



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Chiang Mai, Thailand

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Dear Fellow Laborers,

Another Roman year is past. Another year is logged in our march toward the end of the age. Things are moving fast. As I write this letter to you, I am listening to more news about a terrorist's attempted attack on an aircraft landing at Detroit. It was foiled by another passenger who had the guts and presence of mind to thwart the terrorist's plan. The world is getting more and more dangerous. Britain and America have rapidly lost their place of economic, political, and moral leadership the world over. Now there exist radical, highly-trained terrorists dedicated to not only bringing down America, but the entire Western Christian world!

Whether we believe Britain and America are faithful to the teachings of the Bible or not (they are not!), the nations of the British Commonwealth and the United States are the recipients of the blessings of the covenant God made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. As such, we are also caretakers of the covenant relationship these patriarchs had with the Almighty God. God expects us to keep our end of the covenant. What is that responsibility?

Gen 17:1-2

"When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."¹

Our responsibility is the same as that outlined to Abram by God: "walk before Me and be blameless." That has not changed. As the recipients of Abraham's legacy, we as nations should be honoring the true God (the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) as our God and be obedient to Him.

But what are we doing? We are denying Him and passing laws that are in direct disobedience to Him. Our leaders are institutionalizing sin! Can we expect God to hold up His end of the covenant if we are not faithful in holding up our end of the same covenant? Of course not! So, such attacks will continue and just get worse. Blessings are given for obedience—not disobedience and even defiance. The Bible tells us that we cannot expect things to continue on without repercussions. Prophecy marches on. As the people of God, it is imperative that we pray for the repentance of Joseph and, where we are able, **STAND IN THE BREACH!**

¹ All scriptural quotations from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

What do I mean, stand in the breach? Where we are able, we should ratchet up our support of those who are standing up for righteous obedience to God and those calling for the repentance of our peoples.

Mark 1:14-15

“Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.’”

Notice that a call to repentance is an integral part of the preaching of the Gospel message to the world.

So while the covenant children of Abraham continue down the toboggan slide of rebellion and betrayal of the covenant relationship, we all need to step up our efforts to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom and its integral message of repentance. God has given us the mandate and He has given us the tools. It must become a life and death mandate to us because it IS LIFE AND DEATH to hundreds of thousands, maybe millions of our fellow citizens, friends, and family members.

How are we doing? While there are those who are very active in getting the Gospel out and calling the nations to repentance, others are bogged down in personal sins, the cares of this world, or the pursuit of worldly wealth and/or power.

We need to be constantly on alert to where we are with God and to what degree we are busy carrying out His Will.

Heb 3:12-15

“Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said: ‘Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion.’”

There is so much work yet to be done. We are to preach the Gospel to ALL THE WORLD. One of the stipulations of God’s covenant with Abraham was that all the nations of the Earth were to be blessed through Abraham. Is that the case today? Are all the nations of the Earth blessed? I can tell you from personal experience travelling and living in developing nations over many years, that they are NOT blessed! There is a great spiritual void. This void cannot be filled by human organizations that claim to have the answers we need to “save the world.” Poverty, political strife, war, starvation, and the host of all the world’s social ills will never be solved by international organizations formed into some sort of “New World Order.” The problems are spiritual and demand spiritual solutions. Only Jesus Christ possesses those spiritual answers, and they can only be found in believing the Gospel and repenting of our sins. Those who have been called and chosen by God to carry the Gospel to the whole world have the mandate and responsibility to continue with every fiber of our being to complete the Work we have been given. We must keep encouraging one another to make that second effort, and even a third effort, no matter what it takes. It really *IS* life and death.



Erika (Cen.) with Legacy students Norah (L.) & Fon (R.)

Erika Pedersen, our Deputy Director and Academic Director, will be coming back for another year. So will Elaina Spivey. Both are doing a very good job as teachers and both are able to work on their master's degrees in education while serving at Legacy.

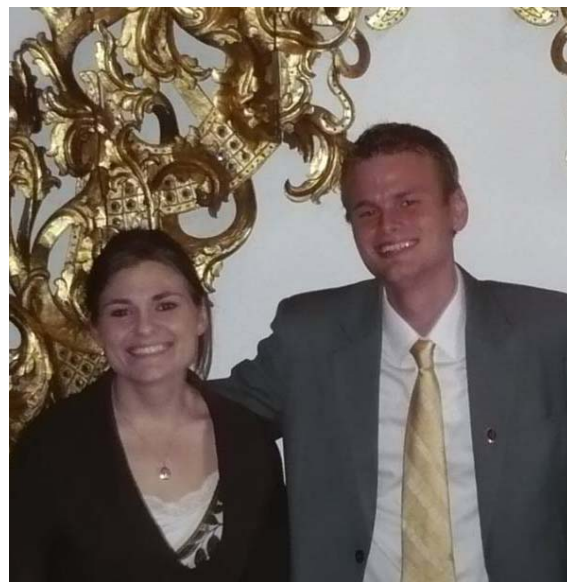
WHAT IS HAPPENING AT LEGACY INSTITUTE FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR?

