless us all with a peaceful and spiritual Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread at a border site for the sake of our brethren.

We pray for all of you.

In Service to Our Lord Jesus Christ,



T. Leon Sexton

LEGACY POST SCRIPT: Jack was a Karen refugee and COG member who now lives in North Carolina, USA. Last week Gloria and I spoke with Jack by phone. During our conversation, he told us that he was able to get a good job as a translator because of his education at Legacy in Thailand where he learned computer and improved his English language skills. Jack helped as a volunteer at Legacy over 7 years ago during the time that we were just getting the school off the ground. At that time, he helped as an interpreter and studied computer. Jack said he owes his opportunity to land a job with the local school district directly to the education he received at Legacy in Thailand. One never knows when education will pay off. What a Blessing from God for all of us!