

# STICKY RICE MINISTRY

Lao Attached Field Newsletter

December 2016

## XIENG KHOUANG CELEBRATES



Xieng Khouang celebrates by giving out the *Ministry of Healing* and the *Steps to Christ*. The two books are the most precious gifts ever given to friends and even government officials in Laos. The two books were included in a Christmas gifts presented to the heads of religious department at various levels by Pastor Bounprany Vannady, LAF President. The books were well accepted and most sought after by many who have read them.



More than 400 people attended the first Christmas program conducted by the Namthip Savanh Language Center in Xieng Khouang. Many of these people heard the Name of Jesus for the first time. Local government officials from village, district, and provincial levels were present and appreciated the language center administration for organizing such a beautiful and meaningful program.

In his speech, Pastor Bounprany talked about the First Coming of Jesus, the world Saviour, then, he alluded to the Second Coming event as the final plan of salvation. In the program, gifts were given out to children and adults alike. Everyone received some gifts. Blankets, detergents, educational items, clothes, toys, and

*“In all things I was an example to you of how, in your lives, you are to give help to the feeble, and keep in memory the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, There is a greater blessing in giving than in getting.” (Acts 20:35, BBE)*

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Pastor Chi Her, his wife, Pon Leap, and their three children are the managers of the Namthip Savanh Language Center

many more items were given out on that day. The program concluded with a fellowship meal for everyone. Friendships were

made and the gospel was heard. The Namthip Savanh Language Center now dwells in the hearts of the people of Xieng Khouang.



Blanket is the most needed gift in Xieng Khouang





## A MIRACLE OF LIFE



These little feet almost never has a chance to walk on the soil of the earth

During a Christmas celebration at Namthip Savanh, while everyone celebrates, a mother was struggling to keep her child alive. Her baby was diagnosed with intestinal obstruction and was severely dehydrated since she was not able to eat or drink, but constantly vomited for a few days already.

It was providential that we visited Xieng Khouang with a Korean medical team from the US and Korea. As our medical team assessed the baby's condition she was found to have obstructed intestine. Dr Oh indicated that she needed urgent surgery!



A lot of people are in need of healing

Unfortunately, the provincial hospital is not well-equipped to do such a surgery. The doctors told us that the survival rate for this kind of operation was only 10 per cent. Besides, the parents of the baby could not afford the surgery costs anyhow. We were

faced with a dire situation. One option was to send the baby to the main hospital in Vientiane. We rushed her and the parents to the airport. When we got there we were told that there was no flight to Vientiane on that day. Another option was to send the baby by bus or minivan to Vientiane. The trip would take 9 hours, but the baby did not have that much time left unless she is hydrated.



Finally, we decided to hire the ambulance from Xieng Khouang Hospital to take the baby to Vientiane at the cost of \$450 for a trip with a medical team accompanying the baby all the way to Mahosot Hospital in Vientiane.

If we were not there, if our medical team with an experienced surgeon was not there, and if there was no \$450 to send the baby on the ambulance the baby would not have survived. But, the fact that the baby was alive today was not because of what we did rather it was what we prayed. She survived because



The baby now received a new name “Carol” after returning from the blink of death on Christmas day

Jesus performed a miracle. Why? Well, after she arrived at the Mahosot Hospital in Vientiane the doctors there tested her and prepared her for operation. But, to their surprise the baby began to eat and drink with no more vomiting. They checked again and again. And apparently, her obstructed intestine was no longer obstructed! Her little intestine just decided to untangle itself or someone else, with supernatural power, untangle it for her. We believe that it was Jesus, the Super Medical Officer, who did it in an answer to our prayers.

Healed and well, the baby and her parents were glad to return home. After all the ordeals the parents were grateful to the financial help from our Korean Medical Team from USA and Korea who paid for the ambulance and medical costs and to our local Adventists in Vientiane who were by the side of the parents since they arrived late Saturday night until their discharge on Tuesday, December 27, 2016.

Only a few people, 8 in total, who came to do mission work in Laos during the Christmas period, but these few people have



done many great things that will continue to impact the lives of many Lao people in Xieng Khouang and Luang Prabang provinces where they had visited.

The Lao Attached Field of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Laos wishes to thank the Central Valley Korean SDA Church for sending over its members to carry out good works in Laos during their last December trip.

The parents of Carol, her new name, given by the team wishes to thank for all our help. This photograph was taken with an



LAF pastor who took care of them during their stay in Vientiane. Now, they have returned back to their village ever grateful to our visiting team of surgeons from the US and Korea.

“It is worth the journey of long hours and far away just to save this little baby’s life,” expressed one of the team members. But, you have saved so many lives. Your actions also impacted so many lives beyond imagination. Your visit and your continual support to God’s work in Laos are much appreciated. We thank God for you all and pray that God will bless everything you do for Him. We also pray that God will raise up people like you who will support His work in this landlocked country of Laos—a country that many are yet to realize God’s love towards them.



## ASAP GIVES WATER OF LIFE



A tap flowing with water of life at Na Ouan Village, Luang Prabang

During the dry season the people of Na Ouan Village would have to buy bottle water for drinking and for other usage they would have to pay for water that merchants would bring to them in carts. With their meagre income this water becomes too expensive for them to afford.

Sensing the need to have sufficient clean water all year round the Lao Attached Field has proposed to Adventist Southeast Asia Projects (ASAP) for consideration. Immediately, ASAP responded with a grant of \$10,000 toward this project.

Na Ouan is situated on a high slope of a mountain along the famous highway to the Kuang Si Waterfall. Surveying the area we could not find a suitable water source that would not run dry during the dry season. Another option was to drill a deep well. But, it was going to be a very deep well since Na Ouan is on the high ground. And so, a company was found and agreed to drill a very deep well for us. It was 75 m in depth!



December 26, 2016, LAF officers went to Na Ouan Village to



LAF officers at the handover ceremony



officially handover the water system to the Na Ouan village council witnessed by grateful hundreds of onlooking villagers. The ceremony followed by a fellowship meal of thankfulness. We wish to thank ASAP donors for helping LAF gain recognition from this village which greatly helps with the preaching of the gospel at this village.



# GO WHERE THERE IS NO ROAD



Christmas is a time for family reunion, but for some of us, it is a time to reach the unreachable. Mok Jong Village is 11 km up in the mountains where there is no proper road. It can only be reached by these local made convertible tractors and motor-bikes with truly skilled riders.

The tract to Mok Jong village is so horrendous that it is not advisable for people with back problem. These vehicles have no shock absorbers or coil spring suspension. So, your back will directly absorb every bump and fall. In fact, after coming back from this trip it is likely that your internal organs might be relocated on the wrong side of your body.



But, it is worth it when we see the smile on the faces of these children and their parents. Clothes, educational items, medicines, are among items given out that day. Everywhere we went there were poverty and sicknesses. It broke our hearts as we found out that these people live their lives like 100 years before their fellow villagers 11 km below. They live in ignorance, with no electricity, no access to medical care, and nobody seems to care for them. Ironically, tourists would come to

look at them and their lifestyle as if they are animals in a zoo.



The village chief and our local church elder facilitating the gift distribution



A few steps away from the scene I was invited to pray for the village shaman at his house whose family was plagued with mysterious illness. Please join me in praying for this influential man as he has expressed his desire to follow Jesus and give up his old practices.