Legacy School

Here in Thailand we are in the middle of the second semester of our school year. Legacy school's academic year runs from June to March. Each year about this time we are thinking about next year. Two of our current volunteer teachers will be returning to serve another year. Erika



Elaina on keyboard at 2009 Feast of Tabernacles



Elaina and Nathan.

This is a real blessing from God because they do not have to interrupt their educations in order to serve as teachers at Legacy in Thailand. Erika is studying in an international program at a local university, and Elaina is enrolled in a California university program which allows most of her required work to be completed in Thailand. Nathan Kimmons will be returning home after two years of service teaching at Legacy. He is doing a fine job teaching classes to our hill tribe students from Thailand and Burma. He also helps me by giving sermons and Bible studies. All three of our teachers have been a tremendous help in getting the job done this year.

We still need two more volunteer teachers for the coming academic year starting in June 2010. If you are interested in serving, or you know someone who might be interested, please contact mail@legacyinstitute.org or call Anita Showers at 330-852-2709 (U.S.A. telephone). Volunteers must sacrifice. The first year of service must be covered entirely by the volunteer. This includes air tickets, visa fees and other costs. Legacy Institute provides only room, board, and monthly “pizza money.” If, after serving one year, the volunteer agrees to stay an additional year, then Legacy must provide a small stipend for them. Most who come to Thailand to serve have school bills and other financial obligations at home. Asking them to serve an additional year at their own expense once again is not reasonable; and frankly, most would not be able to do it. So, in both Erika and Elaina’s cases, we will need to help them financially. If you are interested in helping sponsor one or both of these young teachers for another year, or if you know of a church congregation interested in sponsoring, please email Legacy or call Anita Showers.



2nd Row (far L.& 2nd L): Deacon MyoZaw & his wife Tumar at 2009 Feast of Tabernacles, Chiang Mai

Our students learn many things in classes, including the Word of God. But they mainly learn the Way of Life of a true Christian from the examples our teachers set. I explain to our new teachers that being a teacher in Thailand is like living in a fishbowl. Our students watch everything our teachers do and learn from their examples. That is why, among the requirements we have for our volunteer teachers, they must be from a Sabbatarian Church background and maintain high standards of moral conduct.

Teaching in Thailand is not for everyone. But those who do volunteer for a year or more return to their homes changed FOREVER. Service to God has a spiritual reward that cannot be humanly measured.



La Nunan

Work of God in Burma

We are moving forward with opening an office in Yangon (Rangoon) to duplicate and send out audio tapes of sermons translated into the Burmese language. This office will also send out letters from me translated into Burmese for all the COG members. Letters received will also be answered from our Rangoon office. Deacon Myo Zaw and his wife Tumar will be heading up this new office and doing much of the work. We are very grateful that God is providing the laborers for His fields in Burma.

Our senior student La Nunan is also from Burma. He has passed the TOEFL exam, the first hurdle to getting into an international program at a local university (the same one Erika attends). He was able to learn English well enough at Legacy to pass the TOEFL

exam the first time around. Now he can apply to become a full-time student studying for a B.A. in English. La Nunan will continue working at Legacy and helping translate material into Burmese for distribution throughout Burma. Elaina and Erika worked hard to prepare La Nunan to take the TOEFL entrance test. It is a real testimony to their effectiveness as teachers that La Nunan could pass the test the first time.

I received news that the COG brethren in Taungoo (located in central Burma) are having a lot of trouble. There are about eight families, numbering 30 persons, including children, in the area mostly earning a living as subsistence farmers. They face two major problems. The first is that they live in a small village in a restricted area. The Burma military restricts travel on the main road leading to Taungoo. This means that they cannot get their produce to market. They have also had drought conditions during this dry-season cycle, and most of their crops have failed because they have no access to irrigation water.

We arranged to send them funds to buy food for now. Some have become ill due to bad nutrition and we have also sent funds for medicine as needed.

We want to drill wells for them so that they will have access to irrigation water for the next dry season. They have no electricity so we will install hand pumps. The monsoons have not come yet, so things remain dry and they cannot plant.

It reminds me of the time in Acts when the brethren in Judea were suffering famine and Paul collected food from the churches in Asia Minor to send to them.

1 Cor. 16:1-2

“Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also . . .”²

No one is starving to death in Taungoo. We were able to get aid to them in time. But we need to prepare for the future by drilling these wells so that they will have enough water to grow their crops. The brethren would also like to build a church meeting hall and have already collected some logs and tithe money for this purpose. I don't want to discourage them from building a church building, but I am more interested in first getting these wells dug so they can grow food. There is nothing we can do about the road closure because of military activity, but at least they are presently safe and, so far, have enough to eat. I have asked Myo Zaw in Yangon to stay in touch with them and update me on their situation and needs.

