



Tearing Down the Enemy's Strongholds

Dear Friends,

Last year, Americans spent 12 times as much money celebrating Halloween as they gave to support mission work for the unreached.¹

Perhaps our priorities would change if we better understood the fear and torment inflicted by demonic forces upon the unreached.

I think of Calvin (a pseudonym), a young ASAP church planter I met recently. He was born into the Katu tribe in a communist country in Southeast Asia. The Katu and the neighboring Alak, Ta Oi, and Talieng tribes are animists, whose way of life revolves around appeasing the spirits.

Not long ago, a relative brought the gospel to Calvin's village. After hearing about Jesus and the teachings of the Bible, Calvin's cousin, Khamsing (a pseudonym), converted to Christianity. But the villagers warned that the spirits had cursed their village because of this foreign religion.

Calvin sided with the villagers. He pressured Khamsing to return to animism to preserve peace in their family and the village. But Khamsing refused.

"Imagine if all of us were stuck in a dark well with clay and thorns in it. It would be uncomfortable, wouldn't it?" asked Khamsing. "What if one of us found a way out? Wouldn't everyone else be happy for them and try to get out in that same way, too? Why don't you come out of the well into a wide, beautiful place where there is clean, amazing water? This is my life as a Christian."

We could be free from the bondage of sacrificing to evil spirits! The sudden realization thrilled Calvin's heart. The next day, he suggested to his father that the entire family become



▲ Raised as an animist in the unreached Katu tribe, Calvin lived in fear of evil spirits until he encountered the power and love of God.

"After I saw these two miracles, I believed that God is real and that prayer is powerful!"

Seventh-day Adventist. His father agreed. So did the other relatives he approached — four families in all.

They called Adventist church leaders to help them rid their homes of idols and evil spirits. But the spirits were angry and took possession of two of the women, including Khamsing's mother, the former spirit medium for the village. They contorted the women's faces and spoke terrible things to try to intimidate the new Christians. The church leaders countered the demonic assault with prayer, and eventually, the evil spirits left the women.

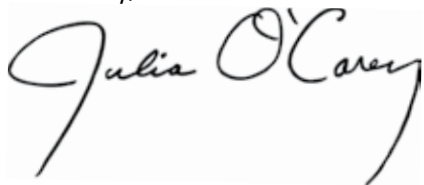
Like many animists, Calvin needed to witness God's supremacy over evil spirits. "After I saw these two miracles, I believed that God is real and that prayer is powerful," says Calvin. "In my former religion, we had to pay a lot of money and sacrifice a lot of animals to be healed. But God's healing is free. He is a Master Physician and a God of love."

Today, the gospel is spreading rapidly among the Katu and other unreached people groups in Southeast Asia.

In less than four years, 70 people have been baptized in Calvin's village, and more are attending church and studying the Bible with him. The gospel of the kingdom is being "... preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations..." (Matt. 24:14, KJV), and Jesus is soon to come!

Would you like to tear down the enemy's strongholds and help the unreached find freedom in Christ? Pray for God "'to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in [Jesus]'" (Acts 26:18, NKJV). You can also help by donating to **ASAP's Evangelism Fund**. Your gift will put church planters on the ground, support ongoing missionary training and evangelistic meetings, provide Bibles and other spiritual resources, and more.

Gratefully,



Julia O'Carey
Chief Executive Officer
ASAP Ministries



"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1, KJV).



¹ According to estimates from the National Retail Federation, Halloween spending in 2022 totaled a record \$10.6 billion. Meanwhile, "missions giving" to reach the unreached totaled approximately \$880 million (The Traveling Team, 2022).