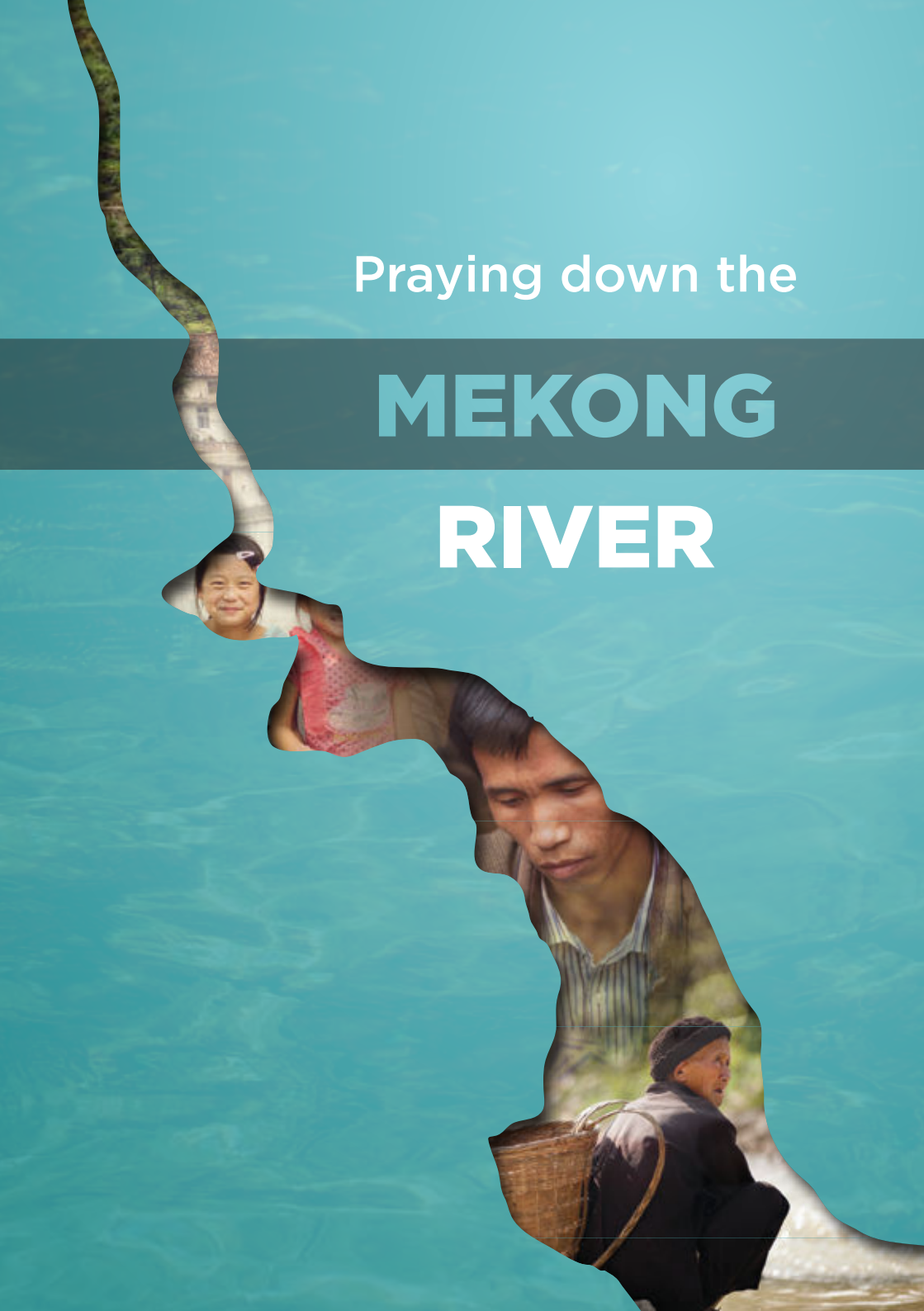


Praying down the

MEKONG

RIVER




Praying down the **MEKONG** **RIVER**



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There is a river whose streams
make glad the city of God, the
holy place where the Most
High dwells. [Psalm 46:4]

MEKONG MINORITIES

The River

Mekong Minorities is named after a river. The Mekong river flows from China, along the borders of Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, and through Cambodia and Vietnam.

Our Passion

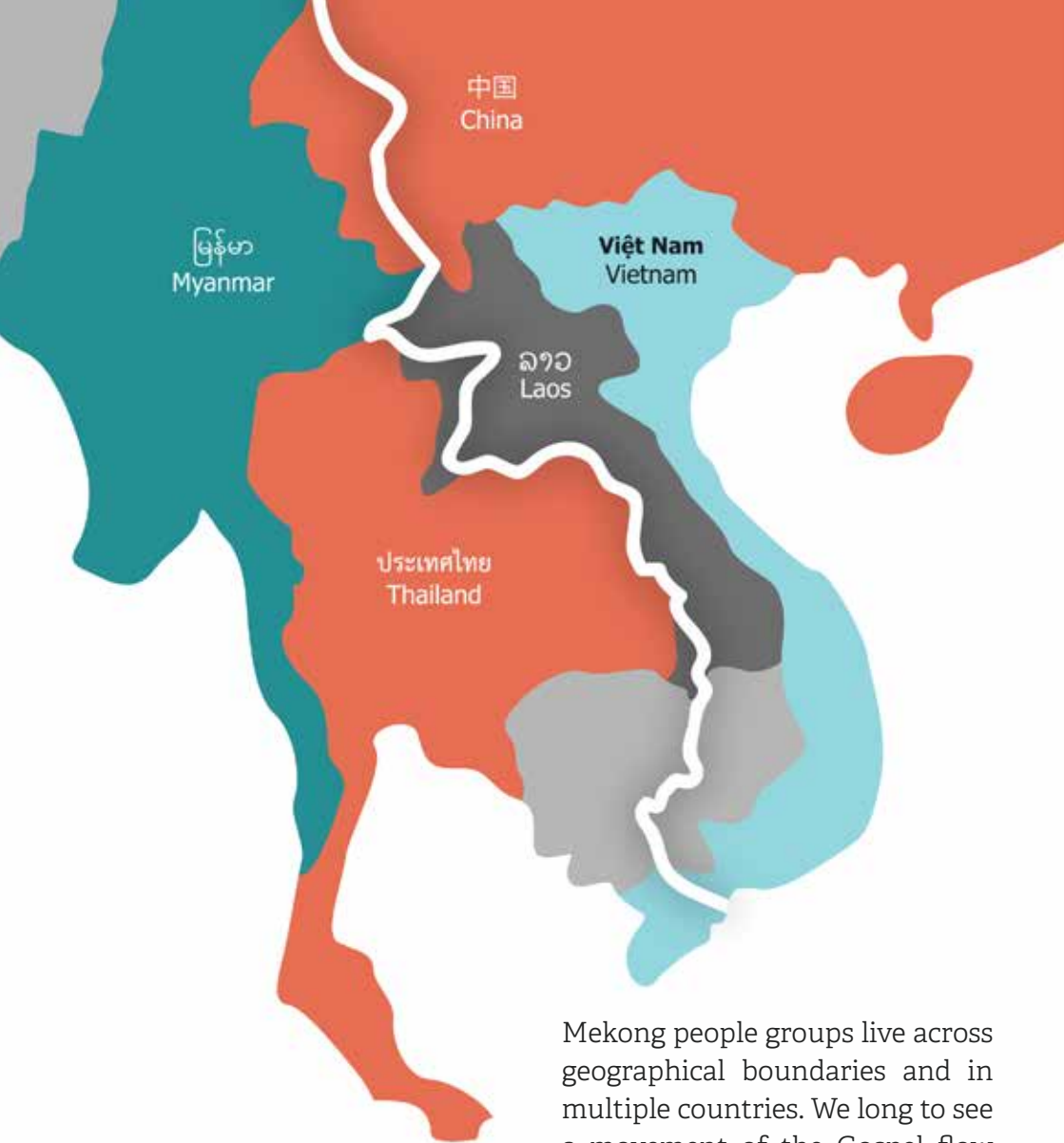
The river represents movement. We long to see Gospel Movements among 70 of the most neglected and unreached people groups in the Mekong Region, from urban mega cities to untouched remote villages.

