

STICKY RICE MINISTRY

Lao Attached Field Newsletter

April-May 2015

Mok Jong Water Project Report



Our trip to Mok Jong on a Lao-made "Landcruiser"

Project Location: Mok Jong Village, Pak Ou District, Luang Prabang, Laos

Distance: 50 km from Luang Prabang City on main road, further 11 km up the mountains

Population: 48 households, 269 people

Adventists: 17 households, 75 people

Mok Jong is a Hmong village. People here still live their lives in a traditional way. There is no electricity, no running water, and no toilets. I first visited Mok Jong in 2014 when the elders of the village approached me and asked if I could help them get clean drinking water. I wondered why nobody did something for these people? Tour companies brought a lot of tourists to see these people in their real lives setting. Sometimes, the tourists even stayed overnight with the people. How could they let these people live like it were on hundred years ago? I did not know what to do, but I asked the elders to take me to survey the water sources anyway. We finally found a water source about 2 km from the village with the height of 80 meters above the village. This means that we could do a gravity fed water system. But, who will pay for this project? Where would I find the money for this project?

Then I just reported about it in one of my newsletters and the Adventist Southeast Asia Project (ASAP) was interested in the project. Soon ASAP was able to identify a donor. Thank God for the ASAP's donor who has given the life sustaining water to these people. The proposal also included 48 hygienic latrines for all the villagers and health lectures. So, with plenty of clean and running water the people now can have a decent and clean life. What more? They can now live healthier and can also grow organic gardens and enjoy better food intake and better nourishment.

Our visit to this village in May 2015 was to monitor the progress of the project. Phase 1 of the project, constructing the clean water system, was successfully implemented. And the water was plentiful. We built a filter system at the source of the water and piped the water down to a tank above the village. Then, from the tank we piped it down to the village by providing 5 outlets in various locations of the village.

Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

(John 4:20, ESV)

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The filtering system and dam at the water source



The jungle and stream at the water source



The water tank just above the village

The water tank above the village is large, but the water is still overflowing at the time of my visit which was in the driest month of the year. And that was during the daytime and the people were using the water constantly.



The first outlet of water in the village just below the tank

When I tested the water flow it was very strong. There was plenty of pressure. So, one only needs to turn on the tap just half way is more than enough to have plenty of water flowing out.



The second outlet of water in the village

When we came to the second outlet we found a lady washing her clothes there. When asked about how she felt about having water next to her doorsteps her face was beaming with joy and said it was really wonderful.



The third outlet of water in the village

When I came to the third outlet to test the water I saw a few children enjoyed themselves bathing from the tap. The little boy was cleaning up the platform and a little girl enjoyed filling up her bucket and pouring water over her

body. It was good to see children enjoy using the water.



The fourth outlet of water is located in the middle of the village

As I came to the fourth outlet I saw a family, a father and his three little children, enjoy bathing at this outlet. I was so happy to see the people of this village using the water almost non-stop, one after another. Whereas before they hardly had a bath because of the scarcity of the clean water. Now, they can bathe at anytime and they really take the opportunity to clean themselves regularly.



The fifth outlet of water in the village

But, it was the fifth outlet that took the most interest of the people. I was sitting near there and observing people coming to use the water. And it was almost never vacant. One after another came to use the water. I first saw children come out of their homes to wash their clothes and bathe (as below) while other children enjoyed playing with the water.



Children washing clothes and bathing



Children enjoy bathing at the fifth outlet

So, all five water outlets in the village have plenty of water, more than enough, for villagers to use all five of them at the same time! We also provided underground pipe for used water to flow away cleanly. This means that the soil around the water outlets will remain dry and clean.

After that, we had a meeting with the village leaders and the local authority from Pak Ou District regarding the implementation of the Phase 2 of the project. The 2nd phase is to build 50



Pastor Tong Thor explains about how to build latrines

latrines, one for each household. The people had to dig their own latrine pits and we will provide 4 cement bags and sand for the construction of the latrines. They will also need to provide gravel, which can be obtained from the creeks near their village, and wall and roofing materials. We also explained to them about cleanliness and how to be healthy through eating plenty of vegetables. Now that there is no shortage of water we have encouraged them to start doing house gardens to grow organic vegetables for their consumption and for sale to improve their living standard.

Overall, it was a very rough trip to Mok Jong, not recommended for people with physical problems or with other challenges like back problem etc... It was a 2 hour on the homemade vehicle with no suspension or with jumping motorbikes. Either vehicle was not an easy trip. One of us actually fell onto a mud pool on the way back. The people of Mok Jong Village would like to thank the ASAP donor for making available the clean/running water for them and the latrines to improve their health and lives. May God be praised in all things we do.

