

The newsletter
of Adventist
Southeast
Asia
Projects

ASAP

ADVENTIST SOUTHEAST ASIA PROJECTS

July/August, 2004



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Pastor Garth Anthony acquaints readers with the powerful effects of God's Word in the lives of pioneer Bible workers.			



Pioneer Bible workers stand together with their Bibles in the Borei Keila SDA Church, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Read their testimonies on page 8.



Houmphanh Kongsengphengphet, pastor in Vientiane, Laos (second from left) studies the Bible with ASAP supported volunteer pastors in Thailand; (left to right) Sutee Kajonson, Sam Roai and Sao Keasalee.

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Adventist Southeast Asia Project's purpose is to support the preaching of the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ through church planting and evangelism endeavors for Southeast Asian people throughout the world. As a privately funded nonprofit organization, we work as a supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. As an unaffiliated independent ministry, we are dependent upon God to move people to support this work. For information write to **Adventist Southeast Asia Projects, PO Box 84, Berrien Springs, MI 49103**. (Tax-deductible contributions may be sent with the enclosed envelope.) Our telephone #: 269-471-3026. Our fax #: 269-471-3034. Our e-mail: asap84@cs.com. Web address: <http://www.ASAPministries.org>. We would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

Editor's Update ... by Judy Aitken



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

I recently picked up some groceries at Sam's Club – a wholesale store that sells a variety of goods. While walking by the book isle, I noticed Bibles alongside cookbooks and secular novels. Later, my eyes were drawn to a rack of Bibles for sale by the checkout counter of my local supermarket. I can't help but be amazed at our ease to obtain this precious treasure!

The Bible has been translated into every primary language spoken in the world. Bibles in Thai, Lao, Cambodian and Vietnamese look the same as English Bibles, however there is not the variety that is available to us. Most translated Bibles have black covers and usually only come in the King James Version. Bibles in these and other languages are available through the American Bible Society, however we purchase Bibles printed in Asia when we are there as they are much cheaper—\$5.00 a Bible.

The Bible in Vietnam: It is essential to purchase Vietnamese Bibles in Vietnam because they would be confiscated if transported across the border into the country. For this reason, they are printed in a "secret" underground printing press and distributed discreetly to the Adventist pastors and Bible workers who then personally hand deliver them to house church leaders and individu-

als across the country. It is difficult but often impossible to purchase a Bible on one's own. Each family usually shares one Bible. Sometimes several families take turns sharing one. Often our pastors find whole groups of people cherishing and passing around one precious Bible.

Currently there is a long waiting list of people requesting Bibles in Vietnam. Our pastors are not able to keep up with the demand. When I recently was in Southeast Asia, visiting with a group of Vietnamese pastors, I was struck by how used their Bibles were. Each page looked as though it had been turned a hundred times. These Vietnamese pastors have such a profound love for God and His word; spending hours in search for light and truth.

The Bible in Cambodia: On page 7, the Cambodian Adventist Mission president, Garth Anthony, gives an update on the need for Bible in Cambodia. While it is legal to read and distribute Bibles and evangelism materials in Cambodia, the Bible is often regarded as the book of the "foreigner's God" and viewed with suspicion. The pastors and Bible workers ASAP supports have had wonderful success introducing the Bible through English and literacy classes, where the Bible is used as a textbook. I will never

forget the time I saw the desperate urgency to own a Bible. It took place in Khao-I-Dang Refugee Camp about twenty years ago when a twelve-year-old boy begged me to give him a Bible. He told me that he lived in the house with the unaccompanied minors. I knew that this meant he was one of the many children who had fled to the refugee camps on the border of Thailand and Cambodia without a parent or relatives. He learned to believe in God when he studied English and Bible in the children's class at the Adventist church. He wanted to be baptized and wanted, desperately, to own a Bible. I see this same desire and urgency, over and over again, throughout Cambodia. Thankfully, we have a team of powerful, caring pastors who are responding to these needs as Bible and materials are available.


