



ASAP

ADVENTIST SOUTHEAST ASIA PROJECTS

BATUAN SDA MULTIGRADE SCHOOL

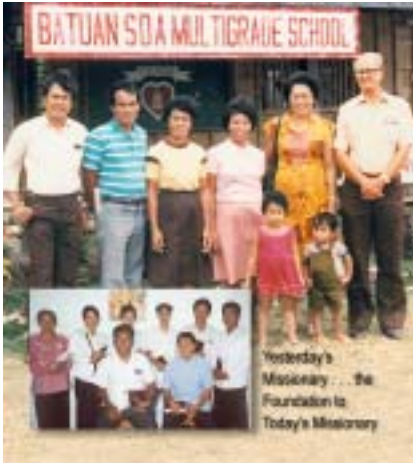
March/April, 2005



Yesterday's
Missionary . . . the
Foundation to
Today's Missionary

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(Background) **Yesterday's missionary: Boyd Olson (right) stands with teachers of Batuan SDA School in central Philippines, 1982.** (Inset) **Today's missionaries: Pal Sopheap (front left) ASAP supported church planter and Hang Dara (front right), Phnom Penh District pastor and trainer, with six pioneer Bible workers (backrow) from Borei Keila Church. They are part of 100 pioneer Bible workers who helped evangelize Phnom Penh in 2004.**

Editor.....Judy Aitken
 Associate Editor.....Jolene Roosenberg
 Copy Editor.....Linda Bauer
 Layout.....Son Praises/Margie Mitchell

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



“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord . . . that they may rest from their labors and their works follow them” (Rev. 14:13).

On December 26, 2004 I was eating lunch in Cambodia at the SDA school cafeteria when I received word that my dear father had passed away from a massive heart attack. The news was unexpected, as my father had been in excellent health and, though elderly, was very active, living independently. A retired educator and minister, he had remained close and was a spiritual encouragement to each of his three children, as well as his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

I returned home to Michigan following his memorial service with cherished items: his Bible, harmonica, one of his ties, a handkerchief, his watch, a big box of slides . . . As I looked through the old slides, I was transported back to the world of my youth when my family traveled to Singapore as missionaries. I peered at countless images of my father in villages throughout Asia. He was easy to identify, as he was usually the only Cauca-

sian in the pictures witnessing to the nationals of that country.

I am struck by how the face of missions has changed so dramatically. I recall conversations along these lines with my father – he was so pleased with these changes. He recognized the fact that many of the countries where missionaries were needed to first introduce Christianity now have national pas-

tors who are trained as outstanding ministers to their own people. My father was particularly proud that ASAP focuses on supporting these national workers - especially considering the fact that the tithe base of these underprivileged countries is not sufficient to provide support for more than basic operations and maybe one or two pastors. My dad took pleasure in the fact that he was one of those traditional missionaries of the past, yet in his lifetime was able to be a part of supporting modern-day missionaries – the nationals of those countries to which he, and



Author's Father, the late Dr. Boyd Olsen (also pictured on cover).

others like him, laid the SDA foundations.

In fact, ASAP's support of national workers is what makes us a unique mission. While there are a few other Adventist agencies that provide short-term support for national workers, as far as we know, no other missionary organization focuses their support and assistance entirely on national workers in Southeast Asia. Perhaps this has something to do with what one well-meaning church administrator cautioned when ASAP was getting established, "Americans like to support Americans. Donors will give support to those who look like themselves, and to their own family members." Repeatedly I was advised that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to raise support for national workers.

As a supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, ASAP operates in close cooperation with the local missions and/or union of that country. Each year, ASAP provides the missions with funds to hire national pastors, church planters and Bible workers. We also support training and ministerial education for these workers. In addition, ASAP does a number of other projects to further the spread of the gospel and to support the pastor's work among their people: emergency food relief, natural disaster assistance, providing funds to dig wells, donating seedlings, equipping them with evangelism supplies and giving help to build churches.