1 RIVER

5 COUNTRIES

70 PEOPLE GROUPS

70 MILLION UNREACHED



Like a river, a movement is not static nor constrained. A river keeps on flowing and is able to flow across different geographical boundaries to bring life to vast areas.

Mekong people groups live across geographical boundaries and in multiple countries. We long to see a movement of the Gospel flow into all these areas, bringing life to their peoples. We long to see a church movement, first within a people group, then across national boundaries and from there to other people groups, all for the glory of God.



"I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one." [Ezekiel 22:30]

Today, many people and nations are still living lives without God. Will God find someone who will stand before Him in the gap on behalf of these people?

Please stand with us in the gap for the peoples of the Mekong.

Standing in the Gap

On the following seven pages, we would like to explain the different stages of our work among the unreached. All the stories in this prayer guide will have subjects that follow these stages. It is good to realize that actually most of our ministries go through more than one of these stages at the same time.

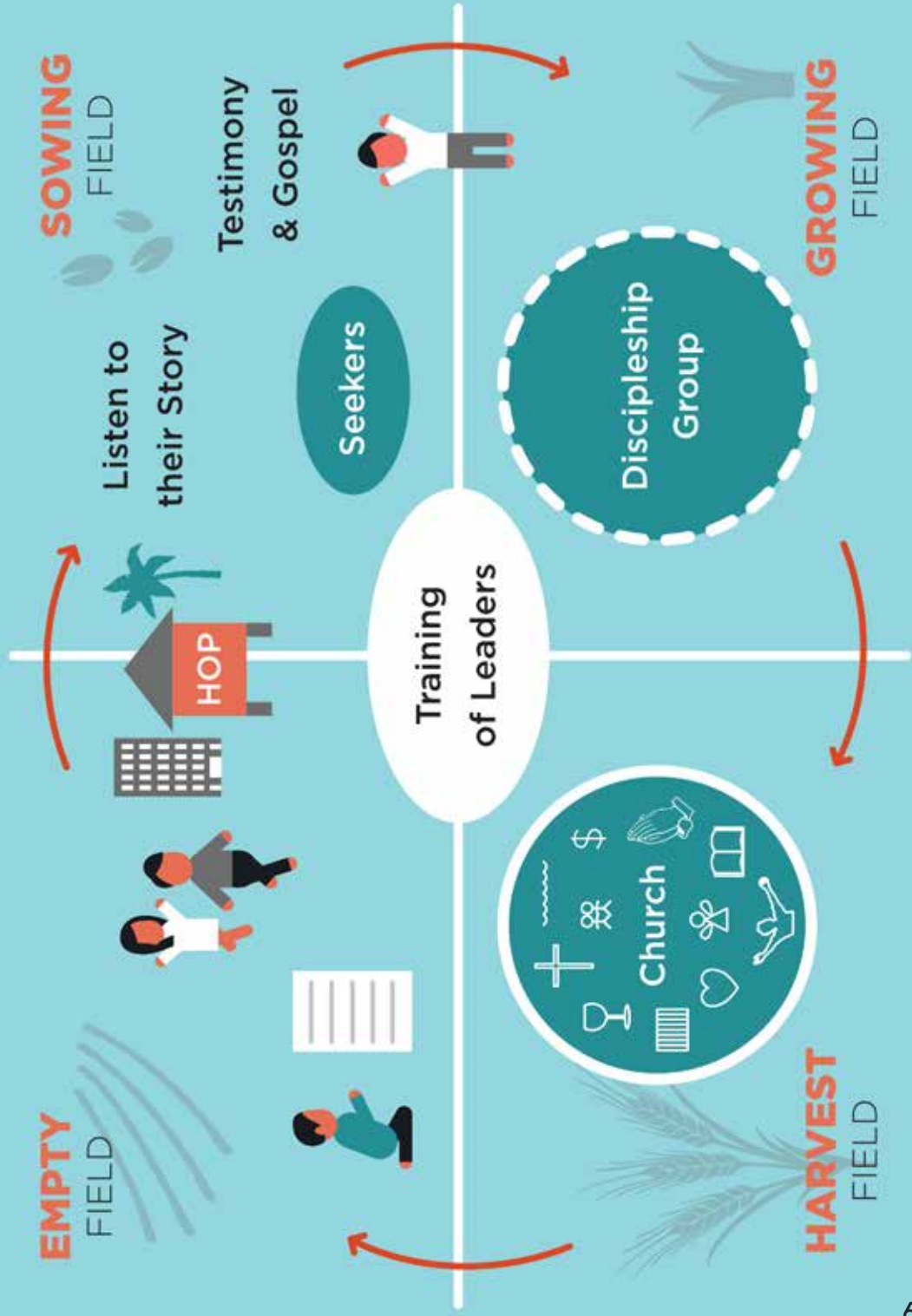
There are 30 days of prayer:

1. The stories follow the stages of our work and are often related to a specific people group.

2. Every page has a box with specific prayer points for our people groups and ministries.

3. At the end of each story, there is a general prayer point that can be used to build on in prayer for any of our people groups and ministries.





GOD'S HEART

God wants all people
to be saved and to
come to a knowledge
of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:4

Only by knowing God's heart and by our hearts becoming more like His, can we have the right vision for the unreached who have never heard the Good News. In order for us to be used by God and for our hearts to become more like His, we have to abide in Him.

If you remain in me and I in
you, you will bear much fruit.



Prayer should be the basis of all our work. Not only our workers, their teams and supporting prayer partners, but also any churches and believers around the world who are called to pray for these peoples, should cry out fervently to God to see the vision fulfilled.

Prayer should be the basis of our work.

PREPARING



As we prepare to enter the field, we need to research our field first. We want to learn the culture of the people, understand their worldview and learn their heart language. We also want to think about which segment(s) of the people group we want to focus on: farmers in the villages, young professionals, business men or migrant workers in the big cities. What kind of platform will enable us to enter the field and live in a place where we will be able to reach those people?

EMPTY FIELD

As we enter the field, we see two groups of people: the lost and the saved. We want to witness to the lost, and we want to disciple and train the saved. So when we enter the empty field there are two things we want to do and model for other believers to do as well.

1.



Make a list of your unbelieving family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and acquaintances, and start praying for them, looking for opportunities to share your faith with them.

2.



Go out and look for people or households of peace [HOP], who welcome the messenger, are open to the Message, and are an open door into the community.



When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them. [Luke 10:5-6]

SOWING FIELD

Once we have found people or households of peace, we naturally move into the sowing field, where we want to sow the Gospel. There are three ways we can reach out to these people.



