



NAMTHIP SAVAN LANGUAGE CENTRE, XIENG KHOUANG, LAOS

StickyRice Ministry

SEPTEMBER 2016

Namtip Savan Language Centre

By: Pon Leap Pen

What a blessing from God to have Namtip Savanh English Centre in Xieng Khouang province. This little English centre has started in June 2014 with only 10 students. A month later we had 71 students. As time went by our students increased to more than a hundred students. By August 2016 we had 202 students.

We had to open another branch at *Ban* (Village) Morn. We teach there in the morning from 6-7 am. There are two classes there in the morning. A Sunday keeping church in *Ban* Morn has come and requested us to teach at their church. There are many students that want to come to learn English at Namtip Savanh but *Ban* Morn is a bit far and many young students cannot travel to study at our main centre. So because of this problem we decided to go and teach at *Ban* Morn by travelling there on motorbike every morning. It takes 20 minute to get there. So from May until now we have been travelling to teach at *Ban* Morn in the morning. And in the evening we teach at Namtip Savanh at *Ban* Gnoy, the main centre.

Right now we have 2 places to teach. One at *Ban* Morn and one at *Ban* Gnoy. At *Ban* Morn right now there are 36 students. They are really willing to learn English there.

So this is what we have been doing so far. We teach in the morning at 6 am and in the evening we teach at our Namtip Savanh Centre. We are very happy that we have this little English school. It has grown and we can see that God has blessed this place with many things. We thank God for His love. God has also worked in the hearts of some of our students. Through learning English with us some students have decided to accept Christ as their personal Savior. On July 23, 2016, we witnessed 10 students baptized by Pastor Bounprany and Pastor Chi Her. We praise God for these new souls. Now these students are very active in the church. Every Sabbath, after worship at our church in town, they would go out to *Ban Phu Keng* (Keng Mountain Village) to lead the worship there. Many members in Phu Keng want to come to worship with us, but due to difficulties with transportation so our students and Pr. Chi Her take the church to them every Sabbath afternoon. Thank God for these students.

We also thank God for our teachers here at Namtip Savanh English Centre. Right now we have 4 teachers to teach in Namtip Savanh. Our teachers are very important for our English Centre. We are happy to have them here. But we also have some difficulties sometimes. But we pray that God will lead us and do the best for him in this place.

May God bless Namtip Savanh English Centre to be more effective and can bring many more souls to Him and be prepared for the Second Coming of Christ!



July 13, 2016, 19 souls were baptized into the Lord, including 10 students.



Young missionaries take church to members who are not able to come to church in town.

Namthip Savan, Luang Prabang

By: Khamsay Phetchareun

If we view Laos as a Buddhist country then Luang Prabang is the Buddhist Capital City of Laos. It has hundreds of Buddhist temples. It is the cradle of Buddhist civilization of Laos. Every early morning Buddhist monks will file the streets collecting alms and the people of Luang Prabang would fill the streets giving alms to the monks.



In fact, many tourists go to Luang Prabang to see Buddhist temples and rituals. Luang Prabang was listed as a world heritage city in 1995 partly because of its unique Buddhist tradition and architecture.

How can Christianity ever take roots in Luang Prabang? This city does not want to welcome anything that is not authentically of Lao origins. Of course Christianity is not of Lao origin and therefore it is not welcome in Luang Prabang. How then can the gospel be ever accepted in Luang Prabang?



Traditional approach to evangelism in Luang Prabang simply does not work. But, people everywhere are the same. They are all sinners. They are all in need of food, shelter, and self-actualization, and also the need for love, belonging, and security is also essential. That is why our Luang Prabang branch of Namthip Savan Language School is filling these needs for young students in Luang Prabang. Because of tourists and tourist industries English language is much sought after in Luang Prabang. By teaching English to our students we will surely cultivate friendship and trust with our students which we hope will lead to spiritual interest.



Students have filled this one classroom facility that has been used as classroom during the week days and on Sabbaths 30-40 church members use this place for worship. Thus, there is a real need to build more classrooms and a larger worship room for increasing members in Luang Prabang.

