



LEGACY INSTITUTE

P.O. Box 575, Monrovia, California 91016

www.legacyinstitute.org

mail@legacyinstitute.org



L to R: Jun Song Pan, Seng Aung and Blessing (three-years old) from Kachinland



L to R: Htoo Mya Shwe and Mop Ley, longtime friends now back together from Taungoo



Stle Lin Shwe (older & missing brother of Htoo Mya Shwe), the whole family is back together

1 July 2012

Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

I asked our two newest teachers, who just arrived from the U.S., to write a short paragraph or two about what brought them here to serve at Legacy. First is Tristan Ruml from Ohio. He is currently teaching Introduction to the Bible, Principles of Leadership, Public Speaking, and sports.

"Last summer I came across a story about the Karen people and about what happens in Burma. I kept reading about it and felt that I needed to help in some way, especially if I could come over to Thailand and help refugees. I prayed that God would give me an opportunity to serve the Karen people the following summer and put it in His hands, despite not having any financial help or any contacts to

make it a reality. I mentioned my wishes off-hand to my parents and they told me about the Legacy Institute. I was interested, but still didn't have any resources to get there. However, during the course of the school year I won a scholarship from my college, Grove City College¹, which fully pays for the selected students to serve in a ministry during the summer. Things fell into place as the year progressed and God blessed me with the opportunity to come to Thailand and serve the Karen refugees here at the Legacy Institute.

While I'm here these short few months², I hope to give all the students here any kind of help I can, and teach them skills that can help improve their own lives, their families, and their communities. I hope to see them use the skills they're learning and become positive examples and leaders to those around them and that I return home knowing that in some small way I helped make a positive difference in their lives."

Tristan Ruml

Next we hear from Hanna Reisdorff. She is now teaching Health and Hygiene, Basic Computer, and English Composition. In addition, she is editor of our school newspaper called *Legacy Leader*, which is written and typeset by students.

"This past year at ABC³, Mr. Dean⁴ introduced the Legacy program to me. Through UCG's⁵ support and the support of LifeNets⁶, I was able to come to Thailand. When I agreed to volunteer, I truly didn't have a good grasp of what I was getting into. Having now seen the environment and met the students here, I am so excited to be working for Legacy this year. I hope to be able to help students learn English and understand a broader concept of how life works... and how to become a success in the lives they lead.

I pray and hope to be a true blessing to the students, but I am already convinced that I will gain much more from my time here than I ever expected. One thing I looked forward to when deciding to come here was that I knew this job would be

¹ http://www.gcc.edu/About_GCC.php

² Tristan is serving for a three-month summer period.

³ Ambassador Bible Course

⁴ Aaron K. Dean is a United Church of God elder and Instructor at Ambassador Bible Course program.

⁵ United Church of God

⁶ <http://www.facebook.com/LifeNets>

difficult. I would be doing something that I had very little experience in; living in a new place, and working with new people. Coming to Thailand was a decision that will stretch me as a person and I am so grateful for this opportunity."

Hanna Reisdorff

Volunteers who are dedicated to serving Jesus Christ are the lifeblood of the Legacy project in Thailand. We are blessed to have both Tristan and Hanna here joining the rest of us in fulfilling our God-given mission. We know that they will have to return home and get back to their regular lives. But we are confident God will send us more like them to take their places.

Thursday our new students from Myanmar (Burma) arrived from Rangoon. A Burma COG Deacon, Myo Zaw, and his wife, Tumar helped them get their passports, visas, and other documents, then saw them off at the airport in Rangoon. To bring a young person from Burma to study at Legacy is costly and requires a great deal of red tape. In order to make them legal in Thailand, we must also enroll them in a Thai language course of instruction, for which they receive an ED (Education) Visa from the Thai government. The fee for Thai language instruction is 2000 dollars per year, but it is necessary in order for them to get the appropriate visa that allows them to also study at Legacy.

