



LEGACY INSTITUTE

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Pentecost services in Taungoo, Myanmar about ready to begin

Dear Friends and Fellow Laborers,

10 June 2017

What a wonderful Pentecost we had in Taungoo, Myanmar! It was a very special holy day. What made it so special?

Besides being a wonderful God-ordained high Sabbath day, it really felt as if the Holy Spirit was being poured out upon the 49 people gathered there. No, there were no little flames of fire appearing on our heads. And, no, we did not erupt into different languages other than the English sermon being translated into the Burmese language. But nevertheless, it was a very spiritual experience.

Gloria and I first flew to Yangon to meet MyoZaw and TooMar, a deacon and his wife. We stayed at their newly-built apartment complex for the first time. We could make our own breakfast and TooMar always cooked us her delicious and healthy Burmese lunches—which we usually ate at dinner, too. Also meeting us in Yangon was Seng Mai, a Legacy graduate who is studying her final year at the SDA University in Myanmar. We then traveled by MyoZaw's Honda mini van to Taungoo, about 170 miles north on a well-paved four-lane highway. It takes about five hours, with the first hour just getting out of the traffic jams in and around the old capitol city of Yangon. The new capital city is called NayPyiDaw (an hour and a half north of Taungoo), where we held Pentecost services.



Repaired bridge—for motorcycles too, or anything that fits can get across.

Services were held at the Pun Swe Taw hotel in downtown Taungoo, where we stayed for four days. I did not go on the trek to Kyawk (Jaw) Taing village because of the heat at this time of year. In order to reach the small village of Jawk Taing, one must travel by paved road for about half an hour, cross a wooden bridge (which Gloria says has been repaired and is now easy to cross for the time being), then trek up a narrow jungle path for about 20 minutes before reaching the Church of God compound.

The brethren there came to the Pun Swe Taw Hotel by truck and the elderly by MyoZaw's van. The hotel has a very nice, small meeting room, which can hold about 70 persons theatre style. Since we only had enough chairs for 39 people, the ten children sat on a carpet mat on the floor. It is very normal for our Burma brethren to sit on the floor. Most do not sit on chairs, even in their own homes.

What was so very wonderful was the special music prepared by the young Legacy Myanmar students. First, the younger grade school children sang "Our Childhood Walk with God." Then the high school-age young adults sang "Holy Spirit Faithful Guide." They sang first in English and then in Burmese. The music from their young voices made me shed tears! I know that God was pleased to hear Him praised by these young church members (and a few non-church children who are also students and attend services and Sabbath School regularly).



Special music ("Our Childhood walk with God") by the small children. Back Row L. to R.: Blessing, EahDohOo, NawGay-Paw, ZaneNiHlaing, AprilPaw. Front Row L.to R: ArTi, Naw Naw, SanMi, SineTihaAung, SineTihaPyoe - [Click to view](#)



Special music ("Holy Spirit Faithful Guide") sung by Legacy students and teen youth. Back Row L. to R.: HkawHpa, KhawnYe, BweHteePaw, NaynPale, TakwiPaw, HtuSeng, DoiBu, MoePalel, HtooGay. Front Row: L. to R.: HserNayPaw, NayBluHtoo, NawEhHtoo, LayLuSay, MaySu-TaungPye, CherryOo, PaleHku, HserNaySay, LuHtoi (LuLu) – [Click to view](#)

I gave a sermon about the meaning of Pentecost and how it relates to the Work of the Church today. It is important for these members of God's Church to know that, even if they are living in a remote part of the world, their duty to God and humanity remains the same as other Church members worldwide, which is: preach the Gospel, receive those who believe the Gospel, and repent.

After singing hymns, the sermon, offertory, and special music, we felt inspired and honored to know we are a part of God's plan of salvation for all mankind. We then gathered in thanksgiving and feasted on special cookies and soymilk. The children were especially excited about the cookies.

While in Taungoo, we had meetings with SengAung, SengPan, MoPalel (Legacy grad and assistant to SengAung), Myo Zaw, and TooMar about the new Legacy school in Myanmar.



AyeLawin and his wife, AhMee



Their son Arti



Their daughter SanMi with soy milk and cookie pack.