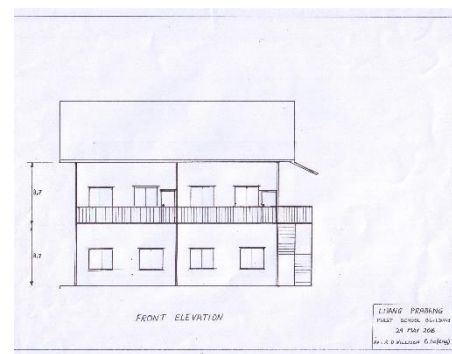
Earlier in March 2016 pastor Tong Thor baptized 23 more souls in Luang Prabang. The gospel has been well accepted by the Hmong and the Khmu people in Luang Prabang.

It will be a pity if we limit ourselves to just one classroom and deny many more people who



would like to study at our language centre there in Luang Prabang.

Realizing this urgent need LAF has started fundraising towards building a 4 full-sized classroom school building. Full-sized classroom in Laos must be at least 5x7 m. We are building a 6x8m classroom. Our



classrooms can also be used a normal classrooms for kindergarten and primary school during the day. Especially, kindergarten is in high demand in Laos as young parents need somewhere to care for their children when they go to work. LAF also senses this need and would love to extend our work to the kindergarten industry as this will extend our opportunities to reach out to young parents and young professionals as well.

We will need a total of \$51,550 to complete this project. So far, we have received pledges amount to \$17,127.14. This means we still need \$34,422.86 to reach our goal. If you would like to be part of this outreach program in Luang Prabang which has a great potential to reach thousands of Luang Prabang people please let us know.

For those who have not seen our Luang Prabang property we are just 2 km from the Soupanouvong University, 1 km to a Law school, 800 m to a School of Politics (government leadership school) and a Police Academy. What an opportunity!

God's Hand is Not Short

By: Khamsay Phetchareun

GOD'S PROMISE TO ALL OF US

"Behold, the LORD'S hand is not so short that it cannot save; nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear" (Isaiah 59:1, NASV).

Things already started to go wrong right from the start of our journey. First, it was our old 16 year old 4x4 Toyota Landcruiser Pado that broke down and had to undergo a major repair. Second, we were left with no choice but to take the van which is a 2-wheel drive vehicle, not suitable for rainy season drive in Laos.

Then, it has been raining every day since the day we started our travel north. It was a very rough and dangerous journey. We passed by numerous cars and trucks that were either stuck in the mud or skid off the road. It was a slow and grueling travel indeed. We went to Luang Namtha, Bokeo, Oudomxay, and then Luang Prabang. We also hoped to go and visit Xieng Khouang.

By the time we arrived back in Luang Prabang from Oudomxay we heard reports of landslides and floods on the roads to Vientiane and Xieng Khouang. Then, that night the Khan River broke its bank and flooded Xieng Ngern District right to the roof of several houses. We could not go back to Vientiane unless the flood water subsided. So, we stayed one more night in Luang Prabang. The next morning we asked around and people said yes we could go.

We started up our journey back to Vientiane early to get ahead of many cars who have also waited to go back to Vientiane. We passed through Xieng Ngern and damages could still be visible as we drove past.



For some of you who do not know much about Laos there are three roads connecting Luang Prabang to Vientiane. The shortest and newest road is very winding and steep about 14 degrees for several kilometers. Using this road can save about 2 hours when compared with the old road which is more winding and longer. The third road is very long and has to go through Xayaboury province going down to the border of Thailand and curve around the Mekong River to enter via north of Vientiane. Not many would like to take this third road since it will also involve a long wait for a ferry to cross the Mekong River at Pak Lai District.

So, we decided to take the old road as we believed that it would not have many mud slides, being an old road. But, just 1 hour from Luang Prabang we saw a long queue of trucks and buses ahead of us. Furthermore, we did not see any incoming cars. We went further anyhow and this is what we saw.