The Bible in

Laos: Laos is a beautiful, undeveloped country steeped in a deep belief in Buddhism. To own a Bible is to rebel against tradition and family. Operated under a communist leadership, the spread of religion is frowned upon and numerous roadblocks have been set in place to impede the spread of the gospel. Pastor Houmphanh continues to fight for Christ in Laos. His weapon is the Bible. His passion is Christ. Sharing Christ to others through studying the Bible is his specialty (see photo page 2).

The Bible in Thailand: As a progressive, developing country, the people of Thailand have enjoyed years of peace. Perhaps, because they have not suffered as those in their neighboring countries, the SDA mission in Thailand has seen little growth in the past decade. Today, however, spurred on by

the dedicated Thailand SDA Mission president, Pastor Pakdee, there is renewed interest in evangelism. ASAP has been asked to support ten Thai lay pastors in Northeast Thailand who are eagerly taking the Bible truth to their people. During a recent visit to Thailand I saw first hand the Thai pastors are witnessing and sharing of the truth of God's Word. Truly God's word is not only a lamp that has led them to truth but also a light that guides their outreach and witness for Him.

For more than twenty-five years I have been involved in spreading the gospel in Southeast Asia.

Through these years much has changed in the world. However one thing remains constant: the amazing impact God word has in changing lives. I have seen time and again the Holy Spirit's guidance when the Bible is read. It becomes, indeed, a lamp that shines with the truth of Jesus Christ. On behalf of the thousands of Southeast Asian people who are given this light because of your generosity, I thank you. 

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EVANGELISM NEEDS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA FOR 2004

Vietnam

Bibles, Bible lessons, evangelism training videos and CD's, cassette sermon tapes, literature and books on Daniel: \$36,000

Cambodia

Bibles, Bible lessons, hymnbooks, literature: \$35,000

Laos

Bibles, Bible lessons, literature: \$2,500

Thailand:

Bibles and child evangelism materials: \$2,500

North America:

Evangelism materials in Southeast Asian languages of the people,
Bibles, Bible lessons, childrens evangelism materials: \$10,000



We would like to thank Lely and Swee Lim for their gift made in memory of Mrs. Katherine Rigby of College Place, Washington.

We also send our sincere appreciation to Ella May Stoneburner for her gift made in memory of Mazie Herin.

We all look forward to the reunion in heaven at which time we'll hear Christ's words, "Enter thou into the joy of Thy Lord" (Matthew 25:21).

ASAP

We invite you to COME and VISIT our new WEBSITE

www.ASAPministries.org

Log on and browse through the pages. Have a look at the exciting things we are doing. You will learn information regarding our goals and objectives of supporting the spread of the gospel to the people of Southeast Asia. The website provides a lot of information about our organization and especially the projects that we are supporting in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. You will also learn how you may partner with us in this ministry. You will encounter the following on the ASAP website:

ASAP Videos

You may watch ASAP Videos online or order your own personal copy from P.O. Box 84, Berrien Springs, Michigan 49103.

- Light in Darkness - an overview of ASAP work
- Peace and Happiness - featuring the Vietnamese radio ministry
- Harvest for the Lord in Cambodia – the work of the Cambodian pastors

ASAP Newsletters

You may read our latest newsletter that contains mission stories of the miraculous way God is working through national workers. You are welcome to sign up to receive your own personal copies.

Books and Literature

You may become acquainted with the books, Bible lessons and literature that we have available in Vietnamese, Khmer, Laotian and Thai languages. Some of this material is available to you on our website but there are other materials provided along with ordering information.


Contributions Made Online

If you would like to give a gift in memory or in honor of someone special, in someone else's name or simply as a gift from yourself, we have made a provision on the web page where you can make contributions online. You may also make your donation by phone (269-471-3026) or by mail. (see enclosed envelope).



