

A stylized map of Southeast Asia in a light brown color is positioned in the upper left corner of the page, partially overlapping the blue header.

ASAP

ADVENTIST SOUTHEAST ASIA PROJECTS

May/June, 2005



**The Least
of These p. 10**

Features

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Cover: Vang Va Ny and his wife, Vandy, make a very effective church planting team. Supported by ASAP donors, they share the gospel with the poor of Phnom Penh, their neighbors.

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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



Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ But they all with one accord began to make excuses. . . . Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, “Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.” “Sir,” the servant said, “What you ordered has been done, but there is still room.” Then the master told his servant, “Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full. I tell you that not one of those men who were invited will get a taste of my banquet” (Luke 14:21-23 NIV).

April 5, 2005

Greetings from Cambodia! What a pleasure, to write from the field. It is exciting to see, firsthand, the incredible ways God is working. Many of the pastors, church planters and Bible workers I've been meeting with are supported by ASAP donors. It is great that all God's workers, work together under the Cambodia Adventist Mission, focused on a common goal: going out into the streets, the alleys and the country roads inviting all to partake of Christ's banquet. Cambodia, Vietnam, Thailand and Laos are among the thousands in third world, poor countries that are embracing the gospel. Not too busy and without ex-

cuses they have eagerly accepted the King's invitation (see text above) – already this year in Cambodia, over 1,200 people can be added to those who will sit with Christ at his banquet.

Yesterday Dr. Mary Ann McNeilus and I were warmly welcomed by more than 100 very poor church members from the Kok Thrach village church located in Siem Reap Province. It was a thrill to walk into the newly built bamboo and thatch church that ASAP donors have so kindly given these members. They were excited to give us a tour and worship with us. I cannot put into words my joy as I listened to their words of gratitude.

If you are among those who have given for churches—those expressions of appreciation belong to you as well.

What made the experience even more touching was the fact that these members are so poor. Ninety percent of them are rice farmers. Seventy-five percent recently had their crops destroyed by drought that ravaged the area. This crop was to tie them over for the next few months until they plant again. Now they wait for rain and ration their rice from last year's harvest. The leader of this group reported these facts matter-of-factly in response to my questions, but the subject she most emphasized was the amazing way God's power has worked in the lives of so many of the members of this church. Her face radiated with joy as she recounted testimonies of lives changed as people have been brought to know God. Indeed, when I opened the church service up to prayer requests. The first request made was for other people in other villages and provinces to learn about the God they love. Only later did several elderly men raise weathered, thin hands to request prayer for rain, to which the rest of the members unanimously agreed.

As I looked out over this congregation of our SDA brothers and sisters, I marveled at their faith. Gaunt, hungry, thin faces sat before me, yet spreading the gospel to others was so important. We couldn't leave this group knowing there were women, children, many elderly members and whole families without food. We left sacks of rice (per kindness of ASAP donations) to be distributed and shared

among the members and villagers in need.

April 13, 2005

We are visiting many new church-planting sites in the capitol city of Phnom Penh today. District Pastor Touch Sarith has taken us to Ban Ty Sleuk District where ASAP is being asked to support a church-planting project. In over thirty years of missionary service, living and working in Asia, I have never encountered worse conditions. ASAP is planting churches in the slums of Phnom Penh, Cambodia – the most impoverished, overcrowded, filthy living conditions you could possibly imagine. Yes, even worse than the refugee camps (the camps at least had a sewer system and organized housing). These slums, home to thousands of families with children, lie in the shadows of tall, modern apartment buildings. Forgotten, ignored, hated, those living here converged on the city, mostly from the countryside. With nowhere to live, these slums are home. Vang Va Ny, a lay pastor in this slum region who accompanies us, is thankful for the scorching, tropical heat. "Otherwise," he says, "Our walk would be slow because these dusty paths turn to mud when it rains."