Burma needs these young people, who are all coming from COG families to study at Legacy. We have lost several COG elders for various reasons, including a very fine pastor in Taungoo, (central Burma) who died from injuries after falling out of a tree. This left his growing congregation without a leader and no one trained to step into that role. The need for church leaders is desperate and all this at a time when Burma is opening up to the West which means more opportunity to spread the Gospel because of the potential foreign investment leading to roads, electricity, and communications reaching the remote areas! Satan does not want this. He wants to keep the people of Burma in darkness and slavery. Satan never sleeps.

The Apostle Paul sums it all up in Romans 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, **except they be sent?** as it is written, *How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace...*"*

Without preachers and pastors, lasting growth and spiritual development are greatly diminished.

We must start over. The people we bring from Burma to receive Bible instruction and leadership training with us for three or four years are the building blocks of that new Church of God foundation. Even without pastors to **feed** and **protect** them, the Church is growing, which poses the two very serious problems I just mentioned.

The first problem is that, with no pastors, they are not getting fed spiritual food. We are working feverishly to get booklets translated into the Burmese language so they receive some instruction in the Word of God. As few can read English, it is imperative we translate literature into the Burmese language. The most recent booklet translated recently is entitled, "*Enoch and Elijah are Not in Heaven.*" That one is being typeset for publication at this time. We have also written a rather lengthy booklet about the Sabbath Day, which covers that Sabbath in the Old and New Testaments. It addresses the standard scriptures some twist to try to prove the Apostolic Church observed Sunday, which it never did. That is currently being translated and is about half finished. My health allows me to travel to Burma only once or twice a year. What is sorely needed are local pastors and their wives in place that can feed, nurture, and protect new brethren on a consistent basis. If the new brethren who have recently repented and turned to obedience do not get fed, they WILL FALL AWAY and DIE!

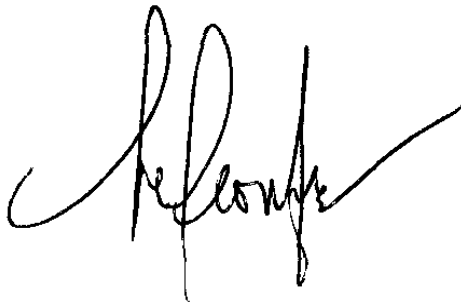
The second problem is the sheep-stealing efforts of sin-filled and apostate men who travel about, masquerading as Church of God elders, trying to gain a following among the new COG members. They claim to be true servants of Jesus Christ, but teach the new babes in Christ false doctrine, including the standard ones against observing the Sabbath and holy days. These wolves in sheep's clothing can only be combated with trained and spiritually strong pastors in place to protect the new flocks of God. These will have to be trained at Legacy. We can only train them; we cannot *CHOOSE* them. It is our sincere prayer that Jesus the Savior of all men, will choose some to serve Him. Please join us in this needful prayer.

With Hanna and Tristan now here, we can begin our new school year. Classes are already underway. There is a possibility that six students from one of Queen Sirikit's border projects may also join us as new students. We have a lot of work ahead of us. We need all your prayers that the lives of these young people from Thailand and Burma will be changed forever and that they will be chosen to carry the true Gospel to their peoples in the remote mountains and valleys of Southeast Asia.

The true Gospel of the Kingdom is to also reach the peoples of this part of the world. I know that Gloria and I have been chosen and sent here to do this job.

Sometimes it is very difficult. Sometimes it is discouraging. But I remember that you count on us to keep plugging away to accomplish the mission God has given us. We also count on you to help us as fellow laborers. The time known as the End of the Age is upon us. Time is short and there is no time to waste. Thank you all for helping us harvest while it is yet day. Soon the darkness is coming when no man can work⁷.

In Our Great and Holy Lord Jesus' Name,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Leon Sexton', with a large, stylized initial 'T' and a long, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

T. Leon Sexton

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⁷ John 9:4 *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.*