

STICKY RICE MINISTRY

Lao Attached Field Newsletter

Special Edition— September 2015

Beginning of a New Era in Laos—Pt.1



Do you know that there is a new “Daniel” in Laos? Yes, the Lao Attached Field (LAF) president, Pastor Bounprany Vannady, is our new “Daniel.” Pastor Bounprany has been working with the Laos government at the top level to create better understanding between the political authority and the church. He was given opportunity to share the Adventist faith in many occasions and he works with the government high-ranking officials. Thus, the relationship between the government and the church has gradually improved in Laos. Especially, the Adventist Church has been highly regarded for its involvement in moral, educational, social and economic development of the country through ADRA Laos.

Recently, Pastor Bounprany was appointed as a member of the Laos Government Religious Dispute Council. Among the many members of the Council Pastor Bounprany is the only one with a Christian background. So, for that reason, wherever there was a dispute in Laos involving Christians he was called upon by the government to mediate and solve the problems. With Pastor Bounprany up there with the government our church has gained trust among the government officials. Our church relationship with the Laos government has never been better.

This reminds me of the Lord Jesus’ own words that “We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work” (John 9:4, ESV). This means that there is an urgent call for more efforts to be put into the Lord’s work in Laos while we still can work. There shouldn’t be any procrastination from our part. The Lord has opened the door of opportunities to us. We do not expect this door to be opened for too long. So, we must work hard now to lay a solid foundation for the Lao SDA Church. This means we must build the church capacities: infrastructure and human resources.

Pastor Bounprany has now been called to give a seminar to the government officials in Southern Laos, between September 12 and 15, 2015. He is sent there to give lectures over several key issues involving improving better understanding between the local government officials and the church. Topics like: (1) Respect and Trust Each Other; (2) Understand Each Other’s Beliefs; (3) Problem Solving When there is a Dispute; (4) The Impact of Negative Attitude Toward Each Other; and more. Pastor Bounprany will have the total of 5 full days with provincial government officials in Pakse, Champasak Province. He will be sharing the Adventist faith with the officials as well. Therefore, may I solicit your prayers for our “Daniel.” So that God can use him to advance His work in Laos. If you would like to be part of God’s work in Laos in this exciting time please do let us know. And if you would like to contribute to the work of God in Laos just write to me. God bless.

“We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.”

(John 9:4, ESV)

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The Temporary LAF Office and Manna Restaurant

Beginning of a New Era in Laos—Pt 2

In my most recent special edition of the September StickyRice Ministry I talked about the need to build up the Lao SDA Church future in two aspects: (1) Infrastructure and (2) Human Capacity. In order to build up our infrastructure we will need to build a new larger church on the current Vientiane Church site. For that reason, we have to move out of there to make way for construction to begin. Looking for a place to rent was not a simple task. We would like to have enough spaces for office, conference room, a room large enough for worship of at least 50 people or more, and a space for our Manna Restaurant. The location must also be frequented by people for the purpose of a restaurant. It happened that the lease of our Manna Restaurant will expire by the end of September. So, the restaurant has to move within next month, October 2015. Coincidentally, our office was also scheduled to move in October to allow construction to also begin in that month.

The 3 storey house with 9 large bed-rooms (pictured above) is located right in front of the Russian-Lao Friendship Hospital or locally known as the 150-Bed Hospital. The lounge room is large enough to hold up to 50 people during worship. And upstairs there are two large rooms for conference room, large enough to hold up to 30 people comfortably. And it is the only hospital in Laos that is equipped with the MRI machine. This makes this hospital very popular and a lot of people come to this hospital. It is the best location for our Manna Restaurant.



Space that can be converted into a restaurant

And the owner of the house is happy for us to make modifications to her house.



The owner of the house showing us different rooms

Rather providentially, this house was offered \$2,000 per month rent by Chinese and Vietnamese businessmen. We did not have that much money to offer her. But, we prayed that, if God wanted us to have this house, He had to do a miracle. And indeed, we praise God, He did, not one but two miracles!

The first miracle was that we were able to negotiate with the owner to pay rent only \$1,300 per month! Well, I use the word “Only” in comparison to the \$2,000 per month. We still do not have that much money to pay rent and trust that God will see us through. It is expected that we will need two years of rent to allow our new church building to be done.

The second miracle was that the owner agreed to relocate her shrine and altar. This thing, moving a shrine, may seem insignificant to our Western friends. In the East, people revere their shrines and altars. It is not a simple request for her to move her shrine simply because we are Christians and we do not want to see the shrine inside our rented property. But, amazingly, she agreed to move her shrine and altar as well. Beside, she could have let the Chinese or Vietnamese merchant rent it and she would get more money and does not have to move her shrine at all. But, she chose us and that was the second miracle!



Outside the gate of our new office building

Please prayerfully consider to support the Lao SDA Church in whatever capacity you can, according to your ability. Now is the time to get involved. If you would like to come to see how things are going in Laos please don't hesitate to let us know. May God bless you. Thank you.