



LEGACY INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 575, Monrovia, California 91016

www.legacyinstitute.org

mail@legacyinstitute.org

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IN THIS LETTER:

PASSOVER AND U.B. IN TAUNGGOO, BURMA

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GRADUATION 2012

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NEW STUDENTS ACCEPTED

Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

Gloria and I are now back in Yangon (Rangoon), from our trip to Taungoo in central Myanmar (Burma), to keep the Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread with Church of God members gathered from Yangon, Kachinland in the far north, and the Karen State east of Taungoo. We held services at the *Myanmar Beauty Guesthouse* complex where we observed Passover four years ago. This hotel complex is suitable because we can keep the costs down, and they allow our brethren to cook on site. Few members in Myanmar earn money and so few have any festival tithe. This means that Legacy must cover all transportation costs to and from the festival site and all costs for food and accommodation. This year we had 33 adults and 10 children come for the holy days. Several U.S. Church of God congregations were very generous and helped cover expenses for Passover and U.B. in Myanmar this year.

Even though it is not yet monsoon season in Myanmar, on the evening of the 1st Holy Day a storm blew in with heavy winds and dumped a lot of rain. This proved to be a welcome relief because it cleaned up all the smoke in the air. This is the time of year when farmers burn their fields and the smoke makes the sun look blood red. However, tragically, members living in Kyawk Taing (pronounced "Jaww Tang") about 10 miles away, returned to their homes after the holy day to find damaged roofs. They use thatch roofing and the wind had blown big holes in them. We gave the brethren funds for repairs; they were able to make quick, temporary repairs and now will make permanent ones.



Sisters: 2012 Legacy grad AhjaShan (L.) and
2009 Legacy grad Seng Mai



Already in need of repair with the thatch blown off or ripped.

good stewards of the resources He gives us, it will always be enough to accomplish what He wants us to do. We cannot blame it on lack of money and we cannot blame it on God. It is us.

We need to take a good look at ourselves and root out the cause of our lack of success and get rid of whatever it is that is holding us back. We have done this in Burma, so now the brethren are encouraged and strengthened (as well as protected), and we look forward to great successes in the spreading of the Gospel of the Kingdom in this part of the world.

This was a very important trip for Gloria and me to make. Over the past 3 years, I have had to remove two ministers from the ministry in Burma and disfellowship them. This has been very hard on me, but necessary to protect the sheep of Christ. No one likes to remove men from the ministry and disfellowship anyone. But the Bible is clear that sin must not be allowed to remain in the Church (*1 Corinthians 5*)—especially sin in leadership. It is leavening that will leaven the whole lump if not removed (*Galatians 5:9*).

The story in Joshua about the failure to conquer the city of Ai shows us clearly that sin—even hidden sin that is not apparent—will hold the Church back from real success.

With God's help, Joshua had to root out the culprit who was hiding the accursed things stolen from Jericho. Once this person was discovered and dealt with, Israel could win their battle with the soldiers of Ai. The Church of God is the same. Once we discover and root out the accursed things among us and get rid of whatever sin that may be in the Church, then we can move forward in power and success. Otherwise, we are stymied and do not know why we cannot go forward in great power.

We cannot blame our weakness in accomplishing the Work God has given on lack of money. God owns all the wealth of the world. If we are

GRADUATION 2012



2012 graduates L. to R.: Ahja, Samuey, Peto and Atiwat



2011 grads L. to R.: Uaorawet and Fon



2010 graduate LaNuNan

On March 18, we held our sixth graduation of Legacy Institute at the Empress Hotel in Chiang Mai. For this ceremony, we combined three years of graduates, totaling seven persons. That doesn't sound like many grads, does it? But our standards are kept high and there is a large dropout rate. I remember an audience that Mr. Herbert Armstrong had with King Bhumibol. In their conversation, the king told Mr. Armstrong

that he would rather have quality and not quantity. He said that he would rather have 10 men who did the right thing than 100 who would do wrong, because the 10 righteous would go out and teach hundreds to do what is right, whereas the hundred would be teaching thousands to do wrong. King Bhumibol is a wise man. Quality is always better than quantity.

Six of the seven graduates were able to participate in the ceremony. From Thailand were Uaorawet, Fon, Athiwat, Peto and Samuey—all from the Lahu tribe. Ahja Shan, a Kachin from Myanmar, also was able to receive her diploma. La Lu Nan, another Kachin from Myanmar, was not able to make the ceremony.

Erika Pedersen received an award of appreciation for 5 years of service as a volunteer teacher and Academic Administrator. Erika has the unique distinction of being the longest serving volunteer ever in the history of Legacy Institute in Thailand.