I am struck, once again, by the children. "Hello Jesus man, hello Jesus man," they shout out as we walk by their makeshift shanties. Curious little heads poke out of windows and many run to join the crowd of children following us. In threadbare clothing, many with early signs of malnutrition and protein deficiencies, they smile and wave, calling out, "Hello Jesus." Lay pastor Va Ny (testimony, p. 10) does not wait for me to

ask. “They hear me talk about Jesus, so they call me Jesus man,” he says with a smile. Many of the adults also stop what they are doing to extend a friendly wave or *wai* (traditional Khmer greeting). It is apparent that Va Ny is respected and loved by these people who see him as a caring Christian teacher. Mingled in with the women and children are many handicapped men. Outside of Afghanistan, Cambodia has the highest number of amputees than any country in the world. Many wear makeshift prostheses.

We step inside one of the thousands of shanties to meet a new believer. She is thrilled with our arrival and graciously invites us into her home, offering us a glass of water. We take off our shoes and seat ourselves on a threadbare mat. Her husband is away, she explains. He works at a local construction site for \$2.00 a day (hardly enough to feed his wife and their three small children). But this is not the focus of our conversation. Instead, she tells of the joy and peace she has found in knowing Christ and her love for the new SDA church built not far from her home. She gathers her children and they join us as we continue our walk to this church-planting site to see the temporary church that members built (from ASAP donor support). We pass through a narrow alley – literally stepping through the garbage. The stench is nearly unbearable.


The members are waiting for us when we arrive – crowded into their new church, we are greeted with smiles and praise songs and proudly they show us their new church - a simple, square, unfinished building constructed

of brick and cement with no windows, a dirt floor and little else. My first impression of the simple structure is not positive, however I attribute it to the destitute surroundings that seem to pale into the background as we worship with this wonderful group of people. Truly, I feel the presence of Christ in this humble place. I feel the warmth of the people and listen to them lift their voices in joyful songs of praise to God.

May 5, 2005

As I now look back on my trip, that church sitting in the middle of the slum, one of the worse places I have ever set foot, is one of the most beautiful places I have ever been.

We have filled this issue with updates and reports from the field. Accounts of how the gospel is spreading and churches that are being built are sure to inspire you. With your help, ASAP is in the business of supporting the nationals of Southeast Asia to go out and invite all who will listen to heaven. We are building Christ’s kingdom by planting the seeds of His love in peoples’ hearts. With your support, the poorest of the poor are embracing the invitation from our King (see Bible text on pg. 4). Courageous Southeast Asian pastors and Bible workers enter remote villages, poor farming villages, cities and now the slums with the precious invitation and the hope only found in Jesus Christ.

Thank you for building His Kingdom as hundreds and thousands are given the opportunity to lift their voices to heaven in prayers, in song and in rejoicing. He wants all at His banquet table. 



In Loving Memory



We would like to thank the following individuals for their gifts given in loving memory of those they cared for deeply:

Thank you, Nicole and Terry Mattson for your gift given in memory of your son, **Tyler Day** who passed away on November 18, 2004 at the age of 19 in Battle Creek, Michigan. We are thankful for Tyler's big heart for missions and his gift that was included in this offering.

Thank you, Charles and Pearl Martin, Margaret Meelhuysen, Irmgard S. Hooper, Pastor and Mrs. Thanh Pham, Celine Perumal and Jay and Eileen Lantry for your gifts given in memory of Judy Aitken's father, **Dr. Boyd Olson** who passed away on December 28, 2004 in Walla Walla, WA. Jay Lantry wrote, "I enjoyed working with him at the Far Eastern Division. He was a wonderful man."

We sincerely thank Jim and Dottie Davidson for their gift given in memory of Dottie's cousin, **Josephyne Shasky Howard Clough**. Dottie Davidson wrote, "She was a very special cousin who was the most giving person I know, and my mentor."

We also thank Valerie and Daniel Morikone for their gift given in memory of Valerie's oldest brother, **Orlyn Hamel** who passed away in January 2004.

We send our appreciation for the gift given by Lois Simpson in memory of her husband, **Darrell Simpson**, of Tampa, Florida. We also appreciate the loving gifts given in his memory from their children.

