

STICKY RICE MINISTRY

Lao Attached Field Newsletter

October 2015

Lao Attached Field Retreat 12-15 October 2015



Twenty Lao Attached Field staff: 10 pastors, 3 finance officers, 1 Manna Restaurant manager, 1 honorary Education director, 1 Women and Children Ministries director, and 3 lay Executive Committee members came to Udon Thani for a 4 day retreat, 12-15 October 2015. Well, it should not be called a "Retreat" since we did not retreat, but rather moved forward in faith. We should actually call it a "Review and Revive" rather. That was what we did in those four days. We looked at what we did best and tried to improve on them. We also looked at what we did not do so well and tried to correct them.

Many issues were brought to discuss in those days. Many felt that the time was too short. So, unimportant issues were left behind. But after all, it was a time of refreshing, reflection, and renewal of our commitment to the Lord and to advance His work in Laos. This year, we had a few new faces, young pastors who joined us for the first time, like pastors Singkham Phouliphan (Youth director), Saisavanh Phouliphan (Publishing director), and Bounthanh Lee (Thongnamee pastor).

There are many challenges ahead of us when we reviewed our Strategic Plan 2013-2020, now 2016-2020. Within the next 5 years we hope to establish Adventist presence in all 18 provinces of Laos! This is a big leap of faith when we considers a couple of decades ago, in 1991 when Pastor Houmphanh Kongsengphengphet and his family repatriated from France for the sake of the gospel, there were less than 20 members without a pastor in Vientiane church only. Pastor Houmphanh then started working boldly and tirelessly, facing all kinds of obstacles including 7 months imprisonment, and he was able to produce several workers for the Lao church. Even pastor Bounprany Vannady, current LAF president, is also a product of Pr Houmphanh's ministry. He was baptized in 1993 and was the first Lao Adventist who was sent to study theology at Mission College in

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Pastor Houmphanh and his children in front of the Vientiane Church in 1991

1995, Thailand. Looking back to 20 members in 1991 without a pastor, now in 2015, LAF has over 1,300 baptized members scattered in 14 provinces of Laos, worshipping in 4 organized churches, 10 companies, 4 organized groups, 29 house churches, a youth hostel, and 2 language centers.

We certainly have come a long way within two decades despite many challenges, limitations, and restrictions. Looking forward, by 2020 we hope to have 10 organized churches, 10 companies, and 15 groups, 5 language centers, 1 clinic, 1 Adventist media center, 1 health food restaurant, 1 health food store, and 1 Adventist Academy.



Pr Bounprany presented a memory card to Pr Houmphanh

At the LAF Retreat we also bid farewell to Pastor Houmphanh as he officially retired from full-time ministry. It was a sad and sol-



Pr Rungsit Sattayawaksakul, former TAM president, took the opening devotion

emn occasion as almost all of LAF workers are products of Pastor Houmphanh's ministry. Pastor Houmphanh is indeed a patriarch of the Lao SDA Church. He is the one who pioneered the SDA church in Laos in the modern time. It is sad to see him leave the full-time ministry. We wish pastor Houmphanh God's rich blessings and long and happy life.

Miracles Give Birth to More New Lives in Vientiane

Two different people with two different problems. Mai Wue came from Xayaboury province to a hospital in Vientiane. She has problems with her legs. The doctors said that she had bad blood vessels. She was hospitalized for 2 months, but her condition did not improve. Finally, she was given a phone number of Pastor Sadua Lee. He went to pray for her and the next day she became much better. Finally, she was able to walk and discharged from the hospital. After bible study she was baptized on 31 October 2015.



Mai Wue was baptized on 31 October

Lee Wang came from Bokeo Province with her husband to Vientiane because of her husband's job. They rented a house which was haunted. Lee Wand was disturbed by the evil spirits. As she slept at night she

would be possessed and lost her consciousness. She would do things without knowing what she did. Pastor Sadua Lee was invited to pray for her and her family.