Presence

We love them and bring peace to their homes by listening to their stories and learning about their world view.



Power

We bless them and pray for them. We pray for healing, deliverance, and for God's miraculous answers.



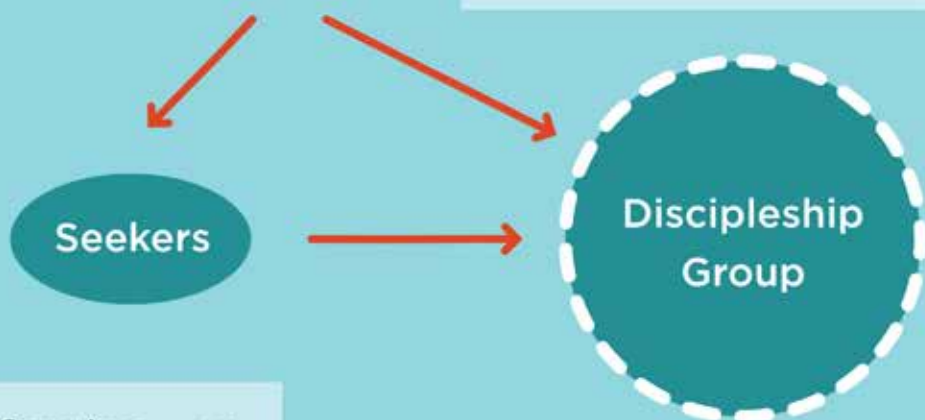
Proclamation

We share our testimony with them and present the Gospel in a simple way that can easily be copied.

GROWING FIELD



As we share the Gospel, there are two types of people: those who are 'full' and not interested, and those who are 'hungry' and want to know more. We keep sowing until there is a harvest.



Sometimes we first need to start a seeker group for people who are interested in the Gospel and want to learn more.

New believers are immediately brought into discipleship relationships, sometimes one-on-one, but normally as part of a discipleship group.

We keep sowing until there is a harvest.

Not only our ways of sharing the Gospel should be reproducible (easy to be copied by the peoples themselves), but also our methods of discipleship should be reproducible. How can people immediately share the Bible truths that they have just learned with others?



HARVEST FIELD



Gradually, new believers will be gathered into reproducing churches. In Acts 2:37-47, we find some of the functions of a healthy church: evangelism, baptism, devotion to God's Word, fellowship, communion, prayer, signs & wonders, giving and worship. Churches will appoint their own leaders and they will receive training in how to be godly leaders of the church.

**Are we willing
to persevere
and pay the
price?**



Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. (John 12:24)



God's Heart

As we train national churches in cross-cultural mission, they often come with an agenda of handing out Bibles, sharing the Gospel and pushing for a 'salvation prayer,' all in the national language rather than the mother tongue of the people. Results and numbers are very important.

We share with them from the Bible about how much God loves these people and longs for them to worship Him. They start to see that God has made these

Pray for Godly Vision

Pray for our workers to have godly vision for the ministries that God has called them to do.

Pray for Christians all around the world to have this same heart and vision for reaching the lost. Pray for obedience to Jesus' call to make disciples of all nations.

Jesus calls us to pray for more workers in the harvest. Is He asking us something He will not do? Pray for 120 new workers to reach the unreached peoples in the Mekong area.

different languages and cultures to worship Him. This transforms their thinking and makes them rethink their methodology. Today, we have teams of nationals taking time to learn language and culture because they have seen God's love and desire to save peoples so precious to Him, though so different from themselves.

Pray that we will love the lost like God does; that our hearts will be broken for them like God's heart is.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

When I thought about going overseas to do missions, my first question was, “What can I do?” I wanted to use my degree and I was clear about the things I would not be able to do. Maybe it was good that God did not show me right away all the things He wanted me to do; I would have never gone.

Over the past years, I have learned that I asked the wrong question. Instead, I should have asked, “What does God want me to do?” He has led me to do many things I would not have dared to do. I could do them only by remaining in the Vine and trusting Him to work through me and to provide everything I needed for each task.

Ask God to send us workers who will ask: “God, what do You want me to do?” Pray for our workers to trust God to provide.

Pray for our Workers

Pray that each of our workers will remain in the Vine and stay close to Jesus every day.

Pray that our workers will reflect God’s holiness by living holy lives and growing in Christ-likeness.

Pray for our workers and teams to seek unity and to love one another, despite cultural and personal differences. Pray for them to have courage to overcome misunderstandings and to confess sins to one another, and for humility to deny themselves for God’s glory.

Abiding in Christ





Prayer Movement

Can your prayers make a difference on the other side of the world? For the past years, the Bouyei team has been organizing a month of prayer for the Bouyei in May. One of them shared how amazing it is to see everything God is doing for the Bouyei during the month of May in comparison to the rest of the year. God delights to work through the prayers of His people!

“I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession

Pray for the China 61

Pray that workers will go to these 61 unreached people groups in China to share the Good News with them.

Pray that the people from these groups will open their hearts to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Pray that many people worldwide will be mobilized to pray for these groups.

Pray for the national church to have a heart for these people groups and bring the Father's love to them.

and thanksgiving be made for all people. ...This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

Every work, ministry, and church movement starts with prayer.

Ask God for prayer movements all around the world that will lead to Gospel movements and churches being planted among our Mekong peoples.

In Mekong, we long to partner with local and global churches to reach our people groups. A church can adopt a people group in order to pray for them or to be more involved in reaching out to them.

Friends from a local church on the other side of the country came on a trip to the Bai area to pray and prepare the soil. I was surprised that the pastor personally led the group. We taught, prayer-walked and worked the ground together. During the last evening, they

cooked a meal for our families. We felt very blessed by them. We talked about our common vision and hopes for the Bai. The pastor shared his desire to send people and resources through us to the Bai. We both long to see the Bai reached with the Gospel and become a gateway to others.

Ask God for many local and global churches to adopt our Mekong people groups, in order to be more involved in prayer and ministry among them.

Pray for the Bai

Thank God for this local church that has a burden for the Bai people. Pray for good partnership and unity in reaching the Bai together. Pray for more partnerships with local churches.

Thank God for many short-term teams who visit the Bai. Pray that God will speak to them as they seek His calling. Ask God that some of them may stay on to work among the Bai people.

Pray that the Gospel will bear much fruit among the Bai people; fruit that will last!

Global Partnership





Reaching a Segment

Pray for the Tai Yuan

Pray for spiritual revival among the existing Tai Yuan believers.

Pray for the spiritual growth of new Tai Yuan believers; for strength, courage and that the community of faith will help them live in obedience to Jesus.

Pray for creative platforms of outreach that are being established. Ask God to provide the means to carry out the vision. Pray that God will use these platforms to bless the local community and to open up the hearts of those who come in contact with them.

“I am a musician. To make a living, I played in the local pubs. I wanted to serve on the worship team at my church, but I was told that if I wanted to serve, I had to quit my job. So I left the church.”

This testimony is an example of how many of the Tai Yuan churches are caught in cycles of traditions that hinder them from speaking into the lives of their Buddhist neighbors, especially the young professionals (25 - 45 years old).

Located in the North of Thailand, the Tai Yuan people differ from the Thai as Americans differ from the British. Among them, it is the young professionals who are asking questions that most Tai Yuan churches are not answering: about work & faith, family & faith, money & faith, urban vs. rural lifestyle.