I have been asked, "Why support the nationals of those countries?" The answer to that question lies in a lifetime of mission work and the conviction that the national of a par-

ticular country is able to go where no foreigner could tread. They are able to make the Bible relevant to that particular culture and are able to penetrate their homeland with Jesus in the most effective manner. As well trained, experienced, dedicated men and women of God, they are passionate about telling their people about Christ. Foreign missionaries are not allowed into Vietnam. It is ASAP-supported Vietnamese pastors who have baptized thousands of their people into the SDA Church in the past ten years. In addition, the pastors and Bible workers joyfully work for Christ on a national's salary (a fraction of the cost that a foreign missionary couple would receive/expect).


Following in my father's footsteps, I went overseas in the 1960s as a missionary to Thailand. My husband and I learned the language, built a church, and worked tirelessly to connect with, and share the gospel with the Thais. In the 1970s and 80s, I worked in the refugee camps along the border of Thailand and Cambodia as a volunteer missionary nurse/Bible teacher. It didn't take long for a small group to form on Sabbaths in response to teaching about the Sab-

bath. This group grew. The spark was lit. Soon our small group mushroomed into a large church group. I rejoiced when those I studied the Bible with chose to accept the Lord as their Savior. As believers witnessed to family and friends, the group grew to include hundreds of believers in many churches in several different refugee camps. Over the next ten years, thousands were baptized.

The answer to that question lies in a lifetime of mission work and the conviction that the national of a particular country is able to go where no foreigner could tread.

As they accepted Christ the blessings and power of the Holy Spirit gave them a burden to share what Jesus had done for them and to give the message of salvation to others (Acts 1:8). Since passes to enter the refugee camps were difficult to get and only given once a month it was not possible for foreign missionaries to direct God's work in the refugee camps. We had to rely on converted nationals to lead the churches. I was amazed at the outstanding way in which God worked through these new Christians as they effectively ministered to their people. With an incredible grasp of the Scriptures, they wove the Bible and the love of Christ into everyday life in such a beautiful way, presenting the gift of salvation in a manner meaningful to their culture. The gifts of the Spirit were evident to all as they became dynamic, effective pastors, Bible teachers, children's teachers, elders, musicians and deacons in the refugee camp churches.

In the 1990s, half a million people returned to their home countries of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam from the refugee camps. Included in this group were many of the thousands who studied and learned of God while living in the refugee camps. This base of believers is the heritage and foundation of today's Cambodian and Lao Adventists. These same national workers continue to work for Christ through the support of ASAP readers/donors.

In October, ASAP will celebrate our ten-year anniversary of successful ministry. That is ten years where ASAP readers have opened their hearts and have adopted each pastor and Bible worker into their family. I thank you for playing an essential role in the lives of today's modern day missionaries. Thank you for your dedication to building His Kingdom. I thank those of you who, like my late father, have recognized the powerful impact that national workers have in spreading the gospel as missionaries to their own people. 



In Loving *Memory*



We would like to thank the following individuals for their gift given in loving memory of Dr. Boyd Olson of Walla Walla, Washington. Judy Aitken (see editor's update, page 3), joins others of our ASAP reader family who have lost a loved one as we all look forward to a reunion in heaven when we hear Christ's words, "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" (Matthew 25:21).

Adelyne Ammon.....Judy Aitken.....Pauline Barnett.....Lary Taylor.....Marion Dressler
 Shirley and Harlin Carey.....Dieter Hain.....Jane Trefz.....Fireside Friends Club.....
 Larry Henderson.....Doris Huddell.....Judith McTaggart.....Rosalyn McVay.....
 Nathan Merkel.....Isaiah and Mai Duong.....Rosemary Iles.....Vida Olson.....
 Alma Riter.....Loma Linda Vietnamese SDA Church..... Vera Ruud.....Ruby Hain.....
 Margaret and Donald Olson.....Marie Vixie.....Ben and Sandy Chilson.....
 John and Jolene Roosenberg.....Driggs and Edna Samarza.....
 Elmer A. and Naomi M. Bruce.....Linda Rice.....
 Max and Ardis Torkelsen

