

STICKY RICE MINISTRY

Lao Attached Field Newsletter

November 2016

JESUS COMES TO OUDOMXAY



Oudomxay is one of the remaining 4 provinces of Laos that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is yet to have presence in. The other 3 provinces are: Phonsaly in the north, Xaysomboun in central, and Sekong in the south. The Seventh-day Adventist Church of Laos has a vision to take the gospel message to ALL provinces of Laos by 2020.

In line with that vision, in December, 2015, the Lao Church commissioned Pastor Sadua Lee and his wife to go to Oudomxay. At first, they resisted the call with many excuses. But, finally, they agreed to go. So, on 19 January 2016, they set on the journey. And on 20 January they arrived in Oudomxay. They were given this rented house. It is an empty house with no bed, no fridge, and no blanket, just a roof, walls, and floor.



When they arrived it was in the middle of Winter in Northern Laos and the temperature could drop as low as 1 degree Celsius. This year it snowed for the first time in Northern Laos as temperature dropped below 0 degree and some animals and plants died. The neighbours saw that they had not enough blankets gave them a blanket.

Landed in a new area, especially an area that opposed the Christian message, was not easy for them. For the first time, the pastor and his wife had to worship without church members. They felt lonely and later the loneliness turned into frustration. They did not know how to take the gospel to people. Soon, the authority called them to investigate about their move to resettle there. They became scared



"Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."

John 21:25, ESV

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The Pastor prays over the City of Oudomxay

and did not know where to start and what to do next. The pastor asked me for advice. I did not know what to do either, except praying for wisdom. So, I told him to start a prayer walk and ask the Lord to show him what to do. That was what he did. He walked around the city parameters and knelt down on a hill overlooking the city and prayed.

Not long after that he was inspired to visit people on Sabbath afternoons. And on one Sabbath afternoon while visiting a family he was told about a woman who was demon possessed. He went in to take a look. Sure enough a woman was chained to her own house post, naked with unsound mind.



She was bound there for over two months, chained both hands and legs to a house post and lived like a dog. The pastor asked permission from the village elders if he could pray for her. The people said that they had tried all kinds of treatments and have exhausted all options. The pastor prayed for her and laying his hand over her head. He came back to visit her and pray for her again daily. One week passed the woman was able to sustain some conversation and able to eat and drink normally. The pastor shared with her about Jesus. Subsequently, she gave her life to Jesus and the demons left her. It was incredibly beautiful to see the power of God transformed her from the condition of being branded crazy and dangerous to become a normal person again.

She was finally unchained by the village chief and they brought clothes for her to wear. But, people were still afraid that the demons could return and possess her again. So, she and her five children had to move into staying with the pastor's family for a couple of weeks where they were given the love of God



The woman and her five children at the pastor's house



The woman and her five children back in their house

and the words of God. After several bible studies the woman and her two teenage children were baptized into the Lord.

The woman and her children faithfully attended worship services at the pastor's house since then. They are among the first Adventists in Oudomxay Province. Now, the woman is making a living by helping her neighbours planting rice in exchange for some rice for her family. She lost her husband just before she was possessed by demons. She has no land to cultivate, no stable jobs, and with five children to feed. Please remember to pray for this widow and her children.

The news about what Jesus did for the widow of Oudomxay spread far and wide. Many more people came to the pastor for help and healing. In subsequent months several people came and received healing for their physical ailments and also many have embraced the gospel message and accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour. Recently, two more families also came to the pastor asking to join the church in Oudomxay (see full story in the next page).



Church members in Oudomxay who meet at the pastor's house

MP3 DID IT AGAIN!



This woman took an MP3 device home and now her husband wants to become Christian too

Earlier in the year 2016 a couple of women came into contact with our pastor in Oudomxay. They had known about what happened to the widow and so they came to see the pastor because they also had health problems. They were healed and ready to go home. So, the pastor gave them each an MP3 device to take home with them. In that radio contains an SD card full of sermons, bible studies, hymns, and praise songs.

Now, the ladies brought their husbands back and asked if they would be allowed to become Christians and follow Jesus. They have been listening to the sermons and bible studies from the MP3 device that their wives brought home from the pastor and

now fully convinced that Jesus is the God of the Hmong people.

The Hmong people have stories that have been told to them by their ancestors about their origins which are striking similar with the bible stories of the flood and the Tower of Babel. In fact, many of the Hmong traditions are already in line with the bible teachings.

The two families, husbands and wives, have found Jesus through the work of the MP3 device. In rural Laos these MP3 devices are working wonders among the Hmong people. Like I said many times in my reports that our pastors and missionaries can get tired and need to sleep, but the MP3 devices do not get tired and do not need to rest. As long as the listeners put batteries in them they will continue to preach the gospel message at anytime and anywhere.

We thank our donors who have sponsored our MP3 project. Each MP3 device currently costs \$30 (the radio and an SD card loaded with bible studies, sermons, and hymns). This year, 2016, we have given out many MP3 devices, as many as the funds are made available to us.

If you would like to sponsor an MP3 preacher please let us know. If you cannot do it alone you may invite some friends to join you in sponsoring our MP3 preachers to go where human preachers cannot go. Furthermore, they don't need anymore stipends to continue on living. Their owners just need to feed them with AA batteries and they will continue preaching nonstop. What a way to sponsor a preacher!



Ya Lee and Nor Her Lee would like to follow Jesus

LAO ADVENTIST ACADEMY



Land for the first Lao Adventist Academy is in the process of being purchased

Lao Attached Field (LAF) is in the process of purchasing this piece of land, total area 24 plus hectares or almost 100 acres, at the foot of the Phou Khao Khwai Biodiversity National Park, 60 km from Vientiane Capital. It is surrounded by waters such as big pond, creeks, and waterfalls. Nowhere is as tranquil and solitude as this place.