Two buses collided and it left only a narrow gap just enough for small cars to squish through. After a bit of struggle we went through all right. Then, we had a quite pleasant drive. I was surprised though why I did not see any incoming cars? Then, about 1 hour later we encountered another row of trucks and buses.



We were forced to stop our car and many people were there talking and standing. Looking down the valley I saw a long queue of trucks, buses, and cars. It did not look good. The queue was long and still there must be more cars that I could not see.

Everything stood still. There were no cars going and no cars coming. People stood around chatting and calling on their phones. Others started cooking and eating.



I met a couple and asked if they know what really went wrong. They said there was a big landslide ahead and the authority is working to clear it. They have been waiting here since last night. So, we had no option but to turn back to Luang Prabang.



We turned back and with difficulties and several delays we were able to get through back to Xieng Ngern. Hungry we stopped by the side of the road at the junction of the newest and shortest road was. We talked to some people there who also turned back from the old road with us. They said that they called their friends and they said the new road is now okay. Well, we headed there right away without eating. We were keen to go ahead of the pack.

Entering into the new road for a while, things seemed to be fine. And then as we started to climb we saw cracked roads that looked like earthquake damages.



But some cars still went ahead of us. So, we went further with them. Then, all the sudden, out of the blue, the clutch did not work and we could not shift gears. How could we go further? We could not go further and we could not go back. Even if we wanted to go

back how could we make a three point turn when we could not even shift gears?

Pushing the car around we were able to manage to get its head back downhill. We started the car and it jumped. The clutch pedal was stuck and could not be pulled back up either. I asked why God, "Why did you allow our car to break down like this?" This is a major breakdown. How can we go back to Luang Prabang which is more than 2 hour drive on normal speed? And as we slowly went downhill with gear one I told Saisana, the driver, to try to use his foot to pull up the clutch and try to use it again. Voila! It worked! We were able to return to Luang Prabang that day with no more problem on the clutch. And the next morning we drove back to Vientiane via the longest road and pressed the clutch thousands of times it did not have any problem. Even until today the clutch of that car did not give us any more trouble.

So, what can I say? It is simple. The Lord caused our car clutch to breakdown to stop us from going further. But why? Well, we just learned that those who went ahead of us that day got stuck further up in the mountains. Remember, that road is very steep and it leads up to very high mountains. Up there, if we were to go further we would have to stay overnight there. We would be hungry and cold. We had no food in the car and already skipped lunch. We had no blanket in the car and temperature up there at night is freezing cold. It is cold even in the hottest day.

So, we thank God for causing our car to breakdown and forcing us to make a U-turn back to Luang Prabang. We truly had a good sleep that night. We snored our way till the morning.



Although we had to take a long way to Vientiane and had to cross the ferry like this at least we were able to get home safely.

It was mudslide like this that held up cars from going further. Not only one but many places that mudslides caused road closures. At certain places the road turned into the river of mud and rocks.



Even 4x4 cars would give up because there is no passage. Travelling in Laos during monsoon season can be unpredictable. We should stock up enough water and food and blankets just in case we have to sleep in the jungle.

I thank God for His miracle. He used to stop Pastor Bounprany's car and forced him to stay overnight in a village so he could meet a long lost Seventh-day Adventist. This time He just broke our car for no apparent reason to save us from getting stuck in the mountains preventing us from getting hungry and cold.

I think when bad things happen to us, don't just be negative and complaining. It may be a blessing in disguise. In our case, our clutch worked perfectly fine after that incident. Who could have done such a thing? We just want to thank God for breaking down our car that day. I could not fathom how we would survive the cold of 1800 m mountain and constant rain that night. Instead, we were able to sleep in soft pillows in our guesthouse comfortably that night because God stopped us from going further.

Baptism in Vientiane

By: Singkham Phouliphan

On August 27, 2016, there was a baptism in Vientiane where 8 people were baptized.



Everyone has a story about how God led them to know Him or how they were found by God through His believers and workers in Laos. Below is a story of Somhuck Inthavong as she told to Pastor Singkham Phouliphan.



