

STICKY RICE MINISTRY

Call For Tender: Invest in God's Business



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What would the Lord Jesus say about this church building in Southern Laos? What would we respond to His question, "Why my House is still unfinished?" After all these years the Lord's House, Jiang Say Church, Pakse, Champasak Province, Laos, is still left standing with just columns and roof like this.

Providentially, this church building is the only one that has received local government's approval. Normally, the construction of new church buildings did not receive government approvals. But this one is special. Not only that it has received government's approval it is also the first church for one of the unreached tribes of Laos, the *Nyahon or Ya Hern* tribe. According to the Joshua Project statistics non of the *Nyahon or Ya hern* has yet to embrace the Christian faith (<http://joshuaproject.net/countries/la>).

It is hard enough to reach an unreached tribe, like the Nyahon, with the gospel. Now, it is even harder since a lot of local people, including authorities, have lost trust in our commitment to their tribe because of this unfinished church construction.

What are our excuses for not finishing this church construction? Well, I am ashamed to tell you the truth, but shamefully it just comes down to only one problem—the lack of funds. It is rather heart breaking to see what had happened to this church. First, let's look at the original church building,

which is currently being used for worship, since the birth of this church many years ago when I toiled with the late pastor Khampasong Kham-muenlook. You can see it even the original church building has never been finished!



"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"

(Matthew 16:19-21, ESV)

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Members of Jiang Say Church in worship on 15 August 2015

This current church is unstable and the walls are falling out. It is unsafe to worship in the current church building and it is not suitable to worship in the new, but unfinished, church building either.

It was in 2010 the late Pastor Khampasong Khummuenlook donated a piece of land for the new church construction. Two years later, in 2012, the pastor passed away and his wife followed him to the grave in 2013. They left behind the unfinished church building and their 9 daughters to struggle in the world by themselves. The children are left without a shepherd and the church building is left unfinished until today, 24 August 2015, five years after.

The location of this church is just 2 km from the 8 lane concreted road, 12 km from Pakse City, the growing southern regional capital City of Laos. There is a great potential here at this place. The church is located at a growing suburb of Pakse City. The Lao Attached Field (LAF) is planning to assign a newly international theology graduate to this church as its new pastor. It is believed that this young pastor can revive this church. He can start teaching English to attract young people in the area. He can minister to the existing members and attract more people to the Lord. And rather providentially, this young pastor is able to speak the dialect of the *Ya Hern* tribe as he is from the *Ngae* tribe, a distant relative of the *Ya Hern*.

On the day we visited this church, 15 August 2015, we found that among the few members there are 4 certified teachers, two of them English teachers. Everything is ready and now is the time to finish this church and get on with the preaching of the gospel and disciples making.

So, if the Lord speaks to your heart and you have a burden to help make disciples in southern Laos among the different unreached tribes please help us finish the construction of this church. If we have \$10,000 we can finish the church building with furniture and electricity. With another \$5,000 we can build a pastor's residence and with another \$5,000 we can drill a deep well and build a proper toilet facility. The first priority here is to get the church construction finished. Therefore, if you would like to complete this Jiang Say church building please let us know. This is an urgent call for your response. Please help us keep the few members of the *Ya Hern* tribe alive and growing in faith by finishing the construction of their church, the only church approved by the authority. I am certain that through this church many more people from other tribes will also be saved for the Kingdom. Thus, you are fulfilling the mission of the first of the three angels' messages to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people group (Revelation 14:6, ESV).

May God bless you and remember I am waiting to hear from you. If you cannot

help us please do pray for us and so the Lord will provide funds to finish His church construction at Jiang Say Village for the *Ya Hern* people.

Through the hard work of our lay pastors some of these sub-Khmu tribes of southern Laos have been reached for Jesus. We have believers among the *Nyahon* (*Ya Hern*), the *Ngae*, the *Ta Oi*, and the *Laven*. Like the *Nyahon*, according to the Joshua Project, the *Laven* tribe has not embraced the Christian faith (<http://joshuaproject.net/countries/la>). Yet, we already have a substantial number of believers among this tribes.

It is exciting to see God at work among different tribes and peoples. Thus, if you would like to partner with God in His business in Laos in whatever capacity please let us know. At the very least, you can surely pray for us. Better still if you would consider helping us with your finance or your participation as short-term or long-term missionaries.

Thank you for your prayers and support.