Pray for wisdom to reach out to the [neglected] segments in each of our people groups that desperately need the Gospel.

Entering an area with hardly any believers and trying to be in contact with the people of the land is not an easy task. In most cases, a legitimate 'platform' is needed, not only to live in the places where our target people are, but also to connect with them in a meaningful way.

In the bigger cities, there are opportunities to become a teacher in a school or university and build relationships with students and other teachers. In other more

remote places, we can be a light in and through platforms like tourism, consultancy businesses, vocational training centers or non-profit organizations. In every case, much wisdom is needed to decide which platform is best in any given situation.

Pray that the right platforms will be started in the right places. Pray for wisdom, knowledge, resources and relationships with investors, government officials and other stakeholders.

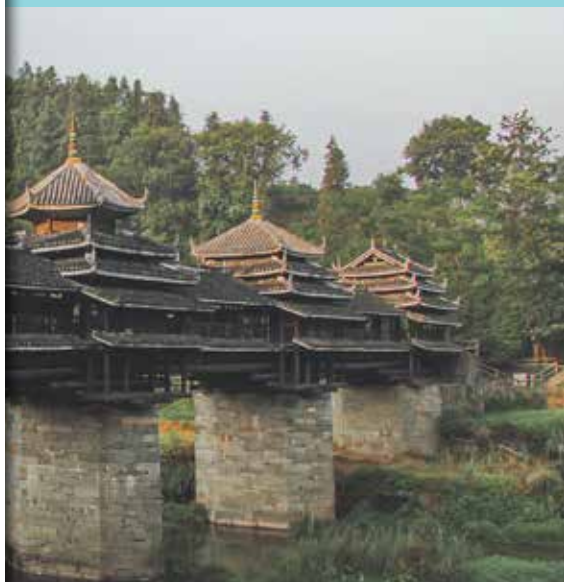
Pray for the Dong

Pray for creative ways for workers to enter into remote Dong villages and to reach out with the Gospel.

Pray for local Dong and other near-culture believers, that they will stay strong in an environment that is often hostile. Pray that they will be bold and reach out to their neighbors.

Pray for the many Dong people who are living in the darkness of animism and ancestor worship, that the Holy Spirit will prepare their hearts to receive the Gospel.

Platforms & Businesses





Pray for the Wa

Pray that there will be greater efforts to make Bible translations into more of the Wa dialects.

Pray that audio Bibles will be produced and distributed in each Wa dialect.

Pray that the overall literacy levels will increase among the Wa so that they can understand God's Word.

Pray that persecution of Wa believers will lead to churches growing and believers maturing in their faith.

Heart Language

The Wa people have many dialects, but the Bible has not been translated into most of them. In one area, the uneducated believers can only understand about 80% of the main Bible translation. If we look at a Bible passage where 20% of the words are whited out, how much could we understand?

“For then will I ... to the people a pure ... that they may all ... upon the name of ... LORD, to serve him ... one accord. From ... the rivers of Ethiopia ... worshipers, even

the ... of my dispersed, shall ... my offering.” (Zephaniah 3:9-10)

Those who are mostly illiterate would only understand about 80% of any explanation that they might receive. Should we wonder if they are slow to grow in their faith or that they grow tired of attending church after a while?

Ask God for workers who will learn the heart languages of our Mekong peoples in order to share the Gospel effectively.

At the end of Buddhist lent, several hundred people gathered in the village temple. Laid out in front of the monks were small tables, laden with every culinary delicacy imaginable. The monks called on the spirits of the ancestors to come and feast on the offerings. After the ceremony, more food appeared, and everything was eaten by the locals, washed down with copious amounts of alcohol.

However, in this strong Buddhist village, God has been preparing

Noi's heart to receive the Gospel. Noi has several Christian friends, and she decided to become a Christian. However, even though God prepares the field, opposition comes. Noi's grandmother does not want Noi to become a Christian, asking, "Who will make merit for me when I pass away?"

Call on the Holy Spirit to prepare the fields before we enter. Pray that He will already be working in the hearts of the people that we will encounter.

Pray for the Lowland Lao

Thank God that He is at work preparing hearts among the Lowland Lao. Pray for the lost to be reached and the saved to be trained and disciplined.

Pray for whole families to turn to Christ. Pray especially that grandmothers would not keep their children and grandchildren chained to the endless cycle of making merit, but that they would lead the way to Christ.

Pray for individuals who come to Christ, that they can withstand family pressure to renounce their faith.

God-Prepared Fields





Praying for Family & Friends

Ong's eyes brightened as he heard the Gospel in a training that was being held for Pa'O believers. He welcomed the Lord Jesus and then quickly shared with Nown, his wife.

After receiving Christ, Ong and Nown started praying for their family and friends. They lost no time in reaching out to their relatives with the Gospel, trusting that the Lord had a wider purpose in bringing them to Himself than just for them as individuals.

Pray for the Pa'O

Pray for Pa'O in the Shan State of Myanmar and North Thailand to have a thirst for righteousness and a hunger for God.

Pa'O believers in Chiang Mai, Thailand, are coming together to form a church. Pray for the Pa'O to grow in their desire to see their own people reached.

There are very few Pa'O Christian leaders. Pray that the Lord will raise up godly leaders who will serve with humility and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Many Pa'O people live among the Shan and also speak Shan. Ong and Nown are actually Shan who came to faith during this Pa'O training. However, we long to see the passion that the Shan are showing for their families and friends become a similar yearning in the hearts of the Pa'O too!

Pray that when our Mekong peoples come to faith, they will have the passion and desire to pray for and reach out to their families and friends

Many Shui live in remote villages. Outsiders are not free to visit Shui villages, let alone share the Gospel with them.

One day, a prayer team went to the Shui lands to simply pray for the Shui. Their aim was not to share the Gospel, but to pray. They were astonished when a completely untouched village opened up for them to visit. Although no foreigner had ever visited this village before, they not only were welcomed to visit, but also

were given permission to openly pray walk around the entire village. They were then given the opportunity to share the Gospel.

We believe that a prayer movement for the Shui will result in a church planting movement among the Shui.

Pray for people willing to go out and pray over remote villages and untouched lands in the Mekong area, preparing the soil for the Gospel to be sown.

Pray for the Shui

Pray for a mighty move of God among the Shui, that every Shui will have the chance to hear Jesus' wonderful Name.