My name is Some Huck Inthavong. I was a widow living in Vientiane Capital City. My headband left me and my daughter since she was just a baby. He said that he would go to look for a job in Thailand. But, later I found out that he had already married another lady. Since then my life was broken and miserable. I had to raise up my daughter alone with a job as a tailor. Many times I contemplated on taking my own life. I almost succeeded in ending my life. Then, one day my friend, a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, shared with me her life's testimony of how Jesus had changed her life and she invited me to her church. First time at the church I was quite lost and did not know what to do, but thanks to God the church pastor and church members were so kind to me. They welcomed me like I was a family member. Weeks later the pastor invited me for bible study. I am so happy now I have found the truth about God, a loving and caring God who I have never known before. On August 27, 2016, I desired to give my life to Jesus and be baptized. I am so happy now and my life was changed from a lonely and sad person to a happy person with a meaningful life. Please pray for my 19 years old daughter to know Jesus too, I really want her to know Jesus as well.

The Poorest of the Poor

By: Khamsay Phetchareun

Then, in April 2016 this widow (pictured below) was naked and tagged by society as crazy. So, the relatives chained her to her own house post. There she was for over two months before Pastor Sadua Lee found her and prayed for her deliverance. After several struggles with the devil Pastor Sadua Lee, through the power of Jesus, was finally



victorious over the power of Satan. And the widow Seng Siong was liberated.

After a couple of week of bible studies the widow and two of her grown up children were baptized and joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church on 11 June 2016.



I was able to visit Oudomxay in August 2016. I went to see the widow's house. When I got there which was nearly night time the widow was not at home. I found only two of her youngest kids at home by themselves. What I found in her house or I should say what I did not find in the house rather really shocked me.

I saw for myself the house post where the widow was chained to for two months. All these months she was bound to this post, naked and seen as dangerous. How much she



had suffered I could not imagine. I could see that she was not treated with dignity.

You see, this widow was earlier possessed by the devil and now she possesses nothing. Looking at every corner of her house I could not find anything valuable or edible, not even a sack of rice. Looking at her kitchen I found only a few empty bowls and a couple of empty pots, but nothing else. How can people live like this? Without anything!



You might wonder how this widow got to this point of life, living with nothingness. Prior to her being possessed by the spirits her husband took ill. He later became seriously ill, so much so that she had to be by his side all the times. They had spent every penny to care for him—the bread winner of the family. He finally passed away, leaving behind 5 young children and a wife who was weak and completely broke.

You see, many people in Laos are subsistent farmers. This means they would farm on the mountain sides using "slash and burn" type of farming. Often, if in a good year their crops would be just enough for feeding their families. In a bad year, they would suffer. But this woman was not able to farm at all because she had to take care of her sick husband. Then, after he died several days later she, herself was in trouble. She was possessed by evil spirits. I know, some of you in the West may not attribute her condition to evil spirits possession. You need to see it yourself to believe.

Out of sympathy, her neighbors took her to the hospital, but they had no money to pay for the medicines. They took her to the shamans, again with no money the shamans didn't want to help her either. Not knowing what to do, they decided to chain her to her own house post. And there she was for two months. Being chained to the post he could not do any farming. And the farming season passed.

Now that she has gained her conscience and become sane again she and her older children have to go and help the neighbors doing their farming in exchange for their daily foods. That is why when I visited her house, even late in the evening, I could not find her. She was still out in the mountains.

Her house and the condition inside her house gave me pain in my heart. Why Lord, why so many people are so poor? And it seems that I am powerless to make any change in their lives. What should we do, as a church, to improve the condition of their lives? For this, I thank a friend from Singapore who read about this widow in my last newsletter and was impressed to give some money, USD200.00, for us to buy educational materials for her kids to go to school and



some rice and other necessities for the family.

This is her humble home, looking from outside. Please take note, the photo may look pretty nice, but there is no running water, no electricity, no access road, and no toilet. She lives behind someone's property on a rugged hill. We had to climb up via the muddy and slippery tract. How slippery? Well, I slip and fell. I had to blame my sandals or my age I think. Something has to take the blame, right? But my sandals were properly chosen for climbing and tracking. Well, that okay. I must be getting old and clumsy.