A group of Laven believers in a village in Champasak Province



The Ta Oi members at Lawang Church, Saravan Province



Young Ngae members at Pakchong District, Champasak Province



Eung and Khome—Husband and Wife who Have Been Hated for their Faith

Miracles in the South

Normally, marriage is a joyful occasion when families and friends come together to celebrate. But, for Eung and Khome it was not like that. When they were married they had to suffer from the start. You see, because they were Christians people hated them, even Khome's parents also hated them. They even falsely accused them to authorities who had threatened to arrest and jail them unless they give up their faith. So, in rural area, they were alone suffering in quiet. The nearest pastor is almost 70 km away. To make things worst the 20 stretch of road to their village can only be accessed by serious 4x4 off-road vehicles. Our good old Toyota Landcruiser Prado could only crawl at the speed of 10-20 km per hour, rocking side-to-side, up-and-down, all the way. I wonder if my internal organs would still be in the same places after this trip. But, the trip was really worth it. I was more blessed and encouraged than the people I encouraged.

What happened was that Khome, a Laven woman, was a daughter of a spirit medium. And she was groomed to take over her mother's role. But, she found the Lord and gave her life to Jesus against the will of her parents. To make thing worst she decided to marry a Christian young man from another tribe. Despite all the threats from both humans, like her own parents, and the spirits who audibly and visibly appeared to her and threatened her she stood firm. She told me that if the spirit killed her she would die in sin. But, if she died because of her faith she would die without sin. So, whether to live or die she would still believe in Jesus, no wavering and no going back. She recalled one day the evil spirit appeared to her and laughed at her. She quickly knelt down and prayed and walked toward her bible to read it. She remembered that despite the bible was just a few steps away from her, but her feet became so heavy and it seemed like they are struck to the ground so she could hardly move forward. She struggled to walk and prayed asking God to protect her. Finally, she was able to reach her bible and read it and prayed in the name of Jesus and then the evil spirit left her.

The struggle with the evil forces continued for years. Meanwhile, the couple continued worshipping God in their house alone. The neighbours, the siblings, the parents were all against them. They hated them and would not help them with anything. Being so poor, they depended totally on God for everything. And the Lord did not let them down. Even when the agents came to get them they were met with mysterious powerful figures in front of their house and they fled in fear. Another attempt to arrest them also failed when they saw two mysterious figures inside their house. From that time onward words spread around that the couple had special guardians who were not humans inside their house. People took note of this and began to respect the couple.

Meanwhile, Khome also tried to share her faith with her sister and neighbours. They shared their love with them and helped whenever they could. The Lord has blessed them with whatever they did and so they could share with the needy.



Eung's and Khome's house turned into a church



7 families now worship in this house church

Slowly people began to come to them for help. The sick and demon possessed came to them for healing. One by one people began to accept God through their ministry. Khome's sister resisted the gospel for sometime until she experienced God's power and blessings so many times and finally she also accepted Jesus as her personal Saviour. She told me that one night she even saw light shining on Khome's house. She asked herself, why her sister's house has light when nobody else in the village had electricity. When she asked her sister the next morning about the light in their house in the night Khome did not know about it as she was asleep with her husband.

Thus, the Lord has performed miracles in this little house church for His special people, the Laven. God wants the Laven people to know Him. He has reached out to them in their own terms and at their own level. You see, the Laven people are well-known to have magic power and can harm their enemies with witchcrafts and voodoo. Now, Eung and Khome are shining the light of God in their village. Their faith is strong. Their parents and those who used to hate them now begin to open their hearts to them. Please pray for this house church to grow in faith and in numbers. Thank you.

[\(Watch for Khome's sister's story in the next issue\)](#)



Pastor Tong Thor baptizes 4 people in a river in Luang Prabang in the rain

Baptisms in Luang Prabang



Mr Kuan Vew baptized in Pr Tong Thor's a bathtub

The pouring rain is like a shower of blessing the Lord sent to His church in Luang Prabang. It is a great joy to see 10 people give their lives to the Lord in Luang Prabang this August in separate baptisms. Four of them were baptised in the river under a shower of blessing. Four more were baptised in the bathtub of Pastor Tong Thor's house. And two more were baptised on Friday, 21 August 2015.

As I write this story, many more wonders are happening here in Laos. Why all the sudden God is calling His people in Laos to join his church? God has gone before us in seeking out His people, those who are willing to be saved. It is amazing how people learned about God here in this country. Many are seeking to know the true God. Once they have found Him they tell others about what they have found. It is like the woman of Samaria who ran back to her village and told everyone, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did" (John 4:29). Here in Laos, it seems like a holy fire that cannot be quenched. People just keep coming to the Lord!