Church Planting in Cambodia

by Judy Aitken

Cambodian pastors and Bible workers have been very busy! I was thrilled to be present at the baptism of 850 people on Sabbath, January 1, 2005. The baptism took place in Tonle Bate Lake, about an hour from the capital of Phnom Penh. Eighteen Cambodian pastors took part in baptizing those they had won to Christ. As I stood early in the morning along the shore of the Tonle Bate, my heart rejoiced as I joined hundreds of Cambodian believers in lifting our voices to heaven in song. It was deeply meaningful to watch those pastors whose baptisms I had been present at over twenty years ago when they were living in refugee camps. I looked across the water into their faces – filled with joy and peace as they raised their hand to welcome person after person into God’s family.

The baptism was the culmination of evangelistic meetings conducted by the Cambodia Adventist Mission, in partnership with the Khmer pastors, and Denzil McNeilus and his family. Mr. McNeilus’ son Justin and his daughter Christiana, did the preaching.

Two young men who stood at the front of one of the lines, waiting their turn for baptism, caught my eye. I hurried over with my translator, Seyla Khat. “What would you like to say about your special day?” I asked. Twenty-three year old Phoung Norithia’s face radiated with happiness as he told how Jesus in his life had resolved problems he was having with his family. Now he prays for his parents and has seen how Christ’s love has brought peace to them. They no longer have arguments or other problems. Nineteen-year-old Tan Sopheap stood next




Cambodian pastors, Lim Pheng (left), and Hang Dara (right) and lay pastor, Thor Bophal (center) baptize, together with fifteen other pastors and lay pastors. More than 850 new believers were baptized in the Tonle Bate Lake on January 1, 2005.

to him and said, “Jesus saved me from sin. Before I believed in Jesus I went out with my friends to smoke and drink. Now I have put away all those things. Instead, I go with my new Christian friends to tell other people about salvation in Jesus.”

Cambodian lay Bible workers and pioneers receive a stipend of thirty to sixty dollars per month. A church planter in Cambodia (often a lay pastor) receives a stipend of \$100 per month. Pastors in charge of districts receive \$400 per month. ASAP supports twenty-six church planters and sixty lay Bible workers who are supervised by the Cambodia Adventist Mission. The mission president, Garth Anthony, reports on the advancements being made by these strong workers for God: “Over the past three years, ASI, the McNeilus family, ASAP, Gospel Outreach, Collegedale Church in Tennessee and many individual donors and helpers have combined in an outreach program that has far exceeded our expectations in terms of the growth and development of the church in Cambodia. The capital, Phnom Penh, has been the main target area for evangelism, although this last year

evangelism has been extended countrywide and campaigns in over 150 locations will be conducted over the next three months. Over 100 pioneers have been working hard over the last twelve months visiting homes in Phnom Penh, studying the Bible with any who would listen, training people to witness and baptizing when people were ready. In 2004 an estimated 2,042 were added to the church with 1,856 added so far this year.

The power of the Holy Spirit working through Khmer pastors, Bible workers and church planters is present in an effective way. Recently there has been an upswing in evangelism and baptisms as well as great breakthroughs in reaching whole villages via old-fashioned, large-scale evangelistic campaigns. While we rejoice in seeing hundreds join God’s family we realize that our work has just begun. Of a population of 9,500,000 in Cambodia, only 4% claim to be Christian. Your continued partnership in prayer and support as the Lord impresses you will carry this work forward and keep up the positive momentum of the national Cambodian pastors, Bible workers and church planters. 



Seyla Khat (left) translates the testimony of Phoung Norithia and Tan Sopheap.