The widow and her children never miss a single Sabbath worship ever since they were baptized in June 2016. They would walk 2 km to the pastor's house to worship.

At the pastor's house, the condition is not much different. In Laos, no matter where you live, the pastor's house often becomes a haven for the sick and destitute. When I visited there the pastor was not at home. He had gone to Vientiane for a training session. His wife was at home alone. No, she was not at home alone, but by herself, to cope with

the work her husband had brought on her. And she was not trained or paid for it. Often, I thought to myself, "Is this fair that we pay only the husband, but not the wife?" But poor pastor's wife, she has to make miracles by putting some foods on the table for people.

It was January 22, 2016, that Pastor Sadua Lee and his wife came to Oudomxay in a hope to bring the gospel message to this previously unentered province. Then, he asked me what to do and how to start the work? I told him to pray and pray and pray. The Lord will show how to start the work. I don't know what to tell you, but the Lord does.



So, Pastor Sadua Lee and his wife started praying. He took a walk around the city. He went up the hill overlooking the city and began praying for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on the city to give people a chance to know Jesus. Then, he would go out visiting people who he knew, people who had health problems, and people in hospitals.



Pastor's Sadua's wife peeling some stalks to make soup for her patients.

He prayed for the sick and many of them became healed. News spread about this new

healer who healed in the name of Jesus. So, people who were sick would come to him. When I visited Oudomxay in August, Pastor Sadua Lee was in Vientiane for training, but his wife was busy cooking for the patients who stayed in their house. It looked like a small medical center to me. Except that there was no human doctor on duty.

Pastor Sadua Lee told me before I went there that there was a man who was gravely ill. He spent all that he had at the hospital and had no more money to pay. So, he decided to come to his house and let Jesus cure him. I was stuned at his faith and his wife and son were also there. This man was earlier in ICU and his IV was still in place when he "escaped" from the hospital. He said that if he would die he wanted to die in Jesus, in God's house, rather than in hospital. Amazed at his faith, I prayed for him and his family who have given their lives to Jesus.



We left Oudomxay the next day on our way back to Luang Prabang and then to Vientiane. I checked with Pastor Sadua Lee a few days later. The man was healed and had gone home already. Praise the Lord.

Something like this happened quite regularly in Oudomxay. Sick and destitute people now learned that there is a healing house in Oudomxay, a place where they could get free healing. No matter your condition is, whether you are sick or demon possessed, there is a God, called Jesus, who can save you. And so they told each other and they came.

Although we are happy to see people receive healing and help from God, but it is not entirely free. Hydrotherapy, herbal therapy, and each meal for the patients come with a cost. We cannot let the pastor's wife scratch her head each time before she cooks for the sick and their family who accompanied them. While we celebrate with God each time a patient accepted Jesus as their personal Savior someone has to pay for the celebration party cost.

Indeed, God will pay for the costs of healing as well as the foods. It is through us if we would allow ourselves to be used as His blessings. Of course, God can shower money from heaven like what He did with the manna. But, He

already showered money into our pockets and He expects us to use some for His work.

I am glad that two visitors, husband and wife, who went with me on that trip, after seeing what I saw, without being asked, donated AUD200.00 towards helping the pastor's wife care for the sick in their house. This donation will surely keep the healing house going for some time. And it will certainly keep the spirit of service of the pastor's wife going strong knowing that God will provide for her kitchen. I trust that God will impress some more of you to help keep this healing house going further and many more souls will be saved for the Kingdom of God in Oudomxay Province.

So, up to September 2016, 8 months after God sent Pastor Sadua Lee and his family there, 7 souls have been saved for the Kingdom of God. They have been worshipping regularly at the pastor's house. Please pray for Pastor Sadua Lee and his family as they serve God in Oudomxay. And if you would like to be part of their ministry in whatever area, praying for them, healing subsidy, food subsidy, helping the poor and their children, traveling subsidy, evangelistic materials, MP3 devices, and so on please just let us know.