We also send our appreciation to Anita Kohler for her gifts given in memory of her husband, **Hans Kohler**, as well as in memory of her cousin, **Boyd Olson**.

To each of these individuals and families who grieve the loss of a loved one, we send our deepest sympathy and condolences. We join you in looking forward to a reunion in heaven and hearing Christ's words, "Enter thou into the joy of Thy Lord" (Matthew 25:21).

Please Pray for Church Planting Needs . . .

In Vietnam . . .

- A supporter (\$50 per month) for 200 pastors/church planters (ASAP is a supporter of national SDA pastors/Bible workers/ Church planters who work under the radio ministry in Vietnam)
- Bibles, Bible lessons, literature, books on the Sabbath
- Evangelism and training tapes, DVDs and CDs
- Repair of 25 house churches @ \$200 each
- Shortwave radios @ \$25 each - 2,000 radios needed

In Cambodia . . .

- Support (\$100 per month) for 37 church planters/Bible workers
- Fifteen temporary churches @ \$400 each
- Food for new believers and children in Phnom Penh who are suffering, hungry, sick and destitute
- Support for 50 lay Bible workers (\$30-\$40 per worker, per month)
- Evangelism materials - Bibles, Bible lessons and hymnals
- Phnom Penh permanent church buildings (2) \$90,000

In Thailand and Laos . . .

- Laos—Support needed for five pastors and 10 lay Bible workers @ \$30 per month
- Thailand—Support is needed for 10 additional lay pastors @ \$50 per month
- Thailand—training of tribal workers, \$8,000
- Evangelism needs (Bibles, Bible lessons and hymnbooks in the Thai/Lao language)

Pleading With God

by *Scott Griswold*

Thirteen years ago my wife, Julie, and I landed in Thailand and headed to the Cambodian refugee camps. We were green missionaries straight out of college, volunteering for Adventist Southeast Asia Projects (ASAP).

It was 1992. Cambodia had suffered genocide and occupation. They were about to have their first democratic election. Several hundred thousand refugees were being repatriated by the busloads, many of them scared to return to their country. There was no Seventh-day Adventist Church in the entire nation.

Julie and I found 300 church members still in the camps. Many others had been baptized through the ministry of ASAP, ADRA and others but had immigrated to other countries. Soon the 300 refugees left to return and would be scattered. We were thrilled at the opportunity to help prepare them to start churches wherever they would go.

But what did we know? We had never planted a church, we had not learned their language and we really did not know their culture. So, we shared some of God's church planting principles from Scripture, and urged each of them to lead people to Christ, starting with worship groups in their homes. Then we prayed with them as they climbed into their buses and headed for the unknown.

Over the next couple of years we would hear stories of churches planted by these very people and the few Khmer lay pastors who had been left in the camps before we arrived. Church planting for them was not an option. It was something that had to be done if they were to have a place to worship and if their

country was to know God.

I suppose God feels that way, too. Church planting for Him is not an option; it is absolutely essential if His children from every nation, tribe and tongue are going to know their Father. In the same way, should it not be every Christian's priority?

Time and again the volunteers saw that often God uses weak and inadequately trained people to plant His church. We slowly came to realize that was us! We struggled to learn Khmer. We wrestled with how to share Jesus with people in a Buddhist, spiritualistic and war-torn context. Julie poured herself into helping slum-dwellers have jobs. We taught English, and took people to the hospital. We partnered with three young Khmer men to share the gospel. Finally, there were baptisms and two small house churches. What a joy!

But God had more to teach us. Within a short time, unfaithfulness and even immorality blasted our two groups. There was almost nothing left. We cried. We asked God, Why this had this happened? We worked so hard! In the stillness we heard Him say, "You did not pray."

"Not pray?" we questioned, "We are missionaries. Of course, we prayed." Again we were sure we heard Him say, "You did not pray as if what I can do is greater than what you can do."

I knew it was true. At the core my trust had been in methods and my headwork. It had failed. We began to pray and God began to work. While we were there we did not see a mighty church planting movement

across the city of Phnom Penh like we hoped for. Instead, bit by bit God strengthened His church and built it His own way.