Cambodia Medical Missionary Training

by Mary Ann Mcneilus

F Dr. MaryAnn McNeilus cares passionately for the Cambodian people as she has for over twenty-five years. She makes annual trips to Southeast Asia to teach and work with the national pastors and Bible workers. Working and traveling as a team, (for more than 10 years) she and Judy Aitken focus on empowering the nationals of Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam to spread the gospel. A long-time board member of ASAP, MaryAnn focuses her attention on teaching

teachers – instructing the nationals of each country on how to instruct and work with others in health evangelism and natural ways of healing. MaryAnn resides with her husband in Whalan, Minnesota where she practices natural remedies and does outreach to local Amish people. They have three grown sons. The following snapshots were taken from this year’s training of national pastors, Bible workers and church planters. Be inspired!



(Below) MaryAnn McNeilus teaches Bible prophecy to local pastors and lay Bible workers in Khampong Cham Province, Cambodia. (Right) The eight laws of health and the body as a temple of the Holy Spirit are two important themes MaryAnn focuses on in her instruction to local church workers.





(Left) Lay Bible workers from Prek Tol Village with health posters during a health training seminar conducted by MaryAnn. District pastor Hang Dara (right) oversees the work of these and other Bible workers in his district.

(Right) Healthy, vegetarian cooking is also taught. Pastors and Bible workers (and their wives) learn to cook in healthful ways. Diana David (right) is a nutritionist who assisted Mary Ann in the training.



(Left) MaryAnn and Pen Narith, district pastor of Khampong Thom Province study with Korn Noeum, ASAP-supported church planter (center).

Modern Day Paul/Saul

by Minh Danh Cong

My name is Minh Danh Cong. I am 40 years old. My wife and I have three children. It is the blessing of the Lord that my whole family (parents, brothers and sisters) believe in God. My father, brother and I are all pastors.

My father was the first in my family to listen to the SDA radio program entitled, "Peace & Happiness". He made the decision to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. When my father accepted the truth, I was the one in my family most against it. I worked as the assistant to a regional leader of a different Christian church. I felt angry at my father for leaving the church where our family had been members for so many years. I refused to speak to him for a whole year.

As long as there is not large growth, the Sunday church is accepted by the Vietnamese government. The SDA underground church, however, is not accepted because of its large growth. I persecuted my father and others who believed in the Sabbath by turning their names in to the authorities. I was authorized to confiscate their publications, including their audio sermon tapes and Bibles.

After a year of not speaking to my dad, I began reading the SDA literature so that I could go to him with the errors in his beliefs. I planned to convince him that his beliefs were wrong. However, the more I read, the more I saw truth. I could not refuse what I read. I then went to my father, made peace with him and told him that I could not argue against what he believed. I joined the remnant church. When I made a decision to leave my church denomination, my boss offered to give me a higher position and pay if I stayed. However,

I feel strongly that God called me out of the Sunday church like He called Abraham to leave his home and country for a new land.

When I joined the Adventist church I felt guilty because of the way I had persecuted Sabbath keepers. But my father and others opened their hearts and welcomed me. That was very encouraging! At that time I felt my heart burning with the desire to go and tell my friends the truth. I took all of the tapes, publications and audio sermon tapes that I had confiscated from the Adventists and contacted my friends and colleagues from my former denomination in a neighboring province. I traveled there and contacted listeners from the SDA radio program. I saw that the radio messages had sown seeds of truth to many people. God's Word read during the programs prepared people's hearts to accept Christ and the truth for the last days. Some who heard the message from me hardened their hearts because they did not want to lose their positions. Others were eager to hear more.

I was shocked because in the short time that I was away witnessing, many people from my old congregation believed in the Sabbath day. I had worked for many years in the Sunday church, but I never saw results like when I taught the truth of God's Word and the Sabbath. This is because of the Lord's blessing! I thank God that the Lord impressed many leaders of Sunday congregations to accept the teachings of the Adventist church. They then brought the truth to their members. Some members accepted what they heard, excited to embrace the Sabbath, while others fought against it. We prayed hard. The Lord sent evangelism materials (with ASAP's help).