Before January 2016, Oudomxay was still an unentered province for the gospel. But, now it has 7 adult baptized believers. The challenges are many and obstacles are a lot. We are not fighting against flesh and blood, but unseen spiritual forces who once used to challenge God's throne in heaven. Please keep Pastor Sadua Lee and his family in your prayers. Please keep Lao Attached Field in your prayers. Indeed, we need your prayers more than your money. Thank you.



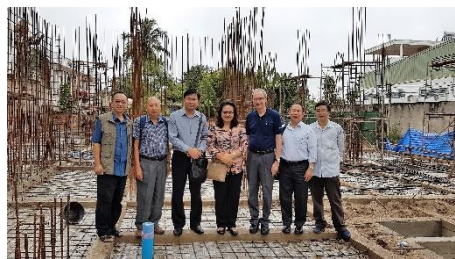
There is only one bed in the pastor's house. Excess patients get to sleep on the floor like this. There is so much to do here in Oudomxay. The needs are great. Later, we hope to have a church property to cater for our increasing number of believers in Oudomxay. We can also use our church building for a language school.

SSD and SAUM Presidents in Laos

By: Khamsay Phetchareun

It would be a very rare occasion for the two presidents, Division and Union presidents, to be at the same place at the same time. But, not just two, but Pastor Samuel Saw, SSD President, and his wife, Dr Orathai, SSD Family Director, Pastor Somchai Cheunjit, SAUM President, Pastor Rungsit Sattayawaksakul, TAM Former President, Dr Wayne Hamra, Former AIU Vice-President, form a team of presidents who visited Laos on September 7-12. This was really an honor and a tremendous boost to the morale of our church workers and church members in Laos. In fact, we had three presidents, not just two. The former Thailand Adventist Mission (TAM) was also with them. More significantly, the two presidents, SSD and SAUM presidents, used to work under that former TAM president. Thus, it was really an auspicious time we had during this visit.

1. Visit to the Vientiane Multipurpose Church Construction Site



The multipurpose church construction project began in late May 2016. As of September 8, when we visited the site, it was nearly 30% completed. The foundation was ready to be done. Since it coincided with the ASEAN meeting in Vientiane no large vehicles were allowed into the city, so the cement truck could not come in. The pouring of cement was put on hold until after the ASEAN meeting.



New Vientiane Church building design

The completion of the project is expected to be in July 2017. Once completed the church will seat up to 400 members. It will also house 5 classrooms for our language school, a dental clinic, a health food restaurant, and offices. It will look like this (below left).

2. Visit to Namthip Savan Language School, Xieng Khouang



The Plain of Jars, famous for Xieng Khouang



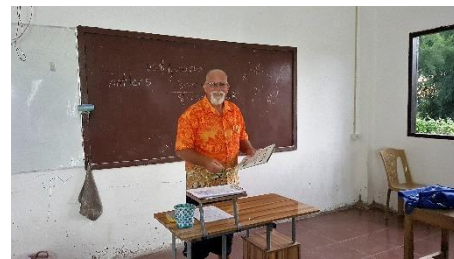
Classroom No. 1, taught by a local student-teacher (volunteer)



Classroom No. 2, taught by a local teacher, a graduate of AIU



Classroom No. 3, taught by another AIU graduate, now headmaster of the centre



Classroom No. 4, taught by Warren Thomson, a volunteer teacher from Australia



The spirit of teaching entered Dr Wayne Hamra, so he joined his former student, now teacher, in teaching at our centre in Xieng Khouang, making this visit a memorable one for the students as well as their teachers.

3. Visit to Namthip Savan Language School, Luang Prabang



The multipurpose room – classroom during week days, worship room on Sabbath



Pr Sam (SSD President) preaches at Luang Prabang

In fact, Pastor Somchai Cheunjit, SAUM President, Pastor Rungsit Sattayawaksakul, Former TAM President, Dr Wayne Hamra, AIU professor, each took turns to share the message of hope to the members present on that day. It was a real blessing to have our church leaders visit us in Laos between 7 and 12 September 2016. Thank God for bringing them to Laos at this important time.