Prayer Requests

We truly believe in the power of God to hear our prayers and send answers to “us who believe” and pray (Ephesians 1:19). We bring your prayer requests to God's throne during our prayer sessions each Wednesday morning. We also solicit your prayers for the ASAP ministry and the national worker in the field.

We are excited about our updated website and would love to hear from you with your reactions, suggestions and/or critique of the website. You are a valuable partner in this mission. 

Bible Testimonies

by Garth Anthony, President of Cambodia Adventist Mission

So many people have yet to even see a Bible! Strange? Unbelievable? But it is true! The average American household has four Bibles. The average Khmer has yet to see one. No wonder the Bible has such an impact on people!

As one lady said recently after having requested to take Bible lessons, "I started reading the big book (Bible) and I could not stop. It tells me all about myself, where I have come from and why I am like I am. I have never read a book like this before. I have not looked at the lessons yet because the big book is so interesting."

For the rest of 2004 and the first half of 2005, the 4,500 Adventists in Cambodia have committed themselves to reaching out to 50,000 people with invitations to study the Bible. We are not allowed to distribute literature en masse, but we can give individual invitations to friends and neighbors. So far over 350 people in Phnom Penh alone have responded bringing the total to 1,450 people in Phnom Penh studying the Bible in preparation for the evangelistic program next December. Bibles here are expensive, averaging \$5.00US each. If you would like to help people who have never even seen a Bible to read and study for the first time, your contributions will be most gratefully



Pastor Garth and Sylvia Anthony. Garth is president of the Cambodia Adventist Mission and Sylvia helps with the office work.

received. By helping us purchase 7,000 Bibles this year, you will play a part in reaching 7,000 people who have never seen a Bible before or heard of Jesus. He is coming soon. Let's make sure there is a great crowd from Cambodia to meet Him!

The following testimonies are from pioneer Bible workers who are sharing the gospel in Phnom Penh:

Nouv Vanna—

The Bible has become a very important book to me. I have learned about creation and the God who has made me. Now I understand how God has saved me and how he is coming soon to take me to heaven. I now have a new life and someone I can trust and rely on.

Moa Sey—

God has worked wonderfully in my heart and given me the ability to forgive and show mercy and love to others.

Noun So Phear—

Through reading the Bible I have learned to trust and obey God. I have left behind a life of meaninglessness and I thank God for that.

Theary—

The Bible has done wonderful things for me. No longer am I sad, angry, or moody. God has taken those spirits away from me and taught me to be joyful, humble and loving. Now God is with me and my life has changed.

Yin Yorn—

I have found in the Bible how God is truly merciful. He has changed me and taught me how to stay away from sin and follow Him. Now my God is not of the earth or rice, but of all things because he created everything. I am so glad that He is real to me.

Pom Chanthy—

God has changed my mind through the Holy Spirit working through the Bible. He is

now working in my heart and teaching me to trust in him. I am glad for that.

Cham Choeun—

The words of the Bible are now working in my heart. It shows me what is right and wrong. Now I know what it means to repent and have God rule in my life. Now I know I am saved. I am sorry for those who do not believe as I do and I want to tell as many as possible what they are missing.

Meas Sophy—

The Bible has shown me God's true love and salvation and taught me how to live in Him.

Oung Sophal—

I am glad that the Bible has been working in my heart and shown me the true salvation. I have love to read the Bible every day and study how to teach others the truth I find there. God has taught me to be unselfish and share what I have with others. I pray everyday that God will continue to teach me through the Word!

Vong Vinny—

The Bible has helped me to learn about the great God who created everything around me. You are not really alive when you do not understand these things and keep sin in your life. Now I can confess my sin to God and know that He hears and forgives me. So many people do not like to listen to God's Word and do not want to hear about God. But He has changed my life and I want others to share that experience.

Srey Ny—

When people do not believe the Bible


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they struggle through life and they show all the nasty attitudes that the Bible describes. They are greedy and boastful, violent and ungrateful. But when I read the Bible it teaches me to be different. Now I believe that I will serve God forever and His hope of eternal life is now mine. As the teachings of the Bible work in my heart I have become a new and different type of person. I am so thankful to God for that.

