



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Dear Fellow Laborers,

October 22, 2009

We had a very exciting Feast of Tabernacles here in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Guests from the USA joined with local COG members from Myanmar (Burma), Malaysia, and Thailand to keep the Feast together and learn more about the meaning of this very important holy day season.



Karen members from refugee camp sing at services

are a two-way street. We are to present ourselves before The Lord, worship Him, and fellowship with those of like minds and spirits. God also has a responsibility to us. During the annual Feast Days, He feeds us with the food of the living Word and understanding given to us by His Holy Spirit. This is done through sermons prepared and given by the ministry ordained to do this job by Jesus Himself.

Many of us can't wait to go to the Feast so that we can stay in nice accommodations and feast on foods that they could not normally afford. That is one of the good things about the Feast of Tabernacles. It is what God wants us to do. In fact, He commands us to do it!

Deut 16:13-15

“You shall observe the Feast of Tabernacles seven days, when you have gathered from your threshing floor and from your winepress. And you shall rejoice in your Feast, you and your son and your daughter,

Mr. Herb Vierra, from California, and his wife Ann joined us once again to help preach the Gospel to hungry ears. When Jesus asked Peter if he loved him, Peter answered yes. Then Jesus reminded Peter three times that, if he loved him, Peter should “feed my sheep.” One of the most important responsibilities of the ministry of Jesus Christ is to feed the sheep of Jesus. This is especially important on the annual Holy Days when people gather to present themselves before God to worship Him. The annual Holy Days



L. Senior Legacy student LaLuNan translating sermon for Gary Mazzei (R.)

your male servant and your female servant and the Levite, the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, who are within your gates. Seven days you shall keep a sacred feast to the LORD your God in the place which the LORD chooses, because the LORD your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you surely rejoice.”¹



Thai member Utaiwan Han at Feast buffet lunch



Margaret Farmer tries on hill tribe hat after elephant ride



Della Mazzei learning how to cook Thai food from Chanisa Sexton

Elsewhere the Bible calls this commanded festival the “Feast of Ingathering.”² God provides the abundance and commands us to enjoy it at the Feast. In fact, if we faithfully are saving the festival tithe as God has ordained, we have more than enough for ourselves with abundance to spare so that we can share with others. In fact, God includes all at the Feast, especially the poor.

This year, we were able to get permission to bring two Karen families from border refugee camps and also bring a family

from Burma to keep the Feast in Chiang Mai because of the generosity of COG members in the US who had more than enough for themselves. They used the extra to help us get these families to Chiang Mai for the Feast.

The Feast is not just a selfish exercise for us to spend a lot of money on ourselves and let the less fortunate take care of themselves. The Feast is for everyone, especially the poor, because they would not be able to afford the “fat things” in their normal circumstances. Here in Chiang Mai, we include the Legacy students (who earn little or no money) and refugee members from the border. In fact, the poor make up the majority of our attendees. The Feast is just as important for them as it is for the western members who are able to afford to fly over and keep the Feast with us. We

¹ All scriptural quotations are from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

² Exodus 34:22

gather offerings on the High Days from all—even the poor—because it is commanded. But this nowhere near covers the festival costs for the poor who attend. Yet God graciously ALWAYS somehow provides enough so that all are taken care of! We have a custom here in Thailand that started since the beginning of Legacy Institute sponsoring the Feast of Tabernacles here. We ask God to bless the offering after it is taken up. I usually ask Him to multiply the offering like He did the loaves and fishes. There is no way of verifying whether or not a miracle has taken place because we do not count the offering before the blessing—BUT God always provides enough!

Every year it is difficult to get permission for refugee members to leave the camps to come to the Feast. Last year the border was placed on alert by the military so our refugee brethren could not attend. This year we were able to bring two families to Chiang Mai because of the intervention of a retired military officer who is a good friend of Legacy. Two other families had to remain in their camp because of a visit by the U.S. Embassy staff to register them for potential emigration to the United States. They could not be absent from the camp or they would miss out. We also had former students of Legacy show up to stay with us and keep the Feast of Tabernacles. Everyone rejoiced and there was enough food and fun for all. Most importantly, we had spiritually supercharged messages every day.