Below, a couple only learned about Pastor Tong Thor through the words of mouth. Just like the mouth of the Samaritan woman the Lord used words of mouth to direct people to His servant. Pastor Tong Thor kept receiving phone calls from strangers asking for help.



Mr. Kuan Vew lives in Najew Village, Phonexay district, rural Luang Prabang. Last month, his first born son was really sick and he took him to the shaman (traditional faith healer) and asked what had happened to his son. The shaman told him that the boy was possessed by an evil spirit. As usual, a sacrifice must be offered to the spirit. Mr Kuan and his wife did what the shaman told them but their son did not get better. So they brought him to the provincial hospital in Luang Prabang. After one night at the hospital their boy's condition did not get better but rather he became much worse. The parents were worried and as they did not have money to pay for his treatment and medications they had to take him home to die.

However, there was a man who happened to know pastor Tong Thor. He said to the parents, "Why don't you call pastor Tong Thor, I think that maybe that is the only way to help your son, because he is a Christian." So, they called pastor Tong Thor. Since they did not know how to come to pastor Tong Thor's place he went to pick them up from the hospital. When pastor Tong Thor saw the child he looked like a dead person already. So, the pastor told them to bring their child to his house quickly. Many people, who saw what had happened to the boy, wondered what the pastor could do to help the boy when the hospital couldn't do anything to help..

In the pastor's house he prayed for to boy and he asked the parents if they would be willing to give their son to Jesus. They said "yes," then her asked the parents, "What about you?" They said "yes." After they gave their lives to Jesus they felt peace and their hearts were full with joy. God also healed their son. He got well without any medications.

The two gave their lives to Jesus in baptism and now returned home to tell more people about Jesus.



Pastor Bounprany pointing at the rock that stopped his car that night

The Miracle Rock (Part III)

Last year, 2014, some of you may still remember the story of God stopping Pastor Bounprany's car in a shallow water crossing with just a small rock. And even after the rock was removed from underneath the wheel the car refused to start. So pastor Bounprany and his team had to stay overnight at the village. And the owner of the house happened to be a long lost member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. From that day onward Mr Bouaphanh has made his journey back home.



Happy again: Mr Bouaphanh after baptism

Mr Bouaphanh is the leader of the group that worships in his house. Now the group that has more than 40 people are following their leader to worship on Sabbath. We are planning to give them bible studies and later commit them to the Lord in baptism.



Mr Bouaphanh's group at our last visit

We thank God that He stopped Pr Bounprany's car and also stopped the engine from restarting that night. In the morning Pr Bounprany just started his car normally and went on his way.

We also found that this village lacks clean drinking water. We thank God that through Adventist Southeast Asia Projects (ASAP) we are now in a process of building a gravity fed water system for them. Once the rainy season is over we will begin the project. We thank God for the blessings He has given His people in this village—first by introducing them to His salvation and second by providing clean drinking water for them through ASAP.

Please continue to pray for the people of Na Ang village, Luang Prabang, so they can grow in faith and in numbers. These people are from the *Khmu* tribe.



Pr Bounprany baptizes Mr Bouaphanh after a week long intensive bible study



Health Expo in Vientiane: Towards Healthier Living

22 Baptised in Vientiane



People spilled out to outside at the entrance and the side of the church



At the conclusion of a health expo at Vientiane Church, 17-22 August 2015, twenty-two people decided to give their lives to Jesus in baptism and live a healthier life. Most of them are young people. They are the future of the Adventist Church in Laos who have embraced the new lifestyle of healthier living right from their youth.



of them to health program like this one. And consequently many of them decided to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour. Pastor Danson Ng from Southeast Asia Union Mission had the privilege of baptising 22 new members of the Vientiane Church on 22 August 2015.



For six days, Dr Surachet Insom, former Health Director of Thailand Adventist Mission, shared about healthy living, using the NEWSTART principles and personal experience. Each successive day more people came to listen to his lectures. The final day there were not enough seats inside the church and so people had to sit outside.

More and more Lao people, city dwellers like those in Vientiane, are interested in healthy living. So, Adventist lifestyle has attracted many



At the end, he made an appeal and 9 more people gave their lives to Jesus in preparation to the next baptism.