Sous Nath—

God has transformed me as I have read the Bible. I used to drink and gamble, etc. but now my life has changed. I realize that sin is very serious and only God can deal with it. As I have studied the Bible I have turned away from my old life and followed the way of God.

Garth Anthony—

Most of these pioneer Bible workers who shared testimonies have only been Christians for less than two years. Their reactions to the Bible are often similar because they have come from strong Buddhist backgrounds. Their comments may seem a little obvious to a Westerner but the difference it makes to their lives is enormous for them because of the marked contrast between Buddhist and Christian thinking. No one makes the choice to be a Christian easily because when you do, you choose to be totally different from the rest of society. The Bible does make a difference! It answers questions that Buddhism does not answer. It is pointing these Christians in a new direction, to a better way of living and a new hope of eternal life. 



Pioneer Bible workers in Phnom Penh with their Bibles and hymnbooks. The impact of the Bible on their lives is shared by their testimonies.

Our Most Important Learning Tool

by Nhean Thonsovan

Boeung Chhouk village has about 560 families. It is a small village with a small church (that ASAP donors gave money to help us build). Our group began in December, 2003 with only one family. Now, in addition to the 40-45 regular, baptized members, there are many others who come to church and are learning about God through our classes.

There are three pioneer Bible workers stationed in this village. Their names are Sous Nath, Yem Viley and Yin Yorn. Each of them teach classes every day. The day begins with

devotions together from 7:30-8:30. Then, literacy classes are taught, followed by English classes, and Bible classes after lunch. From 4:00-6:00 pm, the Bible workers spend time in the village going door-to-door. They visit the sick and take them to the hospital if it is needed. They also use this time to conduct health training and to also personally visit and teach about good health and hygiene, cleanliness and clean foods.

I wish to thank ASAP donors for the bamboo benches we now have for our classes. It makes the classes more effective.




Nhean Thonsovan, (right) district in pastor Phnom Penh City, stands with church leaders and pioneer Bible workers.



Boeung Chhouk people pray and study the Bible sitting on a tarp on the ground, while waiting for their church to be built.

tive to have benches and desks to sit in. Our classes are very popular now. Many people wish to join. We need more Bibles and teaching materials. Especially, the Bible is important. It is used in the literacy classes to teach reading and writing, in the English classes to teach how to speak English, and of course, in the Bible classes. The Bible is our most important tool.

I would like to ask ASAP donors for help to get more Bibles for our classes. There are so many people who want to come to our classes. We plan to start another group of classes if/when we receive Bibles for the students.

I would like to say Thank You to everyone who prays for us and helps us. Thank you for helping the people in Boeung Chhouk village, Cambodia, to know, love and accept Jesus as their Savior. 



Boeung Chhouk village church under construction. Funds to build this church were given by ASAP donors.



Nurturing New Believers

by Beatrice Neall

Think of all the materials we Adventists have to help us live the Christian life! The Bible, the Spirit of Prophecy, radio and T.V. programs, bookstores full of religious materials on daily devotions and more; prayer groups, marriage and family seminars, health retreats, church growth conferences and campmeetings nurture our faith along. Just filtering the best from the blizzard of media productions is a daunting task.

Contrast this super-abundance with the meager resources available to new believers in third world countries. Missionary pioneers began by translating the gospels, then the entire Bible, opening this precious resource to the people. Then came hymnbooks and some aids for Bible study. But more resources are needed to nurture new believers in their spiritual growth.

When my husband and I went to Cambodia in the late 'fifties', one of the first things we did was to prepare materials for disseminating the gospel. Ralph supervised the trans-

lation of a medical book by Dr. Hubert Swarthout, as well as a Bible course, while I wrote a primer on the plan of salvation called The Prince and the Rebel. The buildings we erected in Cambodia went to wrack and ruin during the devastation of the Pol Pot regime, but the written materials have proved more enduring. The book, The Prince and the Rebel, is still being blessed by the Lord to bring many into His Kingdom today in Cambodia.