Give Na Ang People Clean Water to Drink



The Village of Na Ang, Chomphet District, Luang Prabang Province, Laos. Situated around 40 km south of Luang Prabang City.

Na Ang Village is situated south of Luang Prabang on the other side of the Mekong River opposite the city of Luang Prabang. To go there one has to cross the Mekong by a ferry and take a local utility vehicle on a dusty road going southward towards Sayabouri Province, cross a few rivers, climb a few mountains, and finally will arrive at Na Ang Village which situated at the foot of a mountain, surrounded by many mountains.

Na Ang Village is inhabited by three major tribes of Laos. The Khmu tribes makes up the majority, followed by the Hmong, and a few lowland Lao families. There are 103 households with 556 people. The Khmu and Hmong are mostly Christians of different denominations, including a few newly converted Seventh-day Adventist families. This came about through God's intervention by positioning a rock to stop Pastor Bounprany's car, so that he had to stay overnight at this village and met Mr Bouaphanh who used to study a correspondence course offered through the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Laos.

Na Ang villagers are facing a lot of hardships. One of them is the lack of proper running water. I visited this village a day after visiting Mok Jong village where our water system was providing plentiful water to the people there. On the contrary, Na Ang water system that was constructed by the Swiss Red Cross, Luang Prabang branch, in 1999, has since dried up. It no longer produces water for the people. Without running water the 556 people and their animals have to turn to a muddy creek that flows through their village. When the Na Ang people learned that we provided water for Mok Jong Village they also requested us to consider helping them with their water problem. Thus, we decided to survey the water source with some village leaders. We went to inspect the cur-

rent water system that they have. And surely, the water only drips a few drops per second. Not even enough for a bird or a chicken to drink. It takes all night to collect a bucket of water that you see below. That is barely enough for one household for a day.



The outlet at the lowest point only gives a few drops of water

While the outlet at a higher point of the village is completely dried. There is not a single drop coming out of the pipe. And when we visited the main water tank we could not hear a sound of water flowing into the tank at all. It was deafly quiet. The people said that during the rainy season there was some water flowing, but still not enough for their consumption.

So, we began our journey to search for the water source.



The higher point outlet is empty dried

water source.



The new water source about 1 km from the vilalge

I used my watch to measure the height of the water source and it read 405 meters above sea level. Earlier, I measured the highest point of the village, where the existing Red Cross tank is located, it read 380 meters, and the lowest point where the dripping pipe was located it read 370 meters. This is possible to built a gravity fed water system if we use bigger pipe. I am confident that it can be done because the Red Cross water source is just 5 meters higher than the new water source. This new source of water is also clean, so clean that local farmers are drinking from it by just sticking a split bamboo into it.



The water tank built by Swiss Red Cross



Local made bamboo water system

How long can 556 people survive without clean drinking water? Fortunately, the rainy season is coming soon. But, then, the problem is that the streams will be muddier and dirtier, making it dangerously unsuitable for drinking.

They have asked the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Laos to help them build a clean water system. And we have a good experience in building a gravity fed water project at Mok Jong successfully. But our problem is that we do not have funds. If you are interested in providing funds for this project or know someone or some people who can please let us know. We will provide you with a proper project proposal for this water system. I expect that this project should not exceed \$10,000. If you cannot help at this time, please just pray for the people at Na Ang Village. I believe that God will do something for them. Thank you for praying. But, if you are like me, who believe that water can preach the gospel message to the people of Na Ang continuously and you are blessed with funds please consider investing in this new evangelistic venture.



The water source filter tank has very little water left

We walked through the bush, climbed several mountains, inspected several creeks and water holes. After 4 hours of walk until my feet blistered and my legs shaking, and my elbows started dripping water constantly, ironically more than the outlet they have in the village. We finally came across a possible