Monday's meeting L. to R.: TooMar, SengPan, MoPalel, SengAung with NawNaw, and MyoZaw



Leon Sexton

LEGACY SCHOOL IN MYANMAR

For those who may not have heard, we are moving our Legacy school from Thailand to Myanmar, where the Holy Spirit is working powerfully. Most of our students in recent years have been young people from Burma, who were somehow associated with the Church of God, either through relatives or friends who are Sabbath keepers. Up until October of last year, we have been able to obtain visas or other documents of permission for them to come to Thailand where they were able to study at Legacy school. Now the Immigration Department is much more restrictive, and we are no longer able to get them Thai visas. We face no visa problems in Myanmar.

So, after much discussion and prayer, we decided to move the school to Myanmar. It seems that God has already paved the way. There are already nine Legacy teachers in Myanmar of which



L. to R.: SengPan, wife of pastor SengAung (2014 grads), NayBlooHtoo, her sister HserNaySay (2015 grads), MoPalel (2015 grad), KhawnYe (one year at Legacy), HtooGay (2015 grad), HserNayPaw (2015 grad), and SengMai (2009 grad).

eight are Legacy Thailand graduates. Due to new visa regulations, KhawnYe could only stay one year. Seven are in Jawk Taing, and two (SengMai and KhawnYe) are in Myaungmya, Myanmar, completing their degrees at the SDA University. KhawnYe's younger sister LuLu is also in the SDA University at Myaungmya.

Previously, at Legacy Thailand, we taught young adults for three years who had completed their high school, 10th Standard, or were from the refugee camp with less. While our Legacy teachers are going to school themselves—it is during the school breaks that we can teach three times a year. They will be teaching other grade school children, teens, and young adults during the school breaks. The classes taught are Bible, English, health and hygiene, leadership, music, and public speaking. We continue to teach Sabbath school and have already had two mini Legacy school sessions at summer breaks for the years 2016 and 2017.



NayBlooHtoo, HserNayPaw, DoiBoo (3rd younger sister of KhawnYe), HtooGay

We are very proud to announce that four students have passed their “Tenth Standard” and are now going on to “Plus One” (eleventh grade). All passed (with a “Class One” (U.S. equivalent of “A”) distinction, and received a gift (blanket) from the SDA School.

NayBlooHtoo, HserNayPaw, and HtooGay came out of a Thai refugee camp before coming to Legacy.

Gloria and I will not be moving to Myanmar, because we have long-stay visas and official work permits for Thailand. Thailand is an advantageous country from which to work in so many respects, because it has progressed greatly and is not even really considered a “third world country” any longer. We also have the right to Thailand’s social medicine program, even though we are not Thai citizens. This means all our hospital visits and medications for diabetes and blood pressure, etc., are paid by the Thai government. Hospitals in Thailand rank with some of the best in the world. Myanmar has nothing like this at all! Only recently has the Bangkok Hospital (a first-class network of hospitals with Western-trained doctors) opened two facilities in Myanmar (Mandalay and Yangon). But they have no socialized medicine. We also could not obtain long-stay visas for Myanmar. Currently we can only get 28 days. We will stay in Thailand and travel to Myanmar at least three times per year, hopefully coinciding with holy days. The flight to Yangon is the same distance as flying to Bangkok from Chiang Mai—roughly an hour and ten minutes.

THREE-WEEK OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR WESTERN VOLUNTEER TEACHERS

In order to make the new school in Myanmar as successful as our Legacy school was in Thailand, we are also initiating a new outreach program for Western volunteer teachers to serve in Myanmar for three weeks, available three different times a year. This program will consist of two weeks intensive teaching and one week touring. All participants must be in good health and have no chronic illnesses that would require doctor’s care. We will soon be publishing details and the costs for participation, dates available, and other information.

This new school in Myanmar will be a big boom to the Church of God, as more Myanmar youths will be able to study God’s Truth and other important educational classes. We will no longer need to bring them to Thailand at heavy visa expenses and months of red tape each year. Now we are free to put those resources into developing the school itself.

This is an exciting door that God has opened, and hindsight shows us that He had been heading in this direction all along.