In 1995 when Ralph and I returned to Cambodia, we noticed the great moral decline of the country as a result of two decades of Communist rule. Violence and greed were eating the heart out of the nation's morale. I thought how much the leaders of the nation needed the simple principles of unselfish service in order to uplift their country and achieve personal success. Inspired by Life's Little Instruction Book, I collected materials to foster courage and high ideals in the hearts of the Cambodian people. Included were sayings and stories of

Evangelistic books by Dr. Beatrice Neall in the Khmer language: Building A Better Cambodia (left) and The Prince and the Rebel (right).

Solomon, Jesus, Lincoln, Gandhi, and others. We called the book *Building a Better Cambodia*. Our mission leaders designed a cover showing a map of Cambodia encircling a photograph of typical Cambodians on a background of traditional Cambodian cloth. When we told about the project in the ASAP newsletter, contributions flowed in to finance the first printing. Initially the book was distributed free to government leaders and ministries at the national and state levels. The response was amazing. Government leaders requested hundreds, even thousands, of copies to distribute.

Since the colporteur work was established, this book has been sold in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap. Hang Dara, the colporteur leader, states: “Many government leaders and civil servants recommend the book as good for Cambodians. The book is becoming famous because of the diligent work of the colporteurs.” As stocks run out, it is reprinted, a thousand at a time. The following story cheered my heart. Sina, a new colporteur, sold a copy to a local policeman. Two weeks later he contacted her, asking how he could become a Christian. She took him to her local pastor, Hang Dara, and after further study he and his wife were baptized. His wife then became a colporteur, and she recruited seven others to join her. All from the sale of one book! Let us pray that the nation of Cambodia will be impacted by the principles of Jesus.

Some years ago I prepared a correspondence course on the life of Christ, exalting Jesus as our great example and substitute. It was translated into the Vietnamese language. Chet Damron, then director of the Voice of Prophecy for Southeast Asia, produced it in attractive format, using color and cartoons to enhance the message. The course was used in Singapore and Thailand and had just come off the press in Vietnam when the government fell to the Communists in 1975. All the lessons were confiscated or destroyed. Now that so many thousands of people are accepting the Gospel in Vietnam, there is an urgent



(From left to right), Dr. Ralph Neall, Pastor Men Mara, Dr. Beatrice Neall, Mony.

need for materials to nurture the new believers, as well as funds to print these materials, Bible lessons and books. Already translation work has begun on this course.

How grateful we are for the work Scott Griswold and his associates are doing in Thailand. In the Buddhist Research Center they are preparing materials on how to win Buddhists to Christ. Scott’s very practical Bible course, *The Light of New Hope*, has been a tremendous aid in introducing Jesus to the Cambodian people.

The work of publishing the gospel requires writers, publishers, distributors, and supporters like you who contribute financially to this great work. God bless you for your past and future support in the work of spreading the gospel message “like the leaves of autumn.” ASAP

About the author: Dr. Beatrice Neall is an author who lives in Lincoln, Nebraska. She and her husband, Dr. Ralph Neall are retired religion teachers from Union College. They served the Lord as missionaries to Cambodia and Vietnam. They have returned to Cambodia several times recently to help with training the Cambodian pastors.



Update From the Underground

by Isah Young

It will be fascinating, when we get to heaven, to see how connected we all are- God using each one of us in His work. From the thoughtful donations you give, to the ASAP office who sends it to the pastor in Vietnam, who then witnesses to interested souls, who in turn, spreads the gospel to their neighbors, relatives, and friends. God has a special place and purpose for each of us in his intricate design to win souls for His kingdom. Please accept my deep appreciation for your support the underground S.D.A. work in Vietnam.

