



REMOTE COMMUNITY  
**OUTREACH**  
UPDATE 2024

## INTRODUCTION

The Water Access Project (WAP) conducted a community outreach program in Siem Pang district, Stung Treng Province, focusing on Chantu and Kampouk villages, where Lao people live. We aim to do this activity during the drilling process or after the hand pump well project done. We partner with local church leaders or pastors to share good news and reach people to Jesus Christ. At this time we did outreach after the drilling project done. The program included several key activities: providing free haircuts, hygiene education, hair braiding, children's fun activities, church visits, Four Fields Strategy coaching, showing the Jesus film, building community connections through prayer, team encouragement and reflection, and mapping church locations.

## TEAM MEMBERS

| ACTIVITIES  | RESPONSIBLE                  |
|---|------------------------------|
| Free Haircuts   | Jared & Pheara               |
| Hygiene Education & Children fun activity             | Keomlieng, Lily and Sodalín  |
| Church leader visits and Four Field Strategy Coaching | Pisey & Sem                  |
| Children fun activity                                 | Keomlieng, Lily and Sodalín  |
| Set up and show the Jesus Film                        | Monyrath, Sem & Tola         |
| Team encouragement                                    | Pisey                        |
| Community connection and prayer                       | Team                         |
| Church location mapping                               | Sem                          |
| Food  | Jared, Sodalín and Keomlieng |

## **OUTREACH PROGRAM UPDATE:**

*20th November 2024*

This is our first day, we crossed the river and headed to Chantu village, Santepheap commune, Siem Pang district, Stung Treng province. There are 250 families in this village, and they all speak Lao as their primary language. Some men can speak Khmer because they travel for work, but most old women cannot speak Khmer. They are engaged in farming and household, taking care of children responsibilities. The school in the village only offers education up to grade six. Children lack encouragement for their studies and often accompany their parents during farming and harvest seasons.

The villagers' beliefs in ancestral spirits and traditional healers who claim to deal with demonic issues and provide natural medicine. When they are ill, they wear white strings on their wrist and next as a symbol of protection.

Through our activities, we did our best to connect with the community and had good communication with them. We also collaborated with church leaders from other villages to assist us in sharing the Gospel. These leaders, who are Kavet, can speak some Lao. However, we do not currently have a Lao-speaking pastor.

We surprised, this was the first time the village had heard the Good News of Jesus. Our activities went very well, with around 200 people, including children, attending our program. Many children, women, and men participated. We did our program from 2 pm until 9 pm. During the movie, the team went around our film site and prayed. One memorable moment was when some children, about 4 years old, were cried and frightened by the beards and mustaches of the characters in the movie and asked their mothers to take them home. Their mom as where were these characters from. Why did they keep their beard like this?

We are grateful for what we accomplished. During the movie, we shared the Gospel in their language, helping them understand the message. We engaged with the people to see if they were interested in learning more about God. We found a lady, a teacher of the monks, and a sick person who wanted to hear more. The next morning, we shared further with them, and a man named Thai accepted Jesus as his Lord.

Thanks God for this new believer. Now, we are working with YWAM in Siem Pang district to help this man grow in his faith and follow Jesus throughout his life.

*21st November 2024*

On our second day, after lunch, the team left for Kampouk village, Prekmeas commune, Siem Pang district, Stung Treng province. It was in the other part of Siempang district at Laos border. The road was dusty, bumpy, and curving. Our truck passed through forests and shaded areas, and we arrived at the village around 3 pm. The village chief, who is also a pastor, welcomed us and arranged for us to stay at the school. He also allowed us to show the film of Jesus there.

After a brief moment of rest, boys and men began arriving for haircuts. Our team quickly started the program. We divided into three groups to ensure we could serve these people well. It was great that pastor's wife cooked dinner for us and served sticky rice, which was a culturally meal and memorable experience for the team. We talked and enjoyed spending time together.

This village was different from the first because the people returned from their farms late in the day. The village has 259 families, They are Lao. They still have their relatives in Laos. Due to the busy harvest season, not many people were available to watch the Jesus film. They began returning to the village around 7 p.m. Around 80 people attended and stayed until the film ended. Afterward, the pastor shared the Good News with them. We also talked about healing and invited them to join us in prayer.

Children in this village lack interest in education. They don't value education. They prefer farming, hunting, and fishing. At the school, all teachers are men. There is only one official teacher, the school principal, who was sent from the town. The other teachers are volunteers or on contract.

In the morning, before we left for AOC, we encouraged church leaders and pastor assistants to ensure they understand how to serve their community while respecting its culture. They asked us whether Christian marriage presents challenges to their culture. We explained the concept of Christian marriage and reassured them that it does not necessarily conflict with their traditions. We helped them overcome some challenges they face by offering ideas and encouraging them to trust God in all their work.



## OUTREACH IMPACT

This outreach program gives us a chance to build strong relationships with local authorities, pastors, and church leaders. We also see how faithful God is. In Chantu village, one man gave his life to Jesus and accepted Him as his Lord and Savior.

We spent time encouraging leaders from Laos. We helped them understand how they can support each other and work together as a team. We also talked about what a healthy local church should look like and how they can respond to their own culture and traditions in a way that honors God.

In addition, we coached church leaders on the "Four Fields Strategy." This strategy helps them learn how to share the gospel, make disciples, start new groups, and grow their churches. We also helped them make clear plans for the next season of ministry.

We encouraged the leaders to reach more people in their communities and to start new small groups (cell groups) next year. It was a time of learning, planning, and preparing to share God's love with even more people.



## REFLECTION

AOC's outreach to Siem Pang truly opened my eyes to the reality and the burden we have as Christians to share the Gospel to those in unreached locations. We travelled for hours, on bumpy dusty roads, and we crossed rivers by ferry, but that all didn't matter once we entered these villages. Each person in these villages was created by God, each person a child of God, and through this outreach, we had an opportunity to share God's love and the Good News of Jesus with them.

Galatians 6:9 ESV 'Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up.' When I watched the AOC team, I was encouraged, I was inspired, I was in awe. They were probably tired, or carsick, maybe they were feeling too hot, and quite possibly they may have wanted to be home – yet their actions chose to not grow weary in doing good, and by this they reflected the love of our Father in Heaven.

I will remember the smiles of the children in these villages, the laughs during the songs about how much Jesus loves them. I will remember watching Pisey speaking Laos and explaining the creation story to two women in their home. I will remember the crippled man who accepted Jesus as His saviour and received an audio Bible. I will remember the seeds being sown for the Kingdom.

After this trip, I have a greater understanding of the need these remote and unreached people groups have. 'How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" Romans 10:14-15 ESV

I am thankful our AOC is participating in God's mission to bring those back to the Father.

Thanks  
Lily