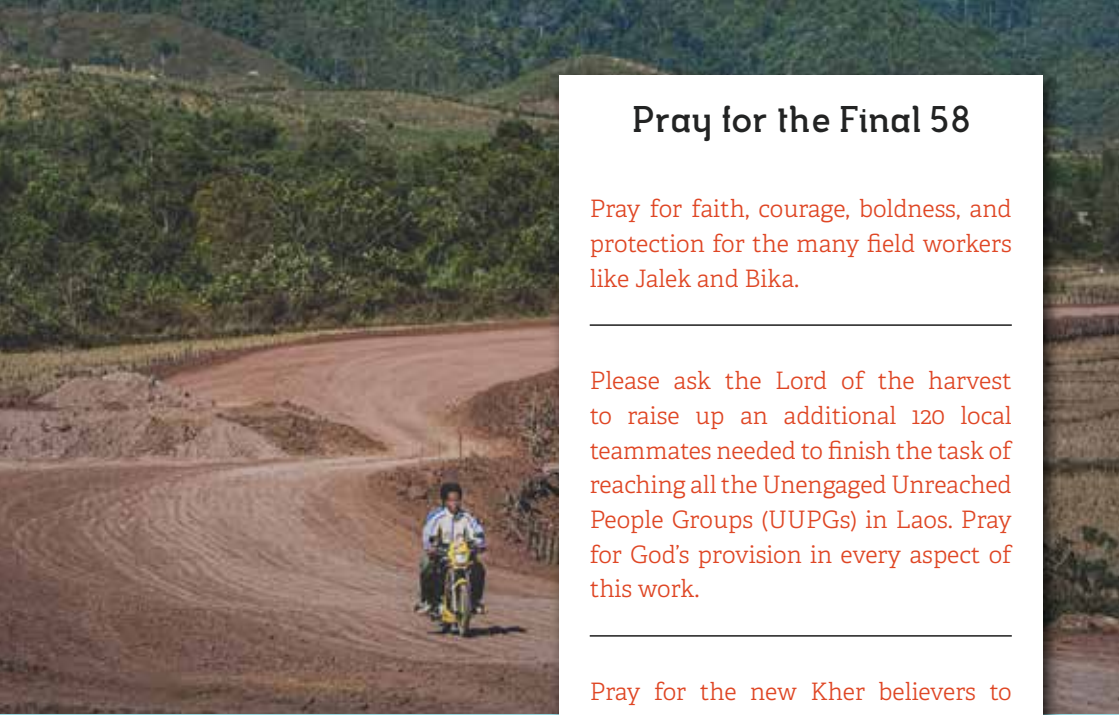
Pray for more workers among the Shui, especially for local believers from peoples or cultures close to the Shui.

Pray for resources to share the Gospel in the Shui language.

Pray that the new prayer guide for the Shui will lead to more prayer from people all around the world.

Prayer Journey





Pray for the Final 58

Pray for faith, courage, boldness, and protection for the many field workers like Jalek and Bika.

Please ask the Lord of the harvest to raise up an additional 120 local teammates needed to finish the task of reaching all the Unengaged Unreached People Groups (UUPGs) in Laos. Pray for God's provision in every aspect of this work.

Pray for the new Kher believers to really love Jesus, stand strong in their faith and have a passion for the Gospel.

Gospel Sowing

One morning, Jalek and Bika, two young women on our team, headed out for a grueling 11-hour motorcycle journey to visit the new believers in the Kher tribe. They would have to make the trip in one day and arrive before dark, with no place arranged for them to stay. They were heading back to the tribe where, two weeks before, drunken men had entered the house where they were sleeping and forced their way into their beds as they slept. Thankfully, they escaped unharmed.

Jalek and Bika thought about the people of the Kher tribe who had believed; about the village where they had worshipped together for the first time ever – the founding of the Kher church. Most of all, they entrusted themselves to God as they got on their motorcycle to ride over broken roads and through pouring rain and cold.

Ask God for abundant Gospel sowing among all our Mekong peoples; that all will hear the Good News.

On Wednesday, we taught a team of local missionaries about the concept of people of peace. On Thursday, we drove them to a Bulang area to practice doing what they had learned. Having walked and prayed all the way through the village and back again, the team was getting ready to leave. Their attempts at conversation had been unfruitful. But as they passed the last house, they were invited in. They shared the story of Jesus with a teenage girl, who quickly invited her

father to come and listen to the guests share a second time... and then her grandmother came for round three. God had already prepared their hearts, and all three immediately believed and were excited to hear more about Jesus, inviting us to come back as soon as possible.

Ask God to prepare households of peace among every one of our people groups so that our teams will find inroads for the Gospel into local communities.

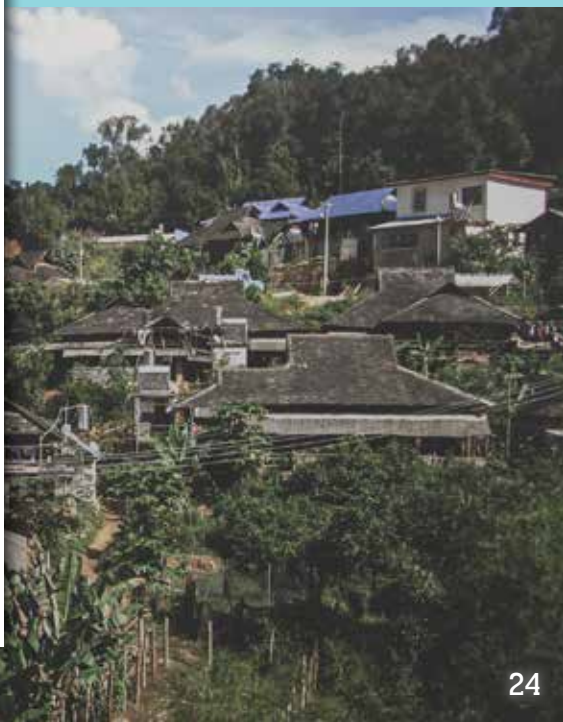
Pray for the Bulang

Pray for this village and surrounding villages. The few believers there are persecuted by family and government. Discipleship is slow and messy.

Pray that the very few Bulang believers known to exist would continue to grow as they follow Jesus and that they would be bold as they depend on the Spirit.

Pray for many more Chinese missionaries to be trained and sent to unreached and/or unengaged people groups.

Households of Peace





Pray for the Mien

Pray for Mien churches in Thailand to pursue holiness within and unity between the churches. Pray that they will live radical lives for the Gospel.

Pray that God will give more Mien believers the burden to share the Gospel with their own people group (and beyond) in unreached areas.

Most Mien people live in China where they are still very unreached. Pray for God to show Himself to them in signs and wonders as the powerful and only living God.

God's Power

It took three men to get Mrs. MS to sit on the floor. The evil spirit within her reacted violently when we talked about God's holiness, Jesus' blood and his authority.

Over the coming days and weeks, three Mien churches gathered together to continuously pray for this lady and watch her 24/7, as the spirit told her many times to kill herself or others. One day, they accompanied her to the village, as she wanted to burn all her idols and amulets. However,

after she did that, the shamans of the village started occult rituals to redeem her back to their spiritual realm. Everyone was exhausted.

The battle is real and sometimes it takes months for someone to be completely delivered. Still, God promises in Isaiah 29:14 that "Once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder."

Ask God to show His power with wonder upon wonder among all our Mekong peoples.

Simon was not confident in sharing the Good News when he joined a short-term team to visit a Hani area. His team members encouraged him to tell his personal story of becoming a Christian.

When they met with two Hani young men, Simon shared his testimony. He told them how he had attended a friend's wedding. At the wedding, the person sitting next to him had shared with him the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Simon appreciated the person's sincerity and continued to attend church. Gradually he decided to follow Jesus.

After Simon's story, another team member shared the story of Jesus' life and resurrection. The team was thankful that one of the Hani men decided to believe in Jesus.

Pray for our workers to be always ready to share their testimony and ask God to give them many opportunities.

Pray for the Hani

The Hani people have many subgroups and dialects. Pray for the development of oral biblical resources in their heart language for effective evangelism and discipleship.

Pray for our Lord to strengthen the Hani believers, to give them the wisdom and courage to share their faith in Jesus with their family and friends.