One way to measure the effectiveness of the radio ministry is by the opposition we experience in the field. Truly, we are very effective, as the enemies of God roar angrily when they see what is happening for God. Waves of people are giving their hearts and lives to God and becoming dedicated to His Word. May all the glory go to the Lord!

As government persecution of our members and pastors intensifies, the house church movement in Vietnam continues to carry out a very aggressive outreach program. The combination of the SDA radio ministry along with ASAP-supported pastors and Bible workers has proven to be an outstanding means of outreach. This approach has become so effective, that in some areas the local authorities have threatened to kill our workers if we continue to do what we are doing.

Despite being a U.S. citizen (of Vietnamese decent) I have also received death threats because of my leadership of the SDA radio ministry. However, the conviction of those in the field is a

powerful testimony to me of what is truly important in life. I agree with the attitude of the pastors: everyone will die some day - what is most relevant is the reason for our death. With evangelism as the top priority for our existence, it would be an honor to die for Christ.

God has a special purpose for each of our lives. We are where we are today, with all that God has equipped us with, for a reason. The reason of our existence is to bring glory to God, to advance His mission to all the corners of the earth and to do His will. When we do this, when we focus on this goal, we will have fulfillment in our lives. I believe that God did not save us for our own sake, but to open the door to service, so we can share the joy of salvation to others.

Jesus tells us that gaining the whole world is not worth the loss of one's soul. Imagine that! All the material goods, gold, money and silver in the whole world is not worth the exchange of one person. For that reason, it is imperative to take advantage of every opportunity to tell others about Jesus. Every wedding, every memorial service, every funeral, birthday celebration, New Years, Christmas, every gathering, every encounter with others we must seize those fleeting opportunities to share what God is doing in our lives.

Evangelism material is key to achieving the goals of spreading the gospel. We strive to equip church members with evangelism materials. Your support through ASAP helps make this possible. Vietnamese evangelism materials have been translated and are available in the form of Bibles, CDs, cassette tapes, videos, all forms of literature and, of course, tracks to



Pastor Isah Young teaches a group of Vietnamese district pastors in one of his many training sessions.

carry in their purse or pack to distribute to others. Recently several members told of how, while riding a bus packed with people, they convinced the drivers to play audiotapes of sermons and the Peace & Happiness radio program tapes so everyone could hear, instead of playing secular music. Students also carry books to school to share with their friends about Jesus and His truth.

We have recently had success in producing DVDs. These are inexpensive and simple to reproduce inside the country. The difficult part is getting them into the country; however. If they do get through, the response is overwhelming. We tested this recently with two DVDs packed full of sermons and Bible teachings. Once inside Vietnam, thousands of copies were made and distributed throughout the country. In only two months, in only two provinces, we already have had several thousand people start studying the Bible and want to be baptized!

The leaders of God's work in Vietnam have asked me to produce more DVDs of sermons, Bible teachings and training in evangelism. This

way many more workers can be trained to evangelize Vietnam. This way of training workers will reduce the risk of persecution that those face when they travel for training in other countries. It will also save in the costs of travel and organizing the training sessions. By using VCD for outreach, training and nurturing we can guarantee a level of unity theologically, organizationally and administratively.

We plan to use this and other means of communication to take the Bible into Vietnam so that the momentum seen in evangelism will continue. However, we need your continued help. We need your prayers that our outdated equipment will continue to operate effectively. We need prayer that we will be able to obtain better equipment for modern and more effective means of evangelism such as the production of CDs and DVDs. And we need your prayers for continued funding for Bibles and other evangelism materials. Thank you for sharing our vision to take Jesus to the far corners of the earth. The winds of the Holy Spirit are fighting this battle with us. Together, we will win Vietnam to Christ.

ASAP

Ing Nang (right), district pastor of Kampong Spue Province, studies the Bible with Mr. Preap Nhim, lay Bible worker in this province. Cambodian pastors teach God's Word in individual Bible classes, in study groups, in churches and wherever people will listen. Using the Bible as a lamp that lights the path of the person who is seeking to know the true God. (Psalm 119:105).



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