Please continue to pray for our small church flock here in Thailand, and our Legacy employees, who take care of all the needs, both here in Thailand and Myanmar. Gloria oversees our Legacy accountant, one secretary, and one cleaning lady. I oversee our translator, AhJar Shan (who also helps Gloria with duties and monthly/yearly expenses of Myanmar. I also oversee four hired workers for farming, maintenance, and driving, since I can no longer safely drive a car. As we have no students in Thailand to do much of the labor, we must now rely on our hired workers.



Ten join for Pentecost in ChiangMai to hear Leon’s video sermon. Front Row in black is Utaiwan Han, Tesha Bair gave special music, Dan Bair led songs, and their three children (Nathaniel, Natania, and Ginger), Back Row: NawMya, EkaNayHtoo, HtooMyaShwe. (AhJar took the picture)



Tesha Bair

We will need your continued help and support financially to make this expanded Myanmar Legacy school a reality. I will be frank with you, Fellow-Laborers: our last several months' income has been really low. Our expenses have been more, since we are paying for the education of thirteen of our Myanmar students who are completing their education. Prior to coming to Legacy in Thailand, several were in refugee camps and never completed their basic education. We are presently sponsoring:

| SDA University | SDA High School | SDA Grade School | Vocational Classes Yangon |
|----------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|
| SengMai KhawnYe LuLu | BoiHteePaw DoiBoo HtooGay NayBlooHtoo | AprilPaw CherryOo KanyaPaw LayLuSay NayGayPaw | Whitey |

For all the above, it is over U.S. \$4,000 per year. This does not include the salaries that we send for the pastor and his assistant, MoPalel, plus other needed equipment and supplies that cannot be generated by the small congregation in Jawk Taing. The church is growing and the tithe continues to increase, but not enough for these large amounts. Historically, the tithe has been sufficient to help those who need food, medical attention, and bamboo housing repairs.

NOT CLOSING DOWN—JUST MOVING

Gloria said we have gotten e-mails from some who think Legacy is closing its doors. Nothing could be further from the truth. God is leading us through new doors. This move to Myanmar is just another step in God's plan for Southeast Asia.

Please remember this new open door in your prayers, and ask God to continue providing all our needs, as He has promised. Gloria has told me 1000 times that the income is a miracle every month. We have never had a set amount that can be counted on—but God comes through. He says “ask, and it shall be given.” So we are asking. Thank you, again, for all your continued prayers and support.

VISITING THE BRETHREN



In front of the old house, now the kitchen. L.to R.: MoPalel, NawDaw-Daw, PehlehHku., visitors AprilPaw & widow,Asha, & BehLehHtoo.



NayinPale in front of their new 2-level home.

Gloria went to Sabbath services in JawkTaing before Pentecost. Then she visited the brethren near the JawkTaing church compound on Monday after Pentecost. First she went to visit NawDawDaw (a widow), the mother of MoPalel, She has three sons and two daughters. The eldest son is not at home and works in the mountains for a year or two at a time in elephant labor.

Next MoPalel took her to see SawSayPoh, who was caught off guard working in his garden in the hot sun. Years ago his leg was blown off from a mine while he was forced to work for the army. He is our oldest member, around 77, and is always very good natured. He said that he was so happy that their “mother” (meaning Gloria who is many years younger) would come to visit her children in JawkTaing.



Widower, SawSayPoh’s front porch with Gloria
Right pic: SawSayPoh with MoPalel



Next was a ten minute motorcycle ride over to widow EhHlaHtoo’s house; and then on to NohPhut’s house. His wife had just had a miscarriage. They have two sons and two daughters.



L. to R.: HserNayPaw, SengAung, EhHlaHtoo with her grandson HtaNayHtoo, and HtooGay. Rings were delivered and are ready to be inserted into the well. Right Pic: At EhHlaHtoo’s home with her grandson who just came home from school and Gloria.





L. to R.: First Row: SengAung, SineTihaAung, SineTihaPyoe, Htoo Gay, NohPhut. Second Row: His wife NawSee, Eldest daughter CherryOo. Top: daughter NayGayPaw. Right Pic; HserNayPaw with NawSee.

Last Gloria went to AyeLawin's home. His wife, Ameer, made everyone delicious fish cakes and Burmese tea. She also sells these during the week after her husband goes fishing.



L. to R.: AyeLawin, Arti, Ameer, SanMee, with Gloria at their home



On her Dad's homemade swing with the neighbor girl.

In service to Our Lord King Jesus,

T. Leon Sexton



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