May the Holy Spirit prepare the hearts of the Hani to receive the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Sharing Our Testimony





Gospel Resources

Pray for the Bunu

This video exists in only one of the Bunu dialects. In the village a few mountains further away, they do not understand it. Pray for more materials in all of the Bunu dialects.

Pray for more workers among the Bunu, especially for near-culture Christians who can more easily access the remote villages.

Pray that the Gospel will reach even the most remote Bunu villages and that every Bunu person will have the chance to hear and respond.

There is a great video in Bunu that tells the Bunu their story: how God created them, that there was a flood, and why they do not need to make sacrifices anymore because Jesus died for them as the ultimate sacrifice.

As we traveled to Bunu villages, this was the only resource in their own language that we could show them. They were so excited! "This is in my language!" a lady shouted to us as she watched the video. "Can I have this video?"

We often gave the video to people in the villages through Bluetooth, but for some reason it did not work with this lady's phone. She was disappointed. "Can you play the video again," she asked. As we played the video again for her on our phone, she held her own phone in front of it to record the whole video.

Pray that we would have more resources to share the Good News in the heart languages of all our Mekong peoples.

“They have listened to everything we gave them, and they are asking for more!” We do not yet have workers among this Palaungic people group. However, they still got hold of some recordings in Shan, made by one of our partners, and are hungry for more!

A media resource does not need sleep or rest, and it does not get sick. It can enter communities and homes where the gospel is shunned or unavailable. It spreads at the speed of clicks. It covers

mountains and valleys that we did not even know existed.

Like the Roman roads, God is using media as one of the most effective ways to reach these last frontiers of the Gospel. There is still so much more we can do to develop and utilize media for evangelism and discipleship.

Pray for creative thinking and skilled people to develop media resources that will be able to reach the most remote places.

Pray for Media & Radio

Pray that more workers and local Christians will have the vision and necessary training to make powerful media resources.

Pray that our media resources will help people to know Jesus and be disciplined more than we can ask or imagine.

Pray for our radio broadcasting among the Akha, Hmong, Lahu and Shan, and that done by partner organizations among the Karen, Khmu, Mien, Tai Dam and Tai Lue. Pray that people will be built up through these programs.

Media & Radio





Ongoing Discipleship

Peter cannot read or write, but he loves the Lord and he loves Bible stories.

Each morning I would go to Peter's house where we would pray, sing and learn a new story. His memory was better than mine. When we sang I often hummed, but he sang from his heart. Then I would show him the next picture in our series and tell him the story. I would ask him questions, tell the story again and then listen as he retold the story. We always ended

Pray for the Zhuang

Pray for the 20 million Zhuang, most of whom have never heard about God; that Zhuang believers would share His stories and make Him known.

Ask God to send more translators to the Zhuang, so they will have more stories to share and one day will have a Bible in their own language.

Thank God for Zhuang believers. Pray that they will grow in their knowledge and understanding of God; that they will be transformed daily to be more and more like Jesus.

with the question, "Who will you tell this story to?" Peter's answer never changed: "My mum!"

One day as he was telling his mum the story, a man came by and listened. The man left, but came back a few hours later, wanting to hear more stories about God.

Discipleship takes time and commitment. Pray for our workers, that despite busy schedules, they will take the time to walk with new believers.

It was a beautiful sound to her ears: the sound of people singing. Every Friday, she would stand at the kitchen window to listen. Something happened in her heart, and she bravely went to ask, "Can I join you?" She wanted to know what they were singing about.

Within a year, she had met Jesus. She learned to tell Bible stories in her own heart language, as there is no Bible in Talieng. She began to tell the stories to her family every time she travelled back to her

village. Soon, many of the young people came to believe in Jesus also.

Now, seven years later, young men from that village are learning how to tell the stories of God in their own language. Every free weekend they have, they travel back to their village to share with their relatives and friends.

Pray that our Mekong peoples will learn and share Bible stories in their own language.

Pray for the Talieng

Praise the Lord for the Talieng, who are hearing Bible stories in Talieng for the first time, and thank Him for many (young) Talieng coming to faith.

Opposition to the Gospel is immense. For example, village elders order people to leave the village or stop using the communal water supply, or they call in the police to arrest believers. Word of the believers has already reached the highest authorities. Pray for God's hand of protection on these believers. Pray for them to grow in wisdom and understanding. Pray that believers' lives may continue to glorify God.

Bible Stories





Discipleship Groups

Pray for the Tai Lue

Ask God to encourage people like Wang and Baan, who are leading discipleship groups. Pray that they will be examples of disciples making disciples.

Pray that Tai Lue discipleship groups and house churches will not become inward focused, but stay outward focused.

Tai Lue churches have lots of women. Ask God that many Tai Lue men will come to faith and will be examples of lives living out the Gospel.

When Wang and Baan became a part of our discipleship group, they were hungry for God's Word. We would study one Bible story at a time, and set goals to share what we had just learned from the Word with someone else.

Wang and Baan would prayer walk their own village and other villages, looking for persons of peace to share the Gospel with. They started their own discipleship group that grew into a house church. They shared the

Gospel, making disciples among the Tai Lue and Tai Dam peoples, and intentionally planting new house churches in other villages.

I asked, "Wang, what happens if the police take you away?" She replied nonchalantly, "Not a problem, everyone in the meeting has been trained to lead and will be fine without me."

Pray for discipleship groups to grow in the Word, make disciples, and start new groups.

When planting churches, new believers need to be able to copy our methods in order to multiply.

Among the Lao Phuan, resources were reduced to one main item: the Bible. However, like Keo, most Lao Phuan are not readers, but have a fluid oral culture. History, religious ideas, poetry, tend to be fashioned by the artistic pleasure of the storyteller. Absolute accuracy is not important. Hence, the primacy of the Scriptures is paramount.

How can familiarity with the Bible be achieved when people do not like to read? When Keo became a Christian, his new church invited him to be part of a group that reads the Bible together. The better readers lead, while Keo and others, who are less literate or illiterate, simultaneously learn the skill of reading.

Pray for creativity for our workers as they seek to find reproducible methods to share and disciple.

Pray for the Lao Phuan

The church among the Lao Phuan is very new. Pray for believers and leaders to grow in their walk with Jesus.

99% of the Lao Phuan are still outside the Kingdom of God. Pray that they will be reached and hear the Gospel.

Lao Phuan Christians are faithful in sharing the Good News. The challenge they face is mentoring and gathering scattered new believers. Please pray for ongoing discipleship. Pray for believers to be effective in bringing the harvest home.

Reproducible Methods





Gathering a Church

As a result of a short-term missions trip, more than 15 Bouyei adults in 'Big Well' town decided to follow Jesus.

The new believers asked for help in learning how to grow in their faith. Thankfully, some local workers were prepared with Bible stories in the Bouyei language and a simple method to do church orally in a way that could be easily reproduced. The first few stories focused on what the church is and what the church does. Within

Pray for the Bouyei

Praise God for a steady stream of Bouyei people coming to faith. Pray that this steady stream would grow into a flood, flooding the Bouyei land.

Pray for churches to endure and to continue to meet and grow, despite familial and government persecution. Ask God to make the persecution work for the good of the Bouyei Church.

Pray for churches to not only be gathered, but also to multiply throughout the Bouyei people and beyond.

a couple of months, the new believers had already developed an identity as a church; a Bouyei-speaking body of Christ. For the first time, 'Big Well' town had not simply a group of believers, but a church with a developing vision to multiply throughout their area. Storms of persecution were on the horizon, but none could dispel what God had gathered.