Those supplies allowed me to share with people who really wanted to know the truth. From that time until now many, many congregations have formed everywhere.

In my former church denomination there was an organized system. In our case now, there is no organizational structure inside the country so there is no system of support between the churches. The messages from the SDA radio program are the greatest comfort to us. Pastor Isah Young, the speaker of the program, provides the leadership. There are not enough pastors and lay workers to preach and nurture the thousands who believe the truth, but we do the best that we can in organizing and dividing up the provinces and deciding which churches to visit. My family is also an encouragement to me. The radio messages are the spiritual food to nurture people on a daily/weekly basis. Please pray for the radio programs to continue. Please pray for the Lord to protect and strengthen the frequency.

All letters that mention Adventism or those sent to the SDA radio headquarters are confiscated by the security system in Vietnam. They also listen to telephone conversations and try to control our email. No religious publication is allowed in Vietnam – yet we are able to get Bibles and other literature printed from underground printing presses (funding is provided by ASAP donors). Seventh-day Adventist pastors and members receive the worst persecution in Vietnam – far more than any other Christian church. The reason for this is because we are growing and expanding more than other denominations. In the provinces where I work other churches are losing their members. When people learn the truth of the Sabbath, they want to join us. In some areas the Catholic and protestant denominations join the government to persecute Adventist members. Other denominations publish literature attacking our church. In many areas of Vietnam our members and pastors suffer greatly. The police charge heavy fines to anyone suspected of being Adventist.

In some areas the members and pastors are beaten, punished, threatened and imprisoned.

One year ago, during the month of December, I was arrested by a police security squad when I was on a trip to another district. For two days they tried to psychologically break me down. They pressed charges against me for evangelizing illegally. They claimed that I met together with others to worship and conduct religious services illegally. They beat me until I thought I would die. I prayed to God for help every minute. Finally, they did not find any evidence so they released me. They told me to never come back to that province again. Since that incident I have returned six times this year to spread the gospel. I always pray to God very much for courage and strength to do God's work.

My job comes with stress for my family. But my family and I are not afraid to do God's work. We are willing to accept persecution and die for Jesus if it is necessary. I lead out in God's work in six provinces where more than 17,500 people worship in house churches. To be a pastor and leader of His work is a privilege that comes with God's call. It gives me comfort and courage to know that I have a family of God who is praying for God's work in Vietnam. Thank you for praying for me. Thank you, ASAP people, for your support.

Editor's Note

Pastor Minh Danh Cong is one of the 200 district pastors in Vietnam who need our support this year. He is the son of Pastor Pastor Minh Pham who shared his testimony in the ASAP January/February 2005 Newsletter. Each pastor who receives our support is a district leader or assistant to the leader of large districts of house churches. The smallest district has approximately 500 members with the largest district having approximately 18,000 members of house churches. The average stipend given is \$50 per month (travel expenses are also covered in this).

(Continued on back cover)

JOYFUL IN THE TRUTH


by Kongsri Pathee

Forty-nine years ago I was born in Sithat District of northeast Thailand. I was one of eight children in a family where the Buddhist religion was practiced faithfully. I married and had two sons. Disaster came to my family ten years ago when a tree fell on my husband and killed him. My sons and I felt very sad. I did not know what to do to support my sons because my husband provided for the family. It was at that time when I was very depressed that one of my friends invited me to go to a Christian Sunday church with her.

I was so happy to learn to know Jesus Christ. I gave my heart to Him and laid all my burdens at His feet. I also prayed to Him everyday. Then I saw that He helped me to take care of my sons. He showed His love to me and to my sons. God answered my prayers by giving me a strong mind and body. I was able to plant rice and also to grow sugar cane. I spent my time praying, studying the Bible, working to take care of my sons and, also, sharing the news that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. After being a Christian for about five years I was asked to be a leader in my Sunday church and to work as a pastor to my people.

