

Laos

Laos is the geographic center of Indochinese peninsula and the only landlocked country of Southeast Asia. It is bordered by Vietnam to the east, Cambodia to the south, Thailand to the west, Myanmar to the northwest, and Yunnan province of China to the north. Its population is around 7.17 million, with over 90% being Buddhists. The Lao people are naturally kind and simple in their disposition. Laos is a socialist country, and gospel preaching is prohibited by law. Despite the outward restrictions, people are desirous to come to God. It is still highly viable to preach the gospel by befriending the local people privately.

Thailand and Laos are neighbor countries with Mekong River flowing between them. People can generally understand each other's language. The capital city of Laos—Vientiane—is located on the border. In around 1990, a Laotian lady was hospitalized in Thailand and met a sister from the church in Anmnadzhalen in northeastern Thailand. This sister took very fine care of this lady and asked the brothers and sisters to pray for her. After this lady recovered, she received the Lord and returned to Laos. She could be considered the first saint in the recovery in Laos.

Around 1995, some Thai saints went to propagate in Pakse, Laos. Some saints from northeast Thailand also went to Laos several times and contacted some Christians. These Christians were open to the literatures of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee. They attended some conferences in Bangkok, Thailand, and purchased many ministry books. Several of these brothers then attended the Full-time Training in Bangkok one by one, and then returned to serve full-time in Laos. In 2007, the first local church in Laos—the church in Vientiane—was officially established. Currently there are four churches with 340 saints. In the past two years, we focused our labor in the capital. In the nine cities of the province of Vientiane, where the capital city is, there are Lord's Table Meetings in four of them.

Beginning from September of last year, the churches encouraged the saints to establish a life of morning revival. The saints formed morning revival small groups to get into the Laotian



Holy Word for Morning Revival on the Crystallization-study of Genesis. As the saints get revived daily and enjoy the word of God by reading the word regularly, they begin to have the burden for their relatives and friends. They either preach the gospel in their daily life, or gather their relatives and friends together to hear the word of God. Their desire is that not only they themselves, but their relatives and friends would also taste salvation.

From November 2017 to October 2018, fifty-two new ones got saved and baptized in Laos. Half of them were gained by the local saints, and many were relatives, friends, neighbors or roommates of the saints. The other half were gained during the short-term propagations by the saints from Taichung, Taiwan, and from Bangkok. We have a definite sense that the Holy Spirit is moving among us. In the past, the ones that preached the gospel were mainly full-time serving ones from overseas. Gradually, the local saints have been rising up to bear fruit. The saints also exercise to nourish the new ones by having home meetings and group meetings. We can surely testify that as we break bread from house to house and partake of our food with exultation and simplicity of heart, the Lord adds together day by day those who are being saved.

In the past year, despite outward obstacles we encouraged the saints to attend the international conference in Cambodia, the International Chinese Speaking Conference in Taipei, Taiwan, the international conference in Bangkok, Thailand, and to visit the churches, the training center and the Gospel Book Room in Korea. The blending among the churches and fellowship of the Body was a real strengthening for us, rendering us rich supply, enlarging our view and experience of the Body, and causing us to have a breakthrough in the church life. A young sister was deeply touched and strengthened at the International Chinese Speaking Conference and decided to attend this year's Full-time Training in Bangkok (FTTB). Another sister, who just graduated from college, joined the international blending meeting in Bangkok in August. The Lord touched her, and she also decided to enter the Full-time

Training this year. In July, two FTTB graduates returned to Laos and gave themselves for the propagation of the churches. We pray that the Lord would gain more local college students who will attend the Full-time Training upon graduation and serve full-time afterwards.

Regarding the translation work, a small group of saints are laboring to translate the ministry books. Of this group, 70% are local saints. So far they have finished translating forty-three ministry books, as well as seven Rhema booklets. The team is currently working on the translation of the Old and New Testament Recovery Version.

Prayer Items

1. Pray for the Lord to cover and strengthen all the saints in the translation team, and to increase the translation manpower specifically for the translation of the Holy Bible Recovery Version and the Holy Word for Morning Revival to produce spiritual food for the saints' nourishment.
2. Pray for the Lord to raise up more saints who have the heart to serve and coordinate in one accord.
3. Pray for the four churches in Laos to be solidified and strengthened.

Propagation Testimonies—Cambodia

From April 4 to 8 of this year, some young working saints from Taipei, Taiwan formed a propagation team and coordinated with the saints in Ta Khmau for propagation. Among these ones, some had just got saved less than two years ago and had never participated in any gospel move prior to this. During this propagation, by all kinds of fellowship, prayer, and coordination, the life of the Lord broke through all the limitations within each one. In spite of some outward interferences and unexpected circumstances, the saints gave their all and were filled with joy and the spirit of the gospel. During their time of propagation, a total of twenty-nine people got saved and baptized.

The following are some testimonies.

"The language barrier caused us to see the inability of our natural man. But the more limited we were, the more we exercised to rely on the Lord and not on ourselves. Only the Lord can do all things! Every day before we went out for propagation, we would pray in one accord in the car. Mysteriously, each day we came across sons of peace, who would simply get baptized after listening to our speaking.

We relied on the saints to translate for us as we were speaking, and therefore experienced in a genuine way the coordination of the Body and the blessing bestowed on it. Most of the time I could not understand what the gospel contacts were saying. I could only guess by their facial expressions and reactions. But I could still lead people to salvation. How wonderful! It is obvious that there was the desire within people to seek God, as seen by the



idols in each household. All the more I sensed the value of our gospel move. Even though I felt the lack of my language ability and of my constitution of the truth, in the propagation I came to realize the way to receiving blessing was just to remain in the Body. We witnessed the Lord's glorious work simply by relying on God, praying, and coordinating in the Body."

"The saints that we coordinated with told us that our preaching could be the only time these gospel contacts ever have the chance in their lifetime to get saved. I was deeply encouraged and could no longer keep myself out of it. The more I preached the gospel, either in very broken Khmer or in Chinese with other saints translating, the more joyful I got, the more I treasured the Christ in me, and the more I was blended into the Body. There was no you nor me; there was just Christ!"

During the last day of our propagation, we tried to invite all the newly saved ones and the open gospel contacts to a love feast. But they all turned us down with strange reasons. We prayed over and over again for these ones, and declared again and again to the enemy that our Lord was the Lord of the whole earth, and specifically the Lord of Ta Khmau. In our prayer, the Lord brought us into a deeper burden for the ones we prayed for. We could not even pronounce their names, yet we just loved them and believed from the bottom of our heart that the Lord would save them. Eventually some new ones came and some gospel friends were willing to get baptized at the evening gospel love feast. Thank the Lord! He is faithful. We could not have such coordination outside of the Body."

May the Lord continue to strengthen the propagation in Ta Khmau and raise up a golden lampstand there soon.