Pray for a harvest! Pray for believers throughout the whole region to gather into churches.

“The Shan are crazy about giving and making merit,” answered the Thai academic regarding what he thought was typically Shan. When church planting, there can be the temptation to believe that new believers should not be expected to give to the Lord because they are poor or do not understand. This could not be further from the truth. Rather than giving out of a desire to make merit, Shan believers are giving out of gratitude for all that the Lord has done for them.

Baptisms conducted by lay people who have led Shan people to the Lord and had a part in discipling them are a feature among new churches being planted by the Shan. Lu was baptized by the man who led him to the Lord and has himself gone on to lead others to Jesus, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Pray for new churches among our peoples to move to maturity by baptizing new believers and giving generously to the Lord.

Pray for the Shan-Tai

Pray that the Shan will be so in love with Jesus that they will take the Good News to their relatives, friends and neighbors across the Shan State of Myanmar.

Pray that video testimonies of Shan believers on Facebook would impact many. Pray for effective follow-up.

Grace is hard for people from a Buddhist background to understand. Pray that Shan people would understand that the Christian life starts, continues and ends with Grace.

Giving & Baptism in the Church





Pray for the Tai Dam

Pray for Tai Dam churches to have this same vision of evangelizing and discipling people right where they live, to be witnesses in their own villages.

Thank God for the Tai Dam villages where a church has been formed. Pray for these churches to multiply, so that every village will have a church and every family will hear the Good News.

Ask God to equip more people to train Tai Dam disciples to be disciple-makers. Ask Him to give the Tai Dam courage to be bold for the Gospel.

The Church and Evangelism

Laklai is a small Tai Dam village. The Laklai Church shared about Jesus with their neighbors, and regularly divided into groups to evangelize other villages. Sometimes a person would believe and they would invite them to Laklai church.

But their mindset changed when someone trained them in making disciples. The next time they went out to share, the Lord opened the hearts of a new couple. Instead of inviting them to the church in

Laklai village, they offered to go back and meet with them in their own home. Three members of the church began going to the new village to meet with them weekly and help them learn how to function as a church. Rather than adding people to Laklai church, they launched a new church, to be a witness in that village.

Pray that many churches in the Mekong area would have such a vision: for new believers to form new churches in new areas.

“The Karen have been blessed by God,” a young Karen man shared. “When I was a child, my mother told me to take an empty bowl and go around our village to beg for food. The Karen were poor and our soil infertile. When the Gospel came, it changed everything! Today, our soil not only provides food for ourselves, but we can even sell food to others.”

Over the past 40 years the Karen Christian community in Omkoi has grown from less than 1% to

40%, with over 80 churches in the area. God has blessed them in many ways. However, the blessing does not stop here; it is not just for themselves. Like Abraham (Genesis 12:2-3), they are blessed so they can be a blessing to others. We long for Karen churches to have a vision for multiplying into new unreached areas among Karen and other people groups.

Pray that churches in the Mekong area will be fruitful and multiply. Pray for a movement.

Pray for the Karen

The Karen have been blessed. Pray that they would in turn share the blessing with other Karen, other tribal groups, and Thai peoples, who are not yet walking in the Light.

Pray for Karen churches to have a vision to multiply and plant churches in unreached areas.

Pray for the development of reproducible tools in the Karen language, like Bible story sets, to help believers present the Gospel in understandable ways.

Church Multiplication





Training of Leaders

Naturally, in every group leaders will arise. This also happened after the first So church was formed.

We continued to disciple only the leaders of the church. We met consistently over many months in jungles, boats, guesthouses and sometimes we did trainings in town. We trained them in the qualifications described in Titus and 1 Timothy and then laid hands on them and commissioned them.

After that, we trained them from

Pray for the So

Thank God for So churches planting new churches, up to the third generation already. Pray for these So churches to continue to be passionate and multiply.

Ask for more leaders to rise up and be trained to lead God's people.

Pray that there will be new workers in each church who will go out into the harvest, not only until all So people hear the Gospel, but also until there are cross-cultural workers going beyond their own borders and peoples.

Acts 2:21-27 and they saw and identified themselves as being a part of the Church. They learned to see themselves as set apart from the community because of their faith and also, at the same time, having a responsibility to be a light and to make disciples.

Pray for godly leaders in all the churches in the Mekong region. Ask God to give them wisdom, strength, discernment and a heart that loves and serves the people entrusted to them.

When we first lived in this tiny Akha village, we modeled to the few believers how to be a church and how to share the Gospel. The church grew. None of the men could read or write, so one of the ladies was chosen to lead the church. We assisted the church in leading Sunday school, preaching, and discipling individuals.

As the pastor and the church became more capable to preach, to lead Sunday school and to look after their members, our role

shifted from being involved in all these ministries, to watching from the sideline and giving advice.

We left the village five years ago. By God's grace, the church had grown up and was able to take care of itself. Today, they continue to worship and follow God.

Ask God to help our teams to be good models and come alongside churches and individuals to help them grow up and stand on their own feet.

Pray for the Akha

Praise the Lord for many Akha churches in Thailand and Myanmar, and for a strong community of Akha believers in China. Pray that they will have the burden to share the Gospel with Akha in Laos and Vietnam, who are still unreached.

Pray for the discipling of young Akha believers, that they will wholeheartedly follow and obey Jesus.

Pray for Akha churches to adopt the project of distributing SD cards and speakers with Bible stories and songs.

Model, Assist, Watch & Leave





Pray for Gateway People

Many of these Gateway minority people groups are seen as inferior to the majority peoples around them, which makes it very hard for them to share the Gospel with those people groups 'higher in status.' Pray that God will empower them and give them boldness to reach out and share the Gospel with other people groups.

Pray for the J.O. Fraser Center in Thailand as they disciple and equip Gateway Christians to share the Gospel. Pray for their vision to branch out into Myanmar and start a new training center there.

Gateway People

Gateway peoples, like the Lahu, Lisu, Kachin, Khmu and Bru, are people groups with large percentages of Christians and churches among them. Our vision is to see them become a Gateway for the Gospel; to reach their own and other people groups with the Gospel.

Yassor is Lisu and studied at the J.O. Fraser Center, a center in Thailand that discipless and equips Gateway Christians to be a light to the nations. He and his

wife planted a small Lisu church in Shan State, Myanmar. However, after the army forbid people to grow opium, many church members left to find work in other places. Yassor asked God what he should do next, and God started to bring him Shan children to teach. Yassor is now learning Shan and he has a burden to see these children turn to Christ.

Pray that these Gateway people groups will become a light to the peoples around them.

Isaak and three friends from his church are traveling through a remote Mekong area, together with a foreign missionary and a local evangelist. He and his friends come from a big city in the same country, thousands of kilometers away. Their church has been engaged with the unreached people group in this area for a while now, praying for them and sending several prayer-walking teams into this area.

As the group enters a village, they

meet some local people and start a conversation. Not long after, they are able to share the Gospel and several people come to faith.

In the weeks after the team left, the local evangelist goes back on a weekly basis to teach and establish a group. More people are being added.

Pray for more local churches to be mobilized and to reach out to the unreached people groups in the Mekong area.

Pray for the Han Chinese

Pray for the many Han Chinese in the Mekong region who have never heard the Gospel. Many are traveling to neighboring countries. Pray for divine appointments when they travel.

