

# STICKY RICE MINISTRY

Lao Attached Field Newsletter

June 2015

## Luang Prabang Property

Renovation of our Luang Prabang Language School has begun since the end of May 2015. Just two weeks after, these are what happened. I will put photos of different angles to show you the progress of the renovation as below.



Land Title for the land in Luang Prabang, size 2,489 m<sup>2</sup>

*"I will teach you concerning the hand of God; what is with the Almighty I will not conceal."*

*(Job 27:11, ESV)*

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Luang Prabang Language School/Church Building under renovation as of 12 June 2015



As we enter into the house, there is a room on the right hand side, third bedroom. Now we have taken that room out, clearing the space for worship on Sabbaths. It will now provide a sizable room of 6x9 m, which can squeeze up to 60-70 members sitting on the floor.



When you enter the house and look straight ahead you will see two bedrooms on your right and on your left (below left). These two bedrooms will be retained for teachers. Once the renovation is completed Pastor Tong Thor, the Luang Prabang District pastor, and his wife and their baby will move in to take care of the property.



From this angle (above) you are now looking back from the kitchen area towards the entrance of the house. The owner of the house originally built the door of the house with two door pieces, wide enough for a church entrance. It was like that he was inspired to build a church, not a house.

The workers checked all the roof, sealed off all the leaks, replaced the damaged ceiling, repainted the ceiling and walls both internal and external, knocked off parts of the walls to provide light and vent for the kitchen and bathroom, rebuilt the kitchen bench, toilet, and water system. The electricity also needs rewiring.





Work on external wall—making air vent and window for kitchen



Inside the wall, the kitchen bench is being constructed (above). Once finished, this kitchenette will provide sink and cooking area with plenty of air from two windows and air vent above.



Meanwhile, the toilet also needs to have natural light and air. So, we put air vent and glass window to let the light in. The toilet bowl will also be replaced with a water conserved type of toilet. This bathroom is huge, almost as big as a bedroom!

The meeting area, which will also be the classroom during the weekdays, is now an open area with the measurement of 6x9 m. The plan is to start with one classroom English center first. Once it gains popularity we plan to build a proper two storey school building which will have 8 classrooms, a library, a school office, an administrator office, and a meeting hall of 16x32 m, capable of holding minimum 300 people. This hall then will be used as a church, preparing to serve the city of Luang Prabang and other 9 northern provinces. While the new Vientiane church

will serve more than 500 members, the new Luang Prabang church will serve more than 300 members.



Open area for church and classroom



The Luang Prabang Language School property is sitting on a little hill overlooking the Luang Prabang International Airport. In fact, our fence is almost attached to the airport fence. There is nowhere in the world to compare with the convenience of our school. You just need to get off your plane and there the school is just on the other side of the runway.



Talking about location, there is no better location than this one. It is a beautiful location, close to educational institutions. We believe that students from these colleges and university will come to learn English with us. The opportunity to make impact in these students' lives is real. This is the reason why God permitted us to buy this property and the reason God opened your pockets to help us secure this property. You are now part of a big plan of God to reach the people of Luang Prabang for Jesus. May God repay you for your kindness and generosity toward His project in Luang Prabang. Thank you.

# Namtip Savan Language School on the Move



Namtip Savan Language School in Xieng Khouang, Laos

*Namtip Savan* is the Lao name for “Water from Heaven” or “Water of Life.” This is the name of our English Language Schools in Xieng Khouang, Laos. All our future language schools in Laos will carry this name and will be a branch of this *Namtip Savan* Language School in Xieng Khouang.

This language school is the first ever Adventist Language School established in Laos. And it was established in the most auspicious place, the birthplace of the Lao civilization. Thousands of years ago, the Lao people established their kingdom in the Plain of Jars.



The mystery of the stone jars is no less than the mystery of the Moai statues in Easter Islands. Thousands of years ago, the Lao ancestors carved out these rocks and shaped them into stone jars, some weighed up to 4 tonnes. What tools did they use to cut and dig up these jars from solid rocks? Then, how did they bring them from the mountains 30 km away to the plain? It is truly amazing.

It is equally amazing about the birth of the *Namtip Savan* Language School. I was there right from the beginning, so I can share with you first hand experience how God guided us to this location and to purchase this property.

While visiting Xieng Khouang in 2013, as we drove around the city one evening, I noticed several students walking and cycling with their notebooks clasped on to their chests still with their school uniforms. I asked them where they are going after school? They said they were going to study English. That began our idea of setting up an English language school in Xieng Khouang. But, the same problem popped up in my mind. We don't have money.