Please Pray for Keophet of Na Ang Village



Keophet is suffering from a mysterious illness

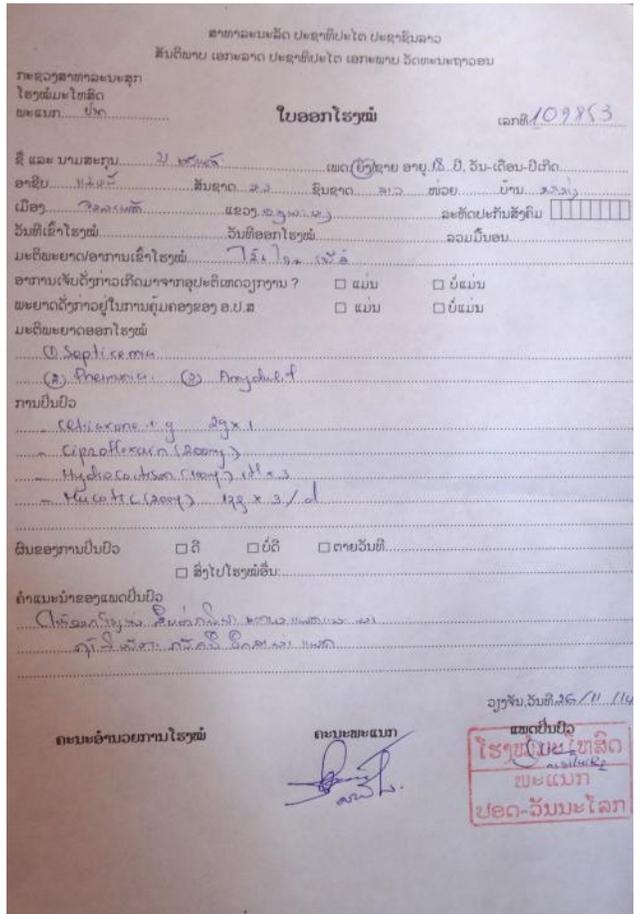
Keophet used to be a normal young lady, pleasant, talkative, and liked to sing praises to God at church worships. Now, she could not even utter a word because she is too weak to speak. What happened to her? What caused her to become so weak, so skinny, and just wasting away like this?

Keophet is a young 20 year-old Khmu lady, still in her prime life. She really loved singing at church. And then, one day in November 2014, she fell sick with fever. The family told me that they took her to a hospital and the doctors did several tests on her and prescribed medicines for them to buy for her. The condition did not improve and instead it got worse as time went by. Finally, after a couple of weeks in the hospital she could no longer speak. But, since the family had no more money to treat her she was discharged from the hospital. But her condition still did not improve. The family decided to sell everything they had, their farm land, their animals, and everything else, except their house where they live, and they tried another hospital. The result was still the same. They said she had Pneumonia, Septicaemia, arsenic poisoning, and many other things, but she did not get better. Finally, they ran out of money again and had to take her back home.

Keophet lives at Na Ang Village, Chomphet District, Luang Prabang, Laos. Na Ang is the village where a “miracle rock” stopped Pastor Bounprany’s car so that he could meet the Christian brothers and sisters there. During my last trip in March I visited the village and joined their worship there. This time I visited the village again to survey a cleaning water system. There I met Keophet’s father who took us to climb mountains after mountains looking for water sources while leaving his very sick daughter at home. I did not know that he had a very sick daughter at home. Only after the water survey and after lunch he asked me to go to his house to pray for his sick daughter. As I entered his house my heart sank as I saw a skeleton sitting in the middle of the ground floor of the house. She was so skinny and very weak.

I am not a doctor, but I cannot simply watch someone die without do-

ing something about it. I know I had to do something then for this young woman. But what could I do? After all, they had been to two hospitals already and she was seen by several medical doctors already. But, still I wanted to try something to help her. I could pray for her, that was her father’s original intention. But, I still wanted to do more than just praying for her. In my mind, I thought, should I give money to the family to seek medical help again? But, I did not know how much it would cost and I did not have enough money to help them anyway. Then, the thought came into my mind to use charcoal and to change her diet. You see, they only could give her rice porridge and she could only swallow just a little per day. She has severe sore throat. I felt her throat and could not feel any swelling glands. So, what caused so much pain in her throat?



This discharge form indicates Septicemia and Pneumonia

If she had Septicaemia why then I checked another blood test it did not show any abnormality, only a slightly high blood sugar level. If she had Pneumonia, but she breathed normally. Besides, if she had septicaemia or pneumonia since November 2014 she would have been dead long before I met her, six months after, in May 2015. So, surely it could not be any of the condition mentioned above. But what happened to her?

Why she still could not swallow and could not speak? As I investigated further the family they told me that their niece committed suicide in their house. And the village people believed that the ghost of their niece could be responsible



for her mysterious illness. But, the family are now Christians and they refused traditional healing method that involved invoking spirits of the ancestors to help. But, I couldn't rule out demon's involvement in her illness. As I investigated more of her medical documents I found diagnosis "Arsenic poisoning" in one document. But she did not show any arsenic poisoning symptoms to me. Very strange indeed.

So, in the end, I prayed for the girl asking God to heal her of her mysterious illness. And if she had been inflicted by demonic power I asked God to free her from that infliction too. Then, I instructed the family to provide her with fruit/vegetable shakes as her main source of nutrition intake. I also told them to make charcoal paste to wrap around her neck and change it every 4 hours. We continued to pray for her. That was last week, 7 May 2015. A week later, 15 May 2015, I rang up to check on her condition. She became better! She could swallow food now, but she still could not speak audibly yet. The pain also subsided a great deal. So, please continue to pray for this young woman and her family. They have no money left to spend on her medicines. Only God who can heal her. She has no one else to turn to, but God alone.