The twenty Khmer lay pastors, most of whom were supported by ASAP, were struggling with the same things. God brought us together to seek Him for answers. We prayed to know how to share the gospel in a Cambodian way. We asked Him how to deal with problems of poverty and evil spirits. In our weakness, He taught us. In our dependence He began to bless.

Together with the pastors we created a special set of Bible studies with Khmer stories and proverbs that introduced God's story. We prayed for one another and we kept trying to make our groups strong and to start new ones.

Julie and I returned to the United States in 1998, taking our Thailand-born children, Joelle and Nathan, with us. With our work handed over to the local people, we would have to pray for the continued planting of God's church from afar.

After three years of pastoring in California, we returned to Southeast Asia to direct the Buddhist Study Center in Thailand, seeking to find more effective ways to communicate God's love among Buddhists. What a joy it has been to visit Cambodia again. There I have learned more about God's methods of planting His church.


I saw God put together His methods for training church planters. In 2002, global pioneers were trained by Khmer pastors who taught them in the morning and went out to do ministry with them in the afternoon. That is what Jesus did with His disciples. Every new member needs an older brother or sister to train and help them closely, do they not? The entire city of Phnom Penh was divided into sections with pioneers and pastors evenly divided throughout. The vision was to reach everyone. The method was to care holistically for people one by one.

Nine months later we watched approximately 1,500 interests crowd into the first

SDA public evangelistic meetings in Cambodia. We rejoiced as we watched the baptism of nearly 1,000 baby Christians become new members of the church.

Has it stopped there? No. More pioneers have been trained and now each new member is being disciplined to be strong in God and to witness to others using a newly created set of lessons called Growing in the Spirit.

God's church has been planted in Cambodia. How has it happened? Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. "So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase" (I Corinthians 3:6-7). That is a powerful text! Good training and mentoring is helpful. The message should be contextualized, given in a way that fits the culture. People have needs that should be cared for. But God's church has been planted in Cambodia mostly because pastors and pioneers knew they needed a great God to do anything worthwhile and they pleaded with Him to do something great.

Are you doing the same? Are you gently planting seeds of truth at your workplace and in your neighborhood? Are you watering new interests and new members with kindness and careful mentoring? Have you considered partnering with others to plant a church among the unreached ethnic groups in your community or in another nearby city? Are you pleading with God for unreached nations and pouring as much of your money as possible into the one thing Jesus said MUST happen before He comes (Matthew 24:14)? He is planting His church. He will finish the job. Let us unite with Him for His joy and ours. 

Scott Griswold is director of the Global Mission Buddhist Study Center in Thailand where he resides with his wife and their three children..





Author Vang Va Ny (first row center) is planting churches in three districts of Phnom Penh. Touch Sarith (first row, right) was south Phnom Penh district pastor, mentor and teacher of Vang Va Ny. He is currently district pastor of Kampong Cham Province. Leaders and church members active in witnessing are from the Odom Church in the southern district of Phnom Penh.

The Least of These

by Vang Va Ny

I was not the first in my family to believe in Jesus. Viren, my eighteen year old son and Thida, my fifteen year old daughter were told about Jesus by a worker named Sao Sarout. They call him Jesus Man. They were excited to know Jesus. They shared Him with their mother and me. My wife listened and accepted the Lord. However, it was a different story with me.

At first I criticized my family for believing in a foreigner's God. I called them names and lashed out at them. I sunk deeper into my bad ways of smoking, drinking and doing other wrong things. We were very poor and I felt hopeless and angry with my situa-

tion. But Jesus made my wife and children very patient and kind to me, even when I was not good to them. I was astonished at the change that Jesus made in their lives. I felt that I, too, must have this power that comes when you know this God. One day I asked if I could go with them to the church. As I studied the Bible and listened to the preacher, I too, saw a change in my life. Jesus Christ helped me to stop smoking, drinking and best of all, He helped me be peaceful inside. My family and I were very happy.