Anyway, we drove around looking for properties and vacant lands to build a school. The locals directed us to several pieces of land and houses in Xieng Khouang. Nothing was cheap or affordable. There was a piece of land with an old house near the traffic lights close to the town center. It might just be the right place for a school, but the land is so small, only suitable for a residential house. Anyway, when we went to ask I felt like fainting when I heard the price. It was \$300,000! Wow, I don't know that Xieng Khouang property value would be this expensive. Then, we drove on the same main road towards the Northern Bus Station, just 1.5 km from that land and house. There we found an empty land for sale. This was a real good sized land, around 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>, but the price was incredibly expensive again. Then, as we walked away from that property, a village headman greeted us and said “Are you looking for a property to buy?” We said “Yes.” Then, he told us that the property next door is also for sale. It belongs to a man who built it for his new wife as their first home. But, his wife refused to come from Vientiane to live in Xieng Khouang. So, the owner was keen to sell it. He gave us the contact number and we called the owner of that property. The property came with an unfished 3 bedroom house and a land size of a little over 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>. And the price was US\$32,000.00 (after negotiation). At that time, Southeast Asia Union Mission set aside \$25,000 for us to buy or build churches in Laos. So, we used that fund and raised some more to secure the property in Xieng Khouang. And then, we renovated the house, doing similarly to the property in Luang Prabang. We knocked off a room to make way for a classroom and church. With extra \$10,000 we finished the house/school. And the *Namtip Savan* Language School was born.

God did not just provide us a language school He also provided us a husband and wife who just graduated from Asia-Pacific International University (AIU). They were perfect for the job. The husband is of an ethnic that is the majority in Xieng Khouang and the wife is an English major graduate. By June 2013, the school began its operation. Soon, words spread and many students came to study with them. They said that our teachers are better than the established Eng-



lish Language schools that have buses to pick up their students. Our school has no buses to pick up students and our classrooms are rather weird, because we use our living room and kitchen, and even bedroom as classrooms.



**Bedroom turned into classroom during the day**

Above, Ben, from Australia, sacrificed his school break to come to Laos to teach English at our *Namtip Savan* Language School. This happened because his mother came and saw the school first-hand and encouraged her son to come to help. We are grateful to Ben and his mother who have sacrificed themselves time and money to help advance the work of God in Laos.

If you would like to experience God's blessings by getting involved in any of our school, either in Xieng Khouang or Luang Prabang, please let us know. Short-term and long-term volunteer teachers, native English speakers, are welcome.



**Ben enjoys teaching students in Xieng Khouang, Laos**

We have already used the living room, the kitchen, and now a bedroom as classrooms, there is no more room for us to use for classroom. Our students are set to increase as we gain popularity. At the moment, we already have 130 students. We cannot accept anymore of them. Our initial plan was to build a small two classroom school. But, we were inspired to build a

two storey, 4 classroom school instead. We would need \$35,000 to build a good two storey and 4 classroom school and a toilet facility. With your donations we have started our construction and as of 12 June 2015 these photos below are how the school looks like.



We would like to thank all of you, our donors, for making our school in Xieng Khouang a reality. We still need more funds to complete this little school. If you would like to be part of preaching the gospel of the kingdom in Xieng Khouang through this school please let us know. Thank you for your kind donations. May God richly bless you.





Thunwa posing to our camera this Sabbath morning, 20 June 2015

## Thunwa's Smile

Yes, Thunwa is now able to smile. Because of your generous help Thunwa is now smiling. Although his smile is not yet perfect, but he smiles nevertheless. Day by day Thunwa is slowly becoming a "normal" boy. This is possible because of your financial help. This unfortunate Lao boy was born with severe cleft palate. He was not able to drink milk, because his palate was missing. When I met him he was in a dire situation, severely malnourished. But with a special milk bottle his mother is now able to assist him while he is drinking. However, some milk fluid still manages to get into his eye ducts and causes eye infection.

Many church members in Laos, who are too poor to help financially, try their best to help Thunwa and family in different means. One thing they could do was giving love and care to Thunwa and his mother. They did not distance themselves from Thunwa because he looks different. Traditionally, people look at these kind of babies as a curse for their bad *karma* or their parents' *karma* and try to disassociate themselves from them. But, as Adventists we look at Thunwa through the eyes of Jesus and said, "It was not that this man (boy) sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him" (John 9:3, ESV).

Thunwa is now weighed 5 kg. He still needs 3 more kilos to go until he can be operated on. And he will need at least two operations, not one. The doctors will have to repair his upper palate, close up the inside to enable him to suck milk properly and to stop fluid getting into his eyes' ducts. Then, the lips also need to be repaired. We thank God that now Thunwa is on a waiting list for palate repair surgery in Mahosot Hospital (Laos National Hospital).

We would like to thank all of you who have prayed for Thunwa so that he is now on the waitlist to be operated by a doctor without charge at the Laos National Hospital. We would like to thank those of you who generously gave your money to the Laos Mission to help buy milk and other necessities for Thunwa. The local church, the Vientiane City Church, where Thunwa belongs, and the local group at Gao Liaw suburb, where Thunwa lives, are taking care of Thunwa's day-to-day needs.

## Contact Us

You can write to us or give us a call for more information about our work and other mission projects.

**The Seventh-day Adventist Church of Laos**  
Nongbone Road, Ban Phonxay, Vientiane,  
LAOS PDR

Tel: (856) 21 412 701

Email: [Keovanna@yahoo.com](mailto:Keovanna@yahoo.com)



The other day, Thunwa's mother gave a testimony at church about God's love to her family. Her face bathed with tears falling from her eyes she joyfully said that God's love is really unimaginable and surpasses all understanding. She was rejected by her own extended family because of Thunwa. Her own flesh and blood did not want to care for her and Thunwa. They kept their distance. But, God's people, church members, even those of you who do not know her or Thunwa gave their money to support Thunwa. And Vientiane church members care for them more than their family. This is God's love on display! Praise the Lord!