Self-sufficiency at Legacy

Times are getting tougher, both in Thailand and back home in the U.S. I advise our readers to do whatever they can to grow their own organic vegetables and other foods. You don't need a farm for this. I lived in an apartment in Bangkok for awhile and one of the other tenants planted a wonderful garden on the flat roof! The soil was in pots and brick troughs. He planted tomatoes, cucumbers, and leafy green vegetables. He even grew corn. It was really miraculous how much he could grow in a small space in pots on

² See also 2 Cor 8.

a roof. We are striving for the goal of self-sufficiency at Legacy School. But it is a goal that will take time to achieve. We may never be 100% self-sufficient. We may not even reach 50%. But every bit helps. We have two fish ponds and we will begin harvesting fish for the school this month. We are already harvesting from our organic vegetable garden which we planted right after the Feast of Tabernacles. This last year was the first year we observed the seven-year land rest and the garden is flourishing. We are now harvesting amaranth, a kind of spinach-type leafy vegetable rich in protein, vitamins, and minerals. The corn is doing well and we have planted beans, tomatoes, and other vegetables. We have access to irrigation water so we can keep production going year round. Our initial goal is to take at least 1/3 of our vegetable needs from the garden. That will help us a lot. We also will restart our chicken- and duck-raising project this coming year. If you want to see a few photos of our Legacy garden you can visit Erika's blog at <http://tundratothailand.blogspot.com/2010/01/green-green-green.html>. Here is what she said in her e-mail to us: "We had some soup tonight with vegetables from the garden and it was sooo good. Really, really good. I'm so excited about all the produce!"

We must do everything we can to help supplement the budget for Legacy School. The economic downturn has impacted Legacy Institute's income dramatically. Donations are down. But God continues to somehow supply our needs and keep this small work going. My health is also an issue. I just don't have the energy I once had. But, again, God keeps on supplying the energy I need to get the job done. That is all that really matters.

Video Messages

For some time I have been wanting to give more back to our fellow laborers at home. One way I can do this is to record video messages and make them available on the internet. I started by making video messages with my little computer camera and then sending them to you by email. The main problem with this is that it is too large a file for easy downloading. Some people can't even receive it in their in-boxes because the file is just too big. My son Bronson came up with a solution and we will now be placing the videos onto our website and just sending out a "link" by email. Once we have this all set up, I will send you a special e-mail message letting you know that it is ready for you to view.

Technology is a wonderful thing, even if it is sometimes frustrating for me. I marvel at my sons and grandchildren who seem to take computers and computer technology for granted. Obviously, this can be useful to get the Gospel out to the world. More and more people are becoming computer literate, even in developing countries.

Feast of Tabernacles 2010 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Plans are in full swing for the 2010 Feast in Chiang Mai. Once again we will be holding our main festival program at the Empress Hotel and Convention Center, a modern convention complex with "all the comforts of home." This year we are adding several new outings. We will, of course, have the traditional elephant ride. But we will also be visiting one of the King and Queen's royal projects. Years ago while I served God's Work in the Ambassador Foundation, Mr. Herbert Armstrong donated money to the royal projects to educate hill tribes in the mountains so they would stop growing opium.

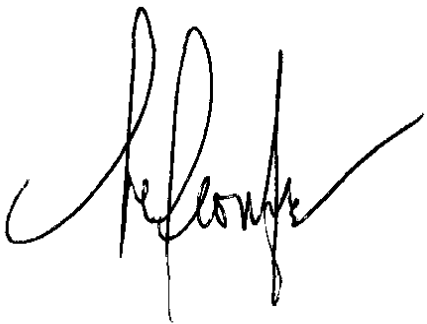
These projects have been very successful and the royal projects teaching crop replacement and home handicrafts have expanded too many places around northern Thailand. We will visit one of these sites and see first hand the wonderful work the royal family does with the poor and underprivileged. We will also pay a “good works” visit to an orphanage home for abandoned children. Many of these children were just dropped off at a hospital at night soon after they were born. They have no idea who their parents are. Legacy Institute students and teachers have visited this institution and plan to help any way we can. What the caretakers have asked us for is powdered milk and pampers. That is the least we can do.

If you are thinking about visiting an international site for the Feast this year, please consider Chiang Mai, Thailand. If you have never been to an international site or a site in Asia before, Chiang Mai is a good place to begin. It is a pleasant combination of the familiar and exotic, modern and ancient, comfort and adventure. Chiang Mai has McDonalds and Starbucks; but it also has ancient temples, palaces, and rice fields. Chiang Mai is called the “Rose of the North” because of the many flowers and hundreds of varieties of orchids that grow here. An added benefit is the opportunity to keep the Feast with Legacy students and COG members from several different hill tribes with their unique dress and customs. Services will be held in English for all eight days with Burmese and Thai translation. Our students and COG brethren are thrilled to meet new friends and learn that the Church of God is for all peoples, no matter what tribe or language.

If interested in learning more, please contact mail@legacyinstitute.org or call Herb Vierra in the U.S.A. at 626.357.2588. Join us in Chiang Mai and see what goes on at the front lines of God’s Work in Asia.

Until next letter, remember those in need and experiencing difficult trials. We all need one another now more than ever before as time draws closer and closer to the end.

May God be with all of you.



T. Leon Sexton

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P.S. Monday, January 18th, our second-year student, Worawet, will have major surgery on his eye and nose in order to repair his depressed eye and raise the bridge of his nose. Please pray that after the surgery his eye will be properly aligned and his double vision will improve.

The good news is that his jaw has healed well and he has been able to eat solid foods for some time.