Three years ago I was invited to go to meetings being held by Christians who worshipped on a different day than Sunday—Seventh-day Adventists. I had never thought about the particular day of worship in my church. The truth from the Bible that I heard at the meetings answered many of my questions. I felt very blessed. The first truth I learned at the meetings was the truth of the seventh-day Sabbath. I then accepted the seventh day as the true Sabbath. The Sabbath is now a day of rejoicing in which I praise and worship God.

When I was a leader of the other church, I used to feel hurried to go to church so that I could get back to work. Now it is a joyful day in which I do not work, but instead study the Bible and praise God with other believers. When I learned about stewardship, I shared with the members of my church. In the old church it was hard for us to pay tithes and offerings. Now they all love to give tithes and offerings to God. I was also very happy to learn about E. G. White and Bible prophecy. Another way that God changed my life is giving me the health message. Since I followed the eight laws of health I am healthy. As my members and I have followed the new truth, we received from God much joy and happiness like we have never had before. Our church became a Seventh-day Adventist church and ASAP has supported me to continue as the lay pastor of my church.

Since the time I came to know Jesus I felt a desire to share Him with others in my village. This year I am visiting every house in the village to tell them about Jesus Christ. God has blessed me to have twenty-five new members that study with me in my house at Kud-I-Thao Village and who have joined our church. Four new believers were baptized last year and five more are studying and preparing for baptism. The problems in my life have caused me to love Jesus more and more. My sons also love Jesus. One of my sons is studying at a teachers college and wants to serve God when he is done. My other son serves God in villages in northern Thailand near the Lao border. Thank you for praying for God's blessings on my ministry to my people in Thailand. 

Little Investment, Much Gain


by Judy Aitken

Two years ago, the Thailand Mission president approached ASAP with an exciting request. In the northeastern region of the country, there were ten godly men and women who worked as trained lay preachers of other Christian denominations who had converted to Adventism. To make the news even more exciting was the fact that many of these pastors had brought their congregations with them. Would ASAP, the president wanted to know, consider supporting these Thai lay pastors so they could continue in their ministry to their congregations as SDA pastors? ASAP was delighted with the news, and after meeting these men and women, eagerly agreed to support their work.

Kongsri Pathee, author of “Joyful in the Truth,” page 12, is one of the ten lay pastors ASAP provides support for.

Pastor Boonrat Moolkeo, ministerial secretary of the Thailand Adventist Mission recently wrote ASAP: “Thank you for your whole-hearted support (during 2004) of the lay preachers who are working to spread the gospel. I can see that we have been investing little but gaining much. You pay them a stipend of only Baht 2,000 (\$50) per month but they draw many people to Christ. I am very happy to see them working hard in winning souls for Christ. Last year they baptized fifty-eight new believers.” ASAP’s support will enable the lay pastors to continue working on a full-time basis for God in their districts of northeast Thailand.

For more than 100 years, the Thailand Adventist Mission has been actively involved in evangelism and spreading the gospel. Despite these efforts there have been very few

converts in northeast Thailand. We are excited about the recent breakthrough we have seen as Thai national lay preachers are spreading the gospel in mighty ways. If you would like to be involved in this exciting mission that is sure to win many for Christ’s Kingdom, please mark the enclosed envelope indicating your desire to pray for and/or support pastors who are spreading the gospel in Thailand. 



Lay pastor Kongsri Pathee shares her testimony with Judy Aitken.

Demons in 2004

by *Khamsay Phetchareun*

Aunty Chanpeng was a famous witch doctor. She used to have a persistent, severe headache and a strange itch all over her body, like thousands of insects creeping underneath her skin. Her life was terribly miserable. In addition, her son who was a Buddhist monk, was also often possessed by a local demon called “Pee Sing”. They had tried many ways to cure their problems with no positive result.