At this time, I made my living as a motor taxi driver. I also worked in construction jobs and helped my wife to sell bread and cake at

the local school. We come from poor families, we have always been poor and we live in the poorest district of Phnom Penh on land that is the property of the government. Our neighbors all have low income, too, despite working very hard, often with several jobs. Whatever the occupation of my neighbor, they are poor, just as my family.

After I was baptized about two years ago I joined my wife Vandy, and we began sharing Jesus with our neighbors and everyone who will listen. Soon many people in my district met together to learn about God. When the Cambodia SDA Mission learned about my working in my spare time for God, they hired me to be a full-time pioneer lay pastor. I was very excited to be hired to do what I enjoy so much. I was excited to receive payment for something my wife and I would do forever, for free.

The Cambodia SDA Mission asked me to work in poor districts of south Phnom Penh. I do this work for God by going house to house to make friends with the people. It is a privilege for me to work with the many poor people in my district who suffer from poverty, hunger, sickness, illness, addictions of alcohol, gambling and many other problems. I understand them and know how they feel. I know that, without God, I would be in their position. With God, I can help them out of their darkness and give them a big happiness and joy in their life: living for Jesus. When I sit with sick people and when I listen to sad experiences, I always offer prayer. Prayer is a way to reach inside my people's hearts. As I depart, I always leave a tract. This gives me opportunity to return to ask if they have questions about the tract that I left or if they would like more tracts.

When I began working for God, I was hesitant because I thought, "I have few skills and few tools of my trade." But then I realized that together my wife and I have many skills and the Bible is full of tools to soothe people's pain and to give healing in the mind and the

heart. Then, Dr. Mary Ann McNeilus taught about God's healing power through prayer and how to have good health. She also instructed us on simple, natural ways to heal many diseases and illnesses. In Cambodia, religious workers like my wife and me are seen in the same way as the monk. People expect the monk to help them, and in the same way, many people ask me for help. This is why I am so grateful for God's blessings to give my wife and me wisdom to help our people and lead them to God.

Now two years have passed since the Cambodia SDA Mission hired me to work for God. I am very happy and surprised to see how God has worked for Khmer people to bring them to God's family. Now, one hundred and forty people have accepted the Lord and have been baptized through our service for Him during the past two years. We thank the Lord for the two church groups that have been planted in the villages of Odom and Cham Ka Morn.

I feel so happy to share Jesus in my districts and help poor people like myself to have faith and be saved. Now I see God's plan for my life. My wife and I thank the Lord that He has given us this opportunity to serve Him. We also thank everyone who supports Cambodian pastors like myself. May God give you many blessings for your kindness to help tell others about Jesus. ASAP



Vang Va Ny visits a poor family in Ban Ty Sleuk district of Phnom Penh.

Commander in Chief

by Isah Young

What an honor and privilege it is to labor in God's vineyard. Our vision, impressed upon us by God, is to have a house-church in every village across the country of Vietnam. Ten years ago, there were no house churches. Today, there are more than 2,000 house churches, with an estimated 40,000 believers participating in Sabbath observance. Reports have come in from the district pastors of more than one million people who not only listen to the radio broadcast but are also worshipping on Sabbath. Though evangelism and worshipping in house churches is illegal with the government, we are accountable to a higher authority – the Authority of the universe. With God as our commander in chief, we can pursue our objective with confidence. Through His power, the mission will be completed. God knows what is best, what is most effective and appropriate for His work. We may think we are in control, but despite our best efforts to plan and execute, the ultimate control is in God's hands. How is God working to accomplish His mission of establishing a house church in every village in Vietnam? His guiding hand is at work as we work to implement the following:

1. We help our members realize their responsibility.

All who have experienced God's saving power through the Lord Jesus Christ have a responsibility to share that blessing with others. We help our members realize this fact and instill within them a burning desire to witness their faith. The Bible makes clear this mission of all believers by stating, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out

of darkness into His wonderful light" (I Peter 2:9). God called Abraham and blessed him and his descendants so they can be the source of blessing to all nations (Genesis 12:1-3). A blessing shared will return to bless the giver. When all of our members realize their responsibility to share Christ, they will do everything for God's glory.