Lee Wang was baptized on 31 October

After prayers she was freed from the spirits' harassments. She gave her life to God and began studying the bible with Pastor Sadua Lee. Finally, she was baptized on 31 October 2015. We praise God for His miracles that made these women to give their lives to Him. Here in Laos, miracles are happening almost everyday. Praise God. Amen!

New Life Begins at North Thongnamee Church



Thongnamee Church, Borikhamxay Province, Central Laos—Past and Present

It is not hard to imagine how life in the old and new Thongnamee church would be like. Once dirt floor and turned muddy when it rained, not concrete floor and no dripping rains onto your heads. But, it is not just the church building that is breathing new life the children are also giving new hope to the future of this church.



Pr Bounthan Lee is teaching enthusiastic children oral hygiene

Hill tribe children often lack general hygiene knowledge. As a result, many of them get sick unnecessarily. Pastor Bounthan Lee with his fiancée who is a registered nurse from Mountain View College, Philippines, reached out to the children at Thongnamee with the health message. Last weekend they conducted an oral hygiene course for children and many children with their parents came to learn how to take care of their oral health.



Brushing teeth can be fun and enjoyable

Young children, old children, and parents crowded into the Thongnamee church to participate in the hygiene demonstration led by Pastor Bounthan Lee and Gail Basilio.



Pr Bounthan Lee enjoys getting his hands wet

Although bathing children and teaching them how to properly brush their teeth may seem a simply activity, but it really caught the attention of many villagers. The big question echoed in the mind of the parents is that why these people care so much about our children? As a result, they came with their children and had a social meal together in the church.



People, young and old, crowded the church for lunch

This is what Jesus would have done if He were to come to Thongnamee Village. So, I would like to say "Well Done" to Pastor Bounthan Lee and his fiancée, Gail Basilio, for their efforts in reviving the Thongnamee church. At one time, hit by internal and external problems, this church was almost closed. There were only 4-5 members left in the church. Now, you can see how lively the church is. Over 50 children frequent the church programs such as health and English tutoring. Please pray for Pastor Bounthan Lee and Gail Basilio as they minister to the people at Thongnamee. And if you would like to help their ministry please let us know.

The Telephone Pastor is on the Move Again



Pastor Sadua Lee, LAF Evangelist, gives a Radio-MP3 device to a man at the side of the road

Some of you would still remember that Pastor Sadua Lee has got a nickname as the “telephone pastor.” He has earned that nickname because he uses telephone to reach the unreached people. He would call people who he knows and share with them the gospel message. And many times, those whose lives had been changed by the gospel would tell others about their experience and pastor Sadua Lee would receive more phone calls from people from all corners of the country asking about God and how to become Christians. He even used to conduct a ritual of giving up the spirit worship over the phone. He would pray for sick people over the phone and so on.

Along with telephone pastor Sadua Lee has also been giving out radio fitted with MP3 devices to many people. I would like to thank my beloved Darwin SDA Church members from Northern Territory, Australia, who have continuously been supporting this project with their funds. Not only this project, but they have helped Laos with many mission projects and needs. This time, we were able to buy 12 MP3 devices and they were gone just like hot cakes. Pastor Sadua Lee would put in the MP3 device sermons, bible studies, and uplifting Christian hymns and songs. People who have this MP3 device can study the bible, learn how to worship God, and even start a house church worship with it. As a result, people in remote area have been reached by the MP3 devices. Because Lao Attached Field (LAF) is still a very young mission, due to financial limitation, it cannot afford sending its pastors to every corner of the country. But the MP3 can go to every corner of the country. People who have received them listened to them and shared them with their family and friends. In this way, the gospel is being preached by

the people to the people.