Xieng Khouang School



The current third classroom of our school in Xieng Khouang

Our Xieng Khouang Language School has 3 classrooms: one in the living room, another in the kitchen, and the third is at the front of the house. But, the problem is that the rain is coming. In fact, it has already started raining in Xieng Khouang the day I arrived there, 28 April 2015. And more dark clouds were forming as evening approaches. How can kids study under the canvas sheet?



Dark clouds forming—our third classroom is in trouble

will get wet and so does the teacher.

At first we planned to build a 2 classroom school just to temporarily accommodate the kitchen and third classrooms. But, the Lord has impressed us to build a 4 classroom school building instead. So, as our land is limited, our new school building will be 2 storey building with 4 classrooms.



The foundation of the new two-storey school building

cost \$35,000 to build. We do not have that much money! But, we still need to build the school and build it quickly. We thank God for our donors who have given towards this school project. We have received 200,000 Thai Baht (\$6,500) for one donor. Another 6,000 British Pound (\$9,211) is on its way from our donors in Britain. A pledge of \$10,000 has also been received from a donor in USA. So far, we have received funds and pledged funds of \$25,711. We still need \$9,289.00 to complete the construction.

Please pray for us and especially for the underprivileged children of Xieng Khouang who depend on our Language School in Xieng Khouang as the only place they can afford to study English. This is because we charge only \$3 per month. This is not even enough to pay wages of our teachers. But, even \$3 per month many kids still could not afford to pay. Our enrolment now stands at 130 students. And since we began in June 2014 until now seven students have accepted Jesus as their Savior. More students have since joined our Sabbath worships regularly.

Give Thunwa A Smile

FUNDRAISING SACRED CONCERT

ORGANIZED BY AIU CHURCH PATHFINDER CLUB

Asia-Pacific International Church
Saturday, May 9, 2015 4:00 PM

"We make a living by
what we get. We make
a life by what we give."

Winston S. Churchill



If you have any questions, please contact the Fundraising
Concert organizers @ naltan@apiu.edu and @ ritha@apiu.edu

AIU Pathfinder Club raises fund to help Boy Thunwa

Give Thunwa a Smile

On 15 May 2015, Al Jazeera news told that a cleft palate baby was found buried alive in China. My heart sank when the news said that the perpetrators were nobody else but his own parents and grandma. Grandma had hired someone to discard the baby because he was born with a cleft palate. The boy was put in a box and left outside in the bush for 4 days and when it was thought to be dead the hired man took him to bury. Later, someone overheard the cry of the baby and took him to the hospital. And it happened that the hospital was the one he was delivered. So, the hospital could identify the parents and thus the story above came into light.

Thank God that Thunwa's mother loves her baby. She is poor and has 3 other children, Thunwa's siblings, to care for. Her husband is not a responsible person. Instead, he blamed her new faith in God as the cause of all the bad lucks that happened to their family. Thunwa may be lucky not to be discarded and buried alive, but unknowingly to him, his mother is suffering miserably. I thank God for people like you, the members of the Vientiane Church, Laos, where Thunwa's mother goes to worship, who try to care for them as much as they could. I thank God for people like you, members of the Darwin Seventh-day Adventist Church, Northern Territory, Australia, who have poured your hearts to help Thunwa.

I sincerely thank God for the love gifts from many of you who have given unreservedly to help Thunwa. And lately, the Asia-Pacific International University Pathfinder Club (AIU Pathfinder Club) has taken a task of raising funds to support Thunwa. The Pathfinders club members have done car wash, selling things, and also a concert to raise funds for Thunwa. I was told that many have poured out their hearts and opened their pockets to give to help Thunwa. I heard that some who missed out the concert also sent their love gifts to Thunwa later. The love gifts just kept coming. As of today, Friday, 21 May 2015, 23,033.50 Thai Baht was received for Thunwa. This is a love gift from AIU kids to a Lao kid.

I am sure you have given Thunwa a smile. All of you have. May the Lord richly repay your kindness and generosity toward this unfortunate

Contact Us

You can write to us or give us a call for more information about our work and other mission projects.

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boy named Thunwa. I believe that he will grow up remembering your kindness and grateful to be alive and well. He will become one of God's servants and serve His God, praising Him for all He has done to him through you all.



AIU kids singing for Thunwa



AIU kids singing for Thunwa

LAF has set up a special account for Thunwa. All your donations will be kept in this account and use to buy milk, medicines, and other necessities for Thunwa. We thank you all for your love gifts to Thunwa. May God bless you. We have secured an appointment for Thunwa to be operated at the National Hospital. Once he gains 8 kg he will be operated. Please continue to pray for Thunwa.