2. We plant good quality seeds.

I often remind the pastors in Vietnam that our primary task is to abide in Jesus through His Word. If we do not do this, forget about everything else. Who is the Lord of our heart? We cannot force a tree to bear fruit. A tree cannot force itself to bear fruit. A healthy tree will naturally bear an abundance of fruit. The primary concern of our believers is to connect to Jesus, exhibit the fruit of the spirit, and then, fruit will automatically result. When we spend time to pray, to study God's Word, Jesus provides our direction in life, tells us where to go, guides us to meet people we have never known before and as a result, churches are formed. These are the churches that will be healthy and continue to bear fruit for the Lord.

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me" (John 15:4).

3. We urge our believers to take full advantage of every opportunity to share Jesus.

When the pastors and members are right with the Lord, connected to Jesus and filled with His Spirit and His Word, opportunity will present itself. "I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that


you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name . . .” (Revelation 3:8, 9). When we are faithful to the Lord, even the enemies will come and acknowledge that and join us.

We teach our believers to take advantage of every opportunity to share Jesus: at a birthday party, memorial service, funeral service, New Year celebration, Christmas, National Independence Day, weddings, every visit they make to their relative or friends, while shopping, while conducting business and while chatting with the stranger sitting next to them on the bus. These are all opportunities to reach out and give a precious gift.

Through the kind support of ASAP readers, we are able to provide some assistance to help equip our pastors, Bible workers and believers with supplies to aid their efforts: Bibles, tracks, Bible lessons, cassette tapes, VCDs, DVDs, pamphlets and books. Because this is an underground movement of the people, mass communication via traditional means is not possible. We must rely on the people. And we repeatedly receive reports of how this is being done. For example, we recently learned of a lay member who rode a bus from one town to another. The bus driver turned on pop music for the passengers to enjoy. The member asked the driver

if he would like something different to listen to, and he gave a tape of the SDA radio program to the driver. The driver played the tape and liked it. He turned the volume up. Conversations in the crowded bus stopped – everyone listened to the sermon tape. When it was over, the driver asked for more tapes. Another member asked to borrow the DVD player that circulates, on loan, to house churches. He was going to another village and wanted to play the sermons for his relatives. We just received word the other night, that there are seventeen families from this relative’s village who have requested Bible study in preparation for baptism to join our church.

4. We train new members to repeat the cycle.

These four steps are put into place with each new house church. And the Lord blesses us. For this, we are all indebted to the Lord. But the debt is too high – no one can pay that debt. Thankfully, our Lord Jesus paid the debt for each one of us. To live for Him is the most rewarding purpose of our lives. May God bless and guide each one of us so that one day we can meet our commander in chief in person. Until that day in our heavenly home, please continue to pray for us as we follow His directives. 



Pastor Isah Young’s work for God includes being the speaker of *Peace and Happiness* radio broadcast, pastor of three Seventh-day Adventist churches in southern California, as well as leader of the house church movement in Vietnam. Isah Young and Judy Aitken visit with district Pastor Hoang Kim Vinh in the field.

Power From on High

by Hoang Kim Vinh

My name is Hoang Kim Vinh*. I presently serve God as a district pastor of 35 house churches with 672 members. All pastors have a cover occupation because it would be illegal for me to report to the government that my occupation is a pastor. For this reason, I work at my job I had before I came to know God. I am a financial advisor in the area of business. This job allows me to travel to the villages in my district to teach and preach about God. Before I was a Christian I was also in the business of loaning money.

I come from a Buddhist family. We worshipped our ancestors for many generations. I often felt nothing positive came to pass in my life as a Buddhist. I recall one borrower who defaulted on a major loan. I tried to recover the loan. In my efforts I visited a Buddhist monk who was a fortune-teller. He did not help me. Shortly after this, in 1998, I met a Christian who talked about Jesus Christ. He gave me a book about salvation and told me to listen to the *Peace and Happiness* radio broadcast. My family and I then became Christ's believers and began worshipping in my sister's house.