Austin Mangels was also honored for two year's service. Graduates and honored teachers were able to enjoy a buffet luncheon with families and friends of graduates, along with special guests.



L. student Rumeer with Achaan Erika Pederson



L. Austin Mangels with student Chanpang



New Legacy Student MoePley



New Legacy Student Seng Pan and son, Blessing Seng Latt

NEW STUDENTS ACCEPTED

On this trip we accepted three young people to attend Legacy Institute in Thailand to study Bible doctrine and English. Two are a young husband and wife from Kachinland; the other is a single young Karen man from Kyawk Taing (the member's village near Taungoo). We plan for them to arrive in Thailand sometime before the Feast of Tabernacles this fall, once we can get the passports and visas issued.

What is needed most in Burma is the right kind of church leadership—those trained in the Word of God and

rock solid in the spiritual strengths of obedience and righteous conduct. The churches here have had more than enough of the other kind of examples. We cannot choose those God will call to His service. All we can do is give training, and then rely on Jesus to do the choosing.



ConYee to study in Yangon.

Legacy will also sponsor one young Kachin girl to go to the Seventh Day Adventist secondary school in Yangon. If she does well and is diligent, then we will consider her for further education at Legacy in Thailand. The SDA's have very good schools and those we have brought from Burma with an SDA education are better prepared because they have basic English language skills. This gives them a head start.



Special music in beautiful harmony. L. to R.: NawJuneHey, BooMooHtoo, EhMooPaw
DeeDeeHtoo, NawDtawDtaw, and EhHlaHtoo



L. to R.: DeeDeeHtoo with GrehLeyPwey being
blessed by MyoZaw and Leon Sexton



More harmony, L. to R.: SengPan, ToiSan, DawKhawn



Ahja



L. to R. EhMooPaw feeding nephews HtaNeyHtoo,
YuaSuGay, and GrehDtahKoo



L. TuMar & DawKhawn (Ahja's mother)



L. to R.: Leon Sexton, Ahjar, TuMar and MyoZaw who is choosing a hymn



Gloria Sexton
with
little Miss
NoReeTun



The future Church of God in Burma



Leon Sexton with Miss
HtawHteePaw, Gloria Sexton,
Erika Pedersen and
MooJooLoo (mother)

The Kachin girl's tuition and bus fares to and from school will be \$400 per year. She will be living with church Deacon Myo Zaw and his wife Tu Mar. She will study in Yangon for six years. We will review her progress at the end of each year.

To bring one person from Burma to study at Legacy in Thailand costs a minimum of \$365 just for passport, visa, and airfare to Thailand. In addition, each person we bring from Burma is required to study the Thai language in order to receive an ED (education) visa to stay in Thailand. This additional cost is \$1,525 per year. The total for each person we bring from Burma is almost \$5000 for the three years they stay with us. This does not include room and board. It is costly, but necessary if we want to train church workers to serve in Burma and provide these young people with an education to better their lives. Sisters Seng Mai and Ahja Shan were both graduates of Legacy. They have proven to be very helpful during this trip as translators for Gloria and me. Seng Mai has a good position as a telephone operator at the luxury Chatrium Hotel in Yangon. She landed this position, a wonderful blessing from God, because of the English language skills she

learned at Legacy. Seng Mai also speaks some Thai language, which is helpful to her since the hotel is Thai owned. Her sister Ahja will return with us to Chiang Mai to be a full-time translator of our church literature. Both are great success stories.

All of this will take money to pay for tuition, passports, visas, and air tickets to Thailand. If you are moved to help by providing scholarship donations for these young people from Burma, please contact Legacy Institute using one of the addresses located at the top of this letter. Let us know that your donation is for the **BURMA SCHOLARSHIP FUND**. Please try to make such a donation above and beyond your regular donations that keep the school running and allow us to make trips, such as the one we are on now.



Brethren that could gather from the distant areas in Myanmar

Please pray that God supplies our manpower needs for His Gospel Work in Burma. God is calling more among the poor in this country, but they have no shepherds.

The harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few (Matthew 9:37).

We appreciate your support in educating these young people from Burma and all your prayers for the church in this country. Thank you.

It is really amazing just how much strength and energy God has given me on this trip. I have been here for over two weeks and have given Passover, eight sermons, and at least five Bible Studies. As well, traveling is not easy in Burma, yet my health has remained quite strong. God has blessed me and given me Gloria to help take care of me and she is doing a great job with a very stubborn and difficult subject!

Please keep praying for us and God's chosen in Burma.

In Jesus' service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Leon Sexton". The signature is stylized with long, sweeping lines.

T. Leon Sexton

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