

STICKY RICE MINISTRY

Lao Attached Field Newsletter

February 2017

Aussies Go to Laos



Darwin Seventh-day Adventist Church members visited the first Adventist church in Laos, built in 1969

This year, January 23-31, 2017, these Aussies from Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia, came to visit Laos again. Why are they visiting Laos again and again? What attract them here every year? What connection do these Aussies have with Laos?

If you come to visit Laos for the first time it is more likely that you will fall in love with Laos and would want to come back again and again like these Aussies. There are many things in Laos that you will want to come back for them again. If you are a committed Christian you will find that there are a lot of things you can do to bless the people of Laos and be blessed yourself.

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A chance to ride on a Lao Land Cruiser

After visiting the first Adventist Church in Laos, they traveled on to visit another church in northern Laos and had a chance to ride on a Lao Land Cruiser.



Mae Daeng: First Adventist in Laos

When she was baptized by Pastor Dick Hall in 1960 she was just a little girl. Now old but she still keeps her faith alive in Luang Namtha where religious freedom is the most restricted in the country. When we visited her she was so glad to see us and 'forced' us to eat with her. Moreover, she kept asking for *Ai Hall* (Brother Hall). She wants to see him again before she dies.



Then, they traveled 3.5 hours to the birth place of Adventism in Laos, Luang Namtha. In 1957, the Halls (Dick and Jean Hall) first came to Laos. They settled in a small town in Northern Laos, called Luang Namtha. They worked there for 3.5 years and had to be evacuated due to the fighting during the Indochina War. Before they left they had baptized hundreds of people and built a church in Luang Namtha.



The Aussies were sampling the real food that was offered to them from the real woman of faith.



This is the church that the Halls built in 1960. Unfortunately, it was later destroyed in the war. The young-in-faith members were scattered after their shepherds had left. Some resettled near the border of Thailand and later built a church in Nam Yawn Village, near Houay Say City in 1969.

Their church later became the first Adventist church building that was still standing.



A rare moment. These lucky Aussies have got a chance to stand along with the first Adventist woman in Laos. They have become a piece of history now.

What Darwin Church Members have Done in Laos So Far...

The Darwin Church members have made such a big impact in the work of God in Laos. I was so blessed to have been a pastor of this church twice, in 2001 and in 2009-2011.

It was July 2011 that I had to leave the people I love in Darwin for the mission field in Laos. Physically apart but we are never spiritually disconnected from each other. The Darwin Church members have been praying for me and supporting my work (the Lord's work rather) in Laos.

Some major contributions that the Darwin Church members have made to God's work in Laos have totaled more than US\$136,000.

1. Built Vientiane 2nd Church \$20,000.
2. Built Roy Fietz Hostel \$30,000.
3. Built Hua Khua Church, Vientiane \$13,000.
4. Two theology Scholarships in Philippines \$30,000.
5. Two ESL Scholarships in Thailand \$10,000.
6. Bought a van for LAF use in mission work \$10,000.
7. Helped buy a pastor's house, Vientiane \$7,000.
8. Purchased 9 acre land in Luang Prabang \$12,000.
9. Contributed to purchase a church/school in Luang Prabang \$5,000.
10. Purchased land for Nam Thouam Church, Luang Prabang \$3,000.
11. Bought an access land to Roy Fietz Hostel \$6,000.

In additions, they also have been helping with evangelistic materials, the needy, and other things. Thank you all of you for your love towards the Lao people.



Aussies and Lao Elephants

There were other things that these Aussies had done during this visit. One of them is to enjoying riding on the Lao elephants, visiting to the waterfalls near Luang Prabang, and cruising along the Mekong River.



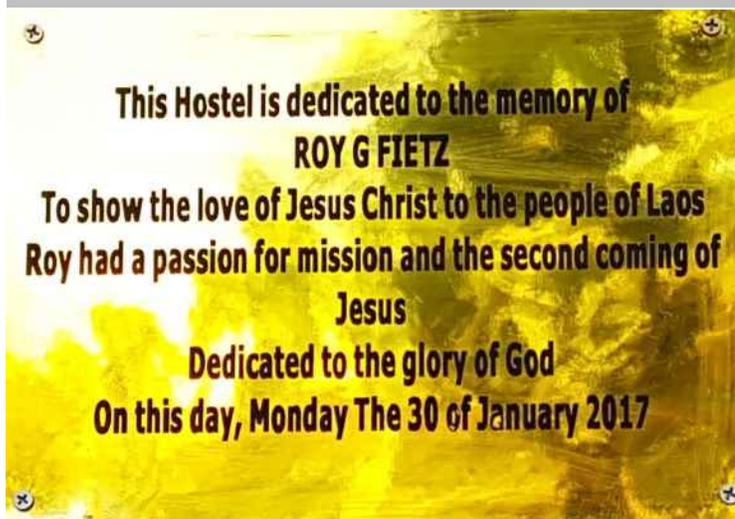
Robyn even got a chance to learn how to weave. It was an enjoyable trip—a combination of church and personal.

May God richly bless you all. Please keep us in your hearts and continue to pray for us here in Laos.



Roy G. Fietz Youth Hostel Opening Ceremony

On the 30th of January 2017 the Roy G. Fietz Youth Hostel was officially opened by the Fietz family: Gordon, Yvonne, Shelley, and Daniel. It is a legacy of the late Roy Fietz whose passion was for young people. Who would have ever fathom that Roy's estate would be used to build this youth hostel for the young people in Laos—a monument he would love to have done it himself.



The plaque said it all. We are truly thankful to the Fietz family who has blessed the young people in Laos with this two storey youth hostel. It was built with a budget of US\$30,000, a big sum of money for one family to give. This giving was not only a great blessing to the Lao Adventist youth who need a place to stay but also was a direct answer to prayers of the homeless Adventist youth who were once stayed at the back of the old Vientiane Church.

It was in 2016 when the old Vientiane church was to be demolished to make way for a new multipurpose and multistorey building to be built. There were 12 youth who slept at the back of the then

old Vientiane Church building. Where would they go? Then, the Fietzes offered to help build a youth hostel for the Lao Adventist homeless and needy youth.

Having money to build is not enough, but a piece of land has to be found first. It happened also that Pastor Houmphanh Kongsengphengphet, the pioneering Adventist pastor in Laos, also saw the need. He and his family donated a piece of land for us to build the hostel. He earlier donated a piece of land for us to build a church which is near a hostel. The dedication of Pastor Houmphanh also needs to be recognized. Land is very expensive in Vientiane. He could have sold it and make good profits out of it, but he chose to give it to the church. May God repay him and his family, too. Below are the Fietzes and Pr Houmphanh in front of their hostel.