The twelve “apostles” who are going to take the gospel to every corner of Laos

An MP3 device like the ones above fitted with SD cards costs around US\$35 each. Consider what it can do I think it is not expensive at all to spend \$35 for an ‘MP3 preacher’ that can preach anytime and anywhere without getting tired. Besides, you don’t have to worry about giving stipends to this preacher. All you need to do is to sponsor the initial \$35 for this non-human preacher and it will do the job again and again without getting tired. Just imagine how many people it can preach to and there is no limit to where it can go. I think it is a great way to share the gospel message by having a non-human ‘preacher’ to work on our behalf. This preacher never gets tired, doesn’t need to be fed, and can go where we cannot. Most importantly it is working and effective.

We would like to make sure that we have these devices in our



Another woman who is glad to receive the MP3 device

car when we travel around to visit members.

In the street or in the hotel room people would come to meet pastor Sadua Lee to get their MP3 devices.



Pastor Sadua Lee would receive phone calls from different people and they would come to the side of the road waiting for our car to pass-by and we can give them the devices. Some would even make a trip to our hotel room to pick it up. The devices are so popular as words of mouth spread around and the demand for the MP3 devices is expected to increase as more people begin to tell each other about it. So, if you are interested in sponsoring this non-human 'preacher' please let us know. We will be glad to put your sponsored 'preachers' to work as soon as possible.

This is a non-threatening way to share the gospel message in Laos. And since we only give to the ones who ask for them it is not wasteful. So, I praise God for my Darwin Church members who have been faithfully supporting this project and other projects as well. May God bless you all.

Thunwa Gained 7 Kg



For those of you who have donated funds to help Thunwa we are glad to announce to you that now Thunwa has reached 7 kg of weight already. This means that we can now go back to see the doctors and make necessary arrangements for him to receive operations to repair his cleft palate.

The mother is grateful to the church for the help given to her and her child. She publicly declared that she had never seen such kind of love that the church people gave to her and her child. She said, "Even her own blood family does not show the kind of love and care like the kind of love that church people give to her."

So, thank you all who have contributed funds to us to enable us to show such divine love towards Thunwa and his mother. With your continuous help we will make sure that Thunwa gets proper medical care he needs and help his mother care for Thunwa until such time when they can look after themselves.

LAF has set up a "Care for Thunwa" trust fund. If you would like to contribute to this fund please don't hesitate to let us know. Boy Thunwa is a beautiful child of God. When he grows up he will remember that God has given him a new look and new life and you were part of his reason to praise God and serve Him.

Praise be to God who will bless Boy Thunwa with a new look and new life.



Current Jiang Say Church at worship as on 31 October 2015

New Lives Born to Jiang Say Church

When one looks at this church it does not look like a church. It is an open church with low walls and roof. It is nice and cool if there is no rain. But if it rains and windy then the church turns into a water fight. Despite all these setbacks the people keep coming to worship at this place.

If the unfinished church building could attract people to Jesus how much more the decent church building could do? The church building may look unattractive but the members of this church and leaders are caring and loving. This is what keeps people interested in coming to this church.



Members of Jiang Say Church at worship

The 3 young people who were baptized today are young professionals, a teacher, a technician, and a business woman. The Jiang Say church is sitting on a bypass road of the Highway 13, just 1 km from the 6 lane concrete road. It is at a prime area of the growing urbanization of Pakse City, the Southern Regional Capital. It is our hope to finish the construction of the Jiang Say church and its pastor's residence, toilet facility, and water system.

Please remember praying for the Jiang Say church construction. This is the only church that has received a written permission to build from the local authority. Here we have been given freedom to worship and practise our religion. As you can see, we could even held a baptism in full sight of tourists who were playing at the waterfalls.



Praying before baptism at a waterfall



Pastor Soui King-Anong baptized all 3 of them together (three-in-one baptism)



The joy of being saved and becoming God's children



Baptized at one of the beautiful waterfalls of Southern Laos

More importantly, this church serves as the Southern base for our One-Year-In-Mission (OYIM) phase 5. Our young people will stay here at this church and work in this area. They will spread the seed of the gospel in this area in the next 6 months. Please pray that through their work many more people will be added to the Kingdom of God and join the Jiang Say church.

Thank you for all your prayers and support to the work of God in Laos. May God be praised. Amen!