In my former Buddhist beliefs there was no satisfaction or hope of salvation. I thank the Lord for the knowledge of God's truth

that I received by listening to the radio broadcasts. When my family became Seventh-day Adventist members we were criticized and looked down on by relatives, friends and the local authorities. However, we now have peace and assurance of God's love for us that we never had when we were Buddhists. Jesus Christ is the source of everything in my life. All blessings are from Him.

God gives me power to do His work. I start my day with prayer and Bible study. Then I go out to visit house church members and the leaders in each village. I use my bicycle in visiting the homes of members in nearby areas. I also give training to the leaders.

The leaders and volunteer Bible workers go out everyday to do work for God, also. The first step is to make friends. They become acquainted with the people, they visit their homes and show them the Bible study lessons. If the people agree, they teach the Bible lessons. Then they give tapes with more Bible lessons and books on the Sabbath. The Bible workers return to encourage the new believers.

The pastors and Bible workers in my district suffer a lot of persecution by local authorities and the police. We are objects of arrest. They accuse us of having illegal gath-


erings and evangelism. One way we escape government scrutiny is by having a person stand guard at the house where we are worshipping. This person gives the alarm in time so we can hide our Bibles, Bible lessons and hymnbooks.

Recently when the police questioned me as to why I worship on Saturday, I told them that in Vietnam we have a day to commemorate Ho Chi Minh. I asked them, "What would you think if I changed that day? I cannot change the law of our King. The same way, our God has a government. He tells His people to keep the Sabbath day holy. That is why we worship on the seventh day as the Sabbath." When I gave them this answer some police looked interested and just told us to stop worshipping God; however, other times I have been taken to the police station to be interrogated for many hours. They tell us that they arrest us because we do not have a permit to do evangelism. The government never gives permits for this. After our arrest, we are usually summoned to report to the police everyday for fifteen days. They also give us large fines.

About six months ago God led me to a whole village of approximately 300 families who listen to the *Peace and Happiness* radio broadcast. It was a thrilling experience. I worshipped on the Sabbath with them in their house churches where I taught them Bible truth. When the police discovered they were Christians, they expelled all the families from the village. These people (men, women and children) wandered in the jungle for many days until they settled down on a hillside where they began collecting bamboo to make

houses for their families. Again, the police did not allow them to stay there and pushed them to a distant, remote area and also threatened them if they did not give up Christianity. However, they continued to be strong in faith and did not stop worshipping God in their homes on Sabbath. From the remote place they have to walk one day to the closest market to sell bamboo and thatch that they find in the jungle. The leaders sent messengers to ask me to come to resume teaching them. When I went there the police stopped me at the checkpoint at the village entrance. The authorities have branded my ID card to show that I am a Christian. When the police saw this, they did not let me enter the village; however, I have been able to smuggle Bibles, Bible lessons and literature to the village. I am able to teach the leaders who come to me, though they are not allowed to be out of their village for more than three days.

We are very thankful to the people from ASAP who have helped us to have stipends, travel allowance, Bibles, religious books and materials. We pray for God to bless you who are our sponsors. We also need your prayers. Please pray for me and my people who suffer much persecution for our faith in God.

Editor's note: Pastor Hoang Kim Vinh is one of the 200 district pastors in Vietnam who needs our support this year. Each pastor who receives our support is a district leader or assistant to the leader of districts of house churches. The average stipend given is \$50 per month (travel expenses are also covered in this). 

*Name is changed for safety reasons.

Adventist members and new believers stand in front of Kok Thach Village SDA Church in Siem Reap Province, Cambodia. This is one of the temporary churches built through donations from ASAP donors. From January - May 2005, 1,200 new believers have joined God's family in baptism. Many of these new believers worship in crowded homes or outside under the trees. Please pray for the need for temporary (bamboo and thatch) and permanent churches in Cambodia. We also solicit your prayers for the needs of Vietnamese house churches. Funds are needed for repair of house churches and also to build rooms onto homes for worship.



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