LAF has a plan to set up the first Lao Adventist Academy here to train up its young people to serve God in Laos. Future church leaders will come out of this place. This place is a historic place of the Lao Church. Not just the academy, but a vocational missionary training school, agricultural school, health promotion center, retirement village, and more can also be established on this piece of land.

But first, let's get the first Lao Adventist Academy going. Through the initial help from the Adventist Southeast Asia Projects (ASAP) \$86,000, a private donor \$10,000, and a loan of



\$50,000 from Southeast Asia Union Mission (SAUM), LAF is purchasing this piece of land at the cost of no more than 5,000,000 baht (\$147,000). Once the land is secured we will immediately put a caretaker to look after the land. Then, we will start working on fencing the land, building up basic infrastructure like water system, toilet facility, and connect electricity which is around 700 meters from the main line. LAF also plans to conduct its first revival camp at this place in 2017.

There are a lot more to do to establish a church school. As LAF team is very young and inexperienced we welcome your support and expertise. All we want to see is one day there will be a church school on this land where our children are receiving training to serve their God among their peoples in Laos. The future Lao church leaders will be born at this place.

Thank you for praying for us and supporting us with your prayers, money, and skills. May God bless this little school in Laos.

WATER OF LIFE FOR NA OUAN VILLAGE



Heavy machinery drilling a deep borehole to provide clean water for the people of Na Ouan Village, Luang Prabang

It is hard to imagine that, in 2012, our pastor was once arrested at this village. Today, the people of Na Ouan Village gladly welcome the presence of the Seventh-day Adventist. A water project, funded by Adventist Southeast Asia Projects (ASAP) has changed the perception and attitude of the people of this village. Taking Jesus' method seriously, the Lao Adventist Church has been working hard to build good relationship with the authority of this village since the arrest in 2012. Seeing their need for water we offered to help. To their amazement the authority sincerely welcomes our gesture of goodwill.

ASAP has helped us successfully build a gravity flow water system at Mok Jong Village, in the same province. The people of Na Ouan know about this project and now they are eager to get involved to get a water system of their own.

Na Ouan sits on a mountain side. Their existing water system relies on bringing water from a creek way above the village. During summer the creek dries up and there is no water flowing to the village. Now, we are drilling a large and deep borehole underground and pump the water up to the tank, built above the village, and use the gravity flow to distribute the water to different points of the village.

Water supply is one of the many good projects that the Lao Adventist Church is undertaking to improve the quality of life of the Lao people. We also provide mosquito nets and blankets to those needy people to prevent them from being bitten by mosquitos and get sick. Blankets keep them warm during winter and thus making the people healthier and happier.



Adventists and Non-Adventists are working side-by-side

Adventists and Non-Adventists are working together side-by-side for a common good. Men and women work together happily. The people of Na Ouan are grateful to the Lao Adventist Church that provides clean water for them. They see that the people of God are interested in solving their water problem and improving their quality of life., not just talking religion.

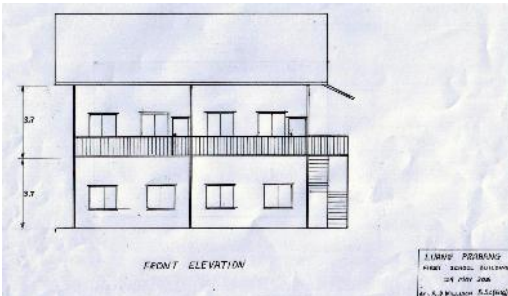
It costs just \$10,000 to install a permanent "gospel preacher" at this village by means of providing the water of life. Each time the people of Na Ouan turn on the water taps they see the love of God flowing into their buckets of thirst. The water of life flows into their lives and they will no longer resist the work of the Holy Spirit. What a way to preach the gospel!

NAMTHIP SAVANH LANGUAGE SCHOOL



In fact, at the same time, we are also building our church at this village. This church is indeed a wedding gift from a couple, ASAP donors, who swapped their wedding gifts with a church. What a wonderful way to turn your wedding gifts into a church. Some of you who are planning to get married we have many more churches for you to exchange your wedding gifts with. Currently, LAF is constructing 3 churches in Luang Prabang: (1) at Na Ouan Village (fully funded by ASAP donors), (2) at Na Ang Vilalge (\$3,000 received), and (3) at Nam Thouam Village (\$3,000 received). These two churches are still waiting for your wedding gifts.

We are also constructing a 2-storey 4 classroom school building at our Luang Prabang church property. Demand for English language is very high in Laos, especially in Luang Prabang, being a World Heritage City, declared in 1995. Many tourists come to Luang Prabang and so the locals want to learn English to do business with tourists. In Laos, public evangelism is forbidden. But, we have found that healing ministry and English Language are the most effective means to introduce people to Jesus. So, we are constructing a language school in Luang Prabang.



The first school building being constructed now

The first school building (B in the Master Plan) will be constructed first for the cost of \$51,500. So far, we have received \$17,500 and have started building it already. The students' toilet facility and water tower are part of the first phase of construction.



The master plan for Namthip Savanh Language School, Luang Prabang

struction.

We thank all of you who have given support to this project. In faith, we believe that more support will be come to complete this school.



The Namthip Savanh Language School in Luang Prabang is sure to introduce more young and educated people to Jesus, who will form the solid foundation of the Lao Church in the future. We thank you for your prayers and support to the Lord's work in Laos over all. While we are still facing challenges in our work here in Laos we count on your prayers for our protection and your support as blessings from God.