Again, it is one of the primary responsibilities of the ministry of Jesus Christ to follow Our Lord’s admonition to Peter and “feed His sheep,” especially during the Holy Day seasons.

Matt 24:45-47

“Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his master made ruler over his household, to give them food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master, when he comes, will find so doing.”

Physical food will satisfy only a short time, but spiritual food lasts forever.



Baptism of Jeh Pabolaw
L. to R.: Leon Sexton, Jeh, and Herb Vierra

We also had the added blessing of performing a baptism on the Last Great Day. Jeh Pabolaw, is a graduate of Legacy Institute in Chiang Mai and is studying for a university degree in Education. He contacted me several months ago and expressed his desire to become baptized. Jeh was a Buddhist Karen tribesman from the mountains of Thailand. He plans to return to his mountains near the Burma border and and teach the poor who live there as soon as he graduates and receives his degree.



Jeh Pabolaw
expressed his desire to become baptized.

When we accept new students to Legacy, we do not discriminate as to religious beliefs. We accept Buddhists as well as Christians from traditional Protestant backgrounds, as well as a few from Sabbath-keeping backgrounds. There was even a girl from India who came to Legacy with a Hindu background. We haven't a clue as to whom God will call. I explain to our volunteer teachers at Legacy that our goal is NOT to try to convert anyone from their background religious convictions. Rather, our job is to teach the Truth of the Bible and the rest is up to God. We cannot do His job for Him. But He DOES expect us to do the job He has given us to do, and that is to TEACH. He will handle the calling and conversion of hearts and minds.

Only God can convert the heart.

At the Feast we feed the needy, spiritually as well as physically. When Jesus fed the thousands with bread and fishes, He did so because they were hungry. He knew that most were not there for the spiritual food He offered them. But that did not stop Him from feeding them.

We never know what our actions and words will bring. We don't know if they will bear fruit today, tomorrow or the next day. All we can know is that God wants us to hold the Feast of Tabernacles in Thailand and preach the Gospel to the poor. He will take care of the rest!

No one is able to respond to the Gospel unless the Gospel is getting out there! The Apostle Paul talks about this in his letter to the Romans.

Rom 10:14-15

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?”

The Lord Jesus sent us here to do this job. If we are doing the job He gave us to do, fruit will come automatically as more and more respond to the Gospel through the working of the Holy Spirit. It matters little to God whether they are Buddhist, Hindu, or traditional Christian.

The Feast of Tabernacles is a good venue for the preaching of the Gospel. People come because they want to be there. We do not know how many will respond to what they hear. But the Gospel is preached to them nevertheless. And God now has opportunity to work the works that He knows best—changing hearts of flesh into hearts of the Spirit.

I am really inspired by the Feast this year. I was able to give two sermons on the High Days and attended every service. My health has improved leaps and bounds since a year ago when I spent the Feast in a hospital in Bangkok. God has much more for me to do. It is Our Lord Jesus who sustains me. It is the Holy Spirit of God that empowers me to continue to do what I have been called to do. There is much work yet to be done and few harvesters to do it. I will leave you with this section of scripture that inspires and strengthens me every day.

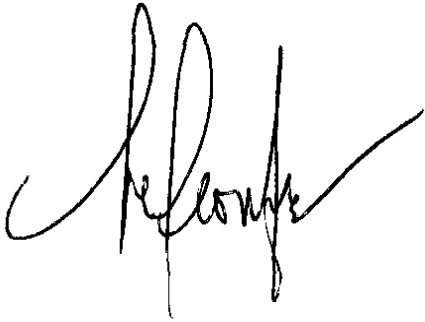
Isa 40:31

“But those who wait on the LORD
Shall renew their strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.”

Please continue to pray for our student, Worawet (Japur), and his mother. They had a motorcycle accident while he was visiting his family after the Feast. As of this mailing, Worawet had an operation on his shattered cheek, nose and his right eye. The doctors are not sure if they can save the sight in his right eye or not. They also operated his broken femur bone. His mother suffered a broken leg and she is now recovering from the operation. Please keep praying for both of them.

Until next time,

In Jesus the King's service,

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

T. Leon Sexton

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