Pray for the Chinese churches in the Mekong region to have vision for mission among the minorities.

Pray for workers sent out from churches in the big cities. Pray that they will be able to cross cultures, learn the languages of the minorities, and reach them with the Gospel.

Mobilisation of Local Christians





Pray for the Hmong

Thank God for many believers among nine of the 30+ Hmong dialects. Pray that the Hmong Church will grow in maturity and have a burden to reach other dialects and people groups.

The Hmong Boua in China and Vietnam still remain very unreached. Pray for workers to go out into the harvest.

Pray that the Hmong Boua Bible will be available to all Hmong Boua and help them to grow in faith and get a deeper understanding of God's Word.

Perseverance

In our work with the Hmong Boua, we have seen some men mature into responsible leaders. They wholeheartedly seek the Lord and have a true burden for the Hmong Church. However, most do not. Many become satisfied with their lives and become prey to the world. Others pursue prosperity in God's name, seek after material gain, or are deceived by aberrant teachings.

Despite these setbacks, we have been privileged to see some

reaping among the Hmong Boua. However, in many locations we are still sowing and watering. Very few have the privilege of sowing, watering, and reaping in the same field. Perseverance realizes that not everyone reaps. Perseverance is one quality and characteristic of love. Love sees the end goal. God will reap; we just do our part the best we can.

Pray for all Mekong workers to do their part well; to persevere, despite struggles and setbacks.

“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. ... And they cried out in a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.” (Revelation 7:9-10)

When we enter an empty field, we do not know when we will find a person of peace. When we sow the Gospel, we do not know

when it will bear fruit. When we disciple new believers, we do not know when a new church will be formed. And when churches are being harvested, we do not know when they will multiply.

Praise God that we do know the ending! People from China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, from all the people groups in the Mekong area, will stand before God's throne! With that promise and end vision, we go on and obey God's calling.

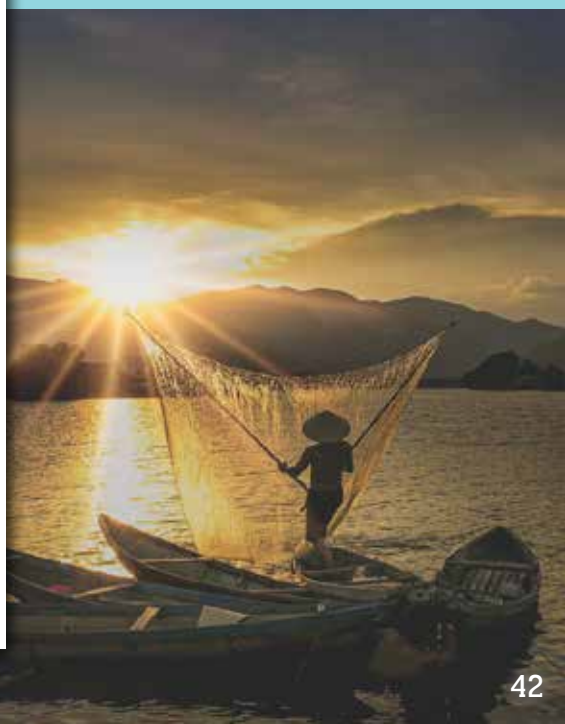
Pray for the UUPGs

Pray for Unreached People Groups in the Mekong area that are Unengaged (UUPG), meaning that no one is reaching out to them with the Gospel. Pray for workers in the harvest!

The Tai Daeng, Tai Khao and Tho are three UUPGs that we long to see reached with the Gospel. Pray for believers in neighboring (Gateway) people groups to get a vision to reach out to them with the Gospel.

Pray for God to be glorified in every people group in the Mekong area.

End Vision



WHAT'S NEXT?

Thank you for praying with us over these past days! We believe that God is at work among our Mekong peoples through your prayers. We pray that you have started to love these people like God loves them, and that you will keep them in your prayers. Here are some ways that you can stay involved.

Pray

Commit to pray for (one of) our people groups for a longer period of time. You can also do this as a church, a small group, or with your family, teaching your children how to pray for the unreached.

Learn

Learn more about our Mekong people groups, their needs and

God's heart for them. Come on a mission trip to learn more and to join our teams in prayer.

Mobilize

Share with others what you have been learning these past days about the Mekong peoples.

Send

Maybe you are a church leader or are part of a prayer group in your church. Seek God for how you, as a church, can be involved in sending workers into the harvest field.

Go

Ask God if He wants you to be a worker in the harvest. See the next page for some of our opportunities.

LEARN MORE:

OMF.ORG/MEKONG

Church Planting

We need people to go to places where no church exists, to sow the Gospel and disciple new believers, with the aim that indigenous churches be established among the unreached.



Professional Skills

We need people with professional skills and business experience to establish God-honoring business that are missionally effective and financially sustainable.

Support Services

We need people in all kinds of supporting ministries, like boarding homes, TCK education and programs, medical advisors, finance and personnel managers, candidate coordinators, etc. These ministries support our workers on the field in all kinds of ways and are just as necessary in reaching the Mekong peoples as more front-line ministries.



Prayer Journey

Is God calling you to continue to pray for one or more Mekong people groups? Come and join our teams in prayer. Praying for people right there where they live can help you to pray with more insight and change the way you pray for them.

HARVEST WORKERS

Akha

Population

900,000

Location

China,
Myanmar,
Laos,
Vietnam

Bouyei

Population

3,000,000

Location

China,
Vietnam

Bulang

Population

120,000

Location

China,
Myanmar

Bai

Population

2,000,000

Location

China

Bru

Population

240,000

Location

Laos, Thailand,
Vietnam



Bunu

Population

850,000

Location

China

Hani

Population

760,000

Location

China, Laos,
Vietnam

Kachin

Population

1,000,000

Location

China,
Myanmar

Dong

Population

3,000,000

Location

China

Hmong

Population

6,000,000

Location

China, Laos,
Myanmar,
Vietnam,
Thailand



Karen

Population

5,000,000

Location

Myanmar,
Thailand

Lahu

Population

800,000

Location

China, Laos,
Myanmar,
Thailand,
Vietnam

Lisu

Population

1,200,000

Location

China,
Myanmar,
Thailand

Khmu

Population

860,000

Location

Laos,
Thailand,
Vietnam

Lao Phuan

Population

300,000

Location

Laos



Lowland Lao

Population

3,500,000

Location

Laos

Pa'O

Population

850,000

Location

Myanmar,
Thailand

Shui

Population

400,000

Location

China

Mien

Population

840,000

Location

China, Laos,
Thailand,
Vietnam

Shan-Tai

Population

6,000,000

Location

China,
Myanmar,
Thailand



So

Population

120,000

Location

Laos, Thailand

Tai Lue

Population

1,500,000

Location

China, Laos,
Myanmar,
Thailand,
Vietnam

Talieng

Population

50,000

Location

Laos

Tai Dam

Population

900,000

Location

China, Laos,
Thailand,
Vietnam

Tai Yuan

Population

7,000,000

Location

Laos,
Thailand



Tho

Population

83,000

Location

Vietnam

Zhuang

Population

20,000,000

Location

China

Final 58

Over 150

Unengaged

Unreached

People

Groups,

each less

than 5000

people

Location

Laos

Wa

Population

850,000

Location

China,
Myanmar

China 61

61 of the most

neglected,

smaller

Unengaged,

Unreached

People Groups

Location

China





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