One day, on April 24, 2004, Aunty Chanpeng happened to meet Grandma Tin who is a Seventh-day Adventist Church member. She told Grandma about the problems that she and her son were having. Grandma Tin told her, “You must go to see Souksavath and Bouasone who are pastors in the

Adventist Church. Go and believe in God with them and the evil spirits will leave you.” After that, Aunty Chanpeng came to see Souksavath and Bouasone as suggested by Grandma Tin. Souksavath and Bouasone shared with her about the God who is more powerful than demons and how God could also give eternal life to her and her son. They prayed for her and her son. Two other Adventist pastors visited and prayed for her and her son as well.

After successive visits and prayers Aunty Chanpeng’s headache and body itch disappeared. Later her son was also released from demon possession. It was obvious that God’s power was manifested in a marvelous way that Aunty Chanpeng and her son were re-



Lao pastors stand with Judy Aitken (left). Left to right, Pastors Souksavath, Bouasone, Kampasong, Mrs. Saeng Soulee, Pastor Houmphanh K. and Pastor Khamsay Phetchareun, the author.

leased from the power of Satan. Then, Aunty Chanpeng and her son decided to study more about the God who had freed them from the power of demons. Later, on July 3, 2004 Aunty Chanpeng was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Southern Laos. Her son, Kaisone, who was once a Buddhist monk, was also baptized on February 2, 2005.

This is only one of many miracles that God performed in southern Laos. These things

happened because of the power of prayer by the pastors and many members who are earnestly seeking to build God's church in southern Laos. There are now well over 700 members in fifteen groups with only lay preachers in charge. So far, there is no decent church building for these members. Recently, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has received permission from the provincial government to build a church, the first of such permission ever granted by the government of Laos since the change of regime in 1975. The church construction has been underway with the initial funding of US\$2,500 given by Dr Mary Ann McNeilus and the Korean Church in Sydney, Australia. The funds are quickly running out. There is an urgent need for more funds of at least another \$2,500 to complete the church building. Local members have also contributed in offerings, time and labor. A member, who is an electrician, has offered to install electricity for the church on his own time and funds.

Central Laos, where Pastor Houmphanh is working, is also experiencing rapid growth. Pastor Houmphanh's primary school is now running Sabbath workshops for kids while the adult church service is being conducted at his house. This group is growing so fast that



Laotian pastors and Bible workers study together.

they have already outgrown the double classroom hall. There is a need to build a larger hall for the church meeting. All this growth that has happened in Laos is due to God's love towards the Laotians who are yet to hear the gospel message and the fervent prayers of many Christians in the world. The church in Laos is still young and poor. Therefore, I pray that our brothers and sisters in the West will keep your Lao brothers and sisters in your prayers. May the Lord bless you in every way that you may become a blessing to His work in Laos.

Editor's Note

Though Laos is a communist country, relative religious freedom has been granted to Adventists worshipping in the central and southern provinces. Persecution of believers continues, however, in the northern regions of Laos as well as in some specific central and northern provinces. We solicit your prayers on behalf of Lao pastors and members who suffer for their faith while spreading the gospel to their people. ASAP is supporting four pastors and ten lay Bible workers again this year. The full time pastors receive from \$100 to \$200 per month, depending on their years of experience. Lay Bible workers receive stipends of \$30 per month.

ASAP

Continued from page 11

The district pastors have a wide variety of jobs so as to disguise themselves as Christian pastors. Many of them have small shops that sell groceries, photography shops and household goods. We usually see the wife, children and extended family helping, and in most cases, running the shops and other businesses which allows the pastors to focus their full-time energies in pastoring and witnessing. Many house church leaders are rice farmers. The majority of district pastors and house church leaders are persecuted for their faith and Christian outreach. Your prayers are solicited on behalf of Vietnamese Seventh-day Adventist pastors and the thousands of members. ASAP supports district pastors who follow up on radio listeners in Vietnam. ASAP works closely with Isah Young, director of the Adventist Radio broadcast to Vietnam and leader of the SDA underground house church movement. **ASAP**

Pastor Isah Young counsels with Pastor Minh Danh Cong and other Vietnamese pastors.



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