

STICKY RICE MINISTRY

Lao Attached Field Newsletter

October 2015

Living Water English Language School



The construction of the first phase of the Namthip Savanh (Living Water) School in Xieng Khouang is now 80 percent completed. The 3 classroom plus 1 apartment school building was earlier conceived as a 2 classroom one storey school. It was originally built to accommodate the rapidly growing number of students who outgrew the classrooms inside the house: in the living room, kitchen, and even the side of the house. When it rained it was not possible to conduct a class outside. As we started the foundation, God sent an angel to us and he told us to build a 2 storey 4 classroom school instead. We told him that we did not have enough funds. So, he gave \$7,000 to start with. But, it was estimated that at least \$30,000 is needed to build a two storey building. The angel said "God will provide."

So we started in faith. That angel actually took off his angelic robe and got involved in dismantling the one storey foundation structure to make way for the new and stronger foundation. Meanwhile, in my mind, how could we raise \$30,000 just after raising almost \$60,000 for the Luang Prabang property? True to the angel's words, just within a month, the Lord provided through different donors: Donor 1 from UK: \$9,203.60, Donor 2 from USA: \$5,000.00, donor 3 from Australia \$10,000.00, and donor 4 from the angel \$7,000.00. It made the total of **\$31,203.60**. There you are. When we are doing God's will God will provide. Thank you all for your generous support to the construction of the first phase language school in Xieng Khouang.

Xieng Khouang is a growing city of northern Laos. It is an educational hub catering for 4 northern provinces: Huaphan, Borikhamxay, Xaysomboun, and Xieng Khouang. Students from these smaller provinces come to Xieng Khouang to get higher education. Our English language Center will make a real difference in the lives of many future leaders of Laos. Already, students have been coming steadily at the rate of 2-3 more students per week. Our current teachers, Chi Her and his wife Pon Leap, can no longer cope with the demands. We had to assign a new theology graduate from Asia-Pacific International University (AIU), pastor Souliphone King-Anong, to help teach there. But, in January 2016 he will have to go to Southern Laos to pastor a church there. Who will help Chi Her and Pon Leap teach at Xieng Khouang then?

As "a duck can only produce ducklings" we will need English teachers to teach at our language schools. So, we need to send them to AIU to study to become English teachers. However, ESL requirement (English proficiency before entering college pro-

"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 side of the building that will join with the main building in the future



The main school building which contains 4 classrooms, library, meeting hall, and two teacher apartments is being planned

gram) is the main obstacle to our Lao students. As you know, we do not have a church owned English school in Laos. If we send our students to study English one hour per night it would take 7.5 years to equal 1 year of ESL study at AIU. It is not possible to

wait 7.5 years to send one student to AIU. We don't have that much time to waste. We need internationally qualified English teachers now and we need many of them. And with our second language school has just been opened in Luang



Very keen students don't mind unfinished classroom but seem to enjoy their new school already



Some students are standing outside waiting for their turns to get into the classroom

Prabang last month, September 2015, we are facing with a critical shortage of English teachers. One may wonder why we don't wait until we have teachers before we start schools? Well, if we should wait until then we don't know when we will have enough teachers when ESL remains a stumbling block for our Lao students. At the same time, Lao young people are desperately seeking to learn English. Should the church wait until others have built their English schools? No, we should not wait. We should not always run after others. The call from Jesus to teach and preach the gospel is ringing in our ears saying, "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).

We know that the day is almost over and soon night will come. So, we do not have time to waste. We pray that the Lord of the Vineyard in Laos will send us more workers to work in His vineyard before the day is over.



On the day he visited the school, seeing so many enthusiastic students, Phoumsaming Keovanna, LAF Associate secretary/translator, got so excited so he offered to be a relief teacher for the day.



Towering over the first house school the new school building is the evidence of God's blessing on English schools in Laos

No doubt God wants to see His people take up the challenge of spreading the gospel in Laos through teaching English. One may wonder why we have to preach the gospel though teaching English? Christ's method alone is our strategy. Through teaching English we establish relationship and friendship with our students. Through teaching English we show that we care for their needs and minister to their needs. Though teaching English we will win the confidence of our students. And through teaching English we will be able to introduce them to Jesus. While we acknowledge that there are other ways of preaching the gospel message but we have found that this method works very well.

But, the problem is that we lack internationally qualified English teachers. While the use of foreign volunteers is an option it is not easy for us to get work permits for them. Based on many factors, the government has limited quota as to how many foreign teachers we can employ. Therefore, LAF must focus on producing local English teachers. Still ESL stands in our way. Please pray that the Lord will open a way for us to send more students to AIU to be trained as English teachers. We have young people who have graduated from high school and are ready to be sent to study at AIU. Some are currently trying their best to learn English ONE hour per day! How long do we have to wait for them? Seven-and-a-half years? Will the Lord Jesus be happy for us to wait that long?

One year budget for a student to study ESL at AIU is about \$5,000.00. We are thankful to one donor from Australia who has provided one scholarship to LAF for this purpose. But, we still need more scholarships. Our plan is to open two more language schools in Vientiane (we have none as yet) and one school in Pakse, Southern Laos in 2016. Would you consider sponsoring an English teacher for Laos? With \$5,000 you can help us put one student at AIU to prepare to become a teacher for Jesus in Laos.

Please note that once the student is qualified to study at college level they may be eligible to SAUM scholarship which provides 75% of the tuition fees. The student can then work to pay off the remaining 25% through the student work program offered by AIU. Providentially, God seemed to have told us that He



3 young local teachers in the South waiting to go to AIU to study to become English teachers



4 more young ladies in the South also ready to go to AIU to study to become English teachers

has people ready to go to AIU to study. In August 2015 when I visited a small church in Pakse, Southern Laos, I met these many young ladies, some happened to be teachers already, who are ready to go to study at AIU to become our English teachers. They have the teaching qualifications and now just need English at AIU. They are ready, but are you? If you could contribute to our LAF ESL Fund please let us know. Thank you and God bless.