

# Lahu land update

*“Let Your work appear to Your servants, and Your glory to their children. And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; Yes, establish the work of our hands. Psalm 90:16-17*

**The future of the Lahu church lies with the Lahu youth of today.**

Thank you for your prayers on behalf of the Lahu youth camp training. Though the enemy is working overtime to remind us of our inadequacies, the Lord remains faithful. We very much enjoyed our time with the Youth Committee and several potential counselors. We especially enjoyed being with our dear Julie, whose did a marvelous job interpreting for us both. She and Josh are expecting their first son in a few weeks, but Julie showed more stamina than when she worked for us a few years ago! We praise God for this sweet reunion.



Many details of the approaching camp season remain uncertain, but we believe God gave us lessons that would be most helpful to the Lahu staff at this time. We experienced the same opposition we are accustomed to, but we found the majority of hearts receptive to the fact that today’s Lahu youth are desperate for some attention from the adults in their lives. Neglect in both the home and the church have left a generation searching for answers in all the wrong places. Pray for these young adults that want to make a difference in the lives of their youth.

**Jesus said, “Let the children come to me”**

## “CELC”

Thank you to each of you who prayed for us concerning our training session on Dec. 15-17. Though we had hoped to see Sunday school teachers from 18 villages, God had other plans. Several of our leaders were required to attend other events and others were still busy with their harvest. Only 8 villages were represented, but we believe God had a reason for this otherwise disappointing turn out.

The theme of our training was: “Let the children come to Jesus.” We are thankful that many of our teachers continue to faithfully teach the children in their village.



*David and Charlee praying for each of the Sunday school teachers who attended last months CELC.*

*David and Ca Ui. “Using the curriculum.”*



Still, more training and follow up is required. As we strive to deepen their understanding of “God’s Big Picture” through the lessons, many teachers struggle with making these profound truths applicable to everyday life. Please pray that we will know the best way to communicate this aspect of teaching children. Pray for us on Jan. 26-28 as we meet with our second group. We will mostly repeat the workshops we did with group one, including “Finding God’s character in the story” and “Finding the Gospel in the OT.” On Feb. 13-15, Mrs. Julie Anderson from Minn. will address our combined CELC students to discuss teaching methods and creative activities for children.



**Lahu Sheh Leh,**

**one of many Lahu dialects,** and one with very few believers, is a group becoming more familiar to us. We are privileged to know the Christian leaders in 4 Sheh Leh villages, 3 of which attend our CELC training. From this minority group have emerged some bright, godly young adults whose desire is not only to serve the Lord in full time ministry, but to be true disciples of their Savior, following His ways, even if that means going against the ways of the Lahu church traditions.



*The 3 lovely daughters of Andreh and Na Leh.*

There is one family we have known for many years and have seen them grow in their faith. Andreh and Na Leh have been working as evangelists in Doi Mod village for 5 years and have seen two families come to Christ. Na Leh teaches songs and Bible stories to 20+ children each week, though many of their parents say they are afraid to come to hear Andreh teach. They are praying about starting a preschool in the village as an outreach opportunity.

Recently they bought land just on the edge of the village.



They felt that being out from under the authority of the head man, but still in the community would give more freedom to teach the Word.

This past month we attended their annual Christmas party, sleeping in our tent on the hill above the crowd, on the night of a lunar eclipse. Everything about our weekend affirmed that the Lord is truly blessing this family.



We pray that Andreh will continue to grow in his understanding of God's Word as he continues to attend our monthly training for the evangelists. Please ask the Lord to show us how to us answer the request for training that come from the other Sheh Leh villages.

**Three and counting...**



Never before, in our 18+ years in Thailand, have we ever been anticipating the arrival of so many babies.



Marilyn's two interpreters, the wives of two of David's interpreters, and 5 of our CELC teachers, that we know of so far! Here are the first 3 little girls to arrive, all from the Lahu Sheh Leh families...



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There are many different dialects of the Lahu language. The Lahu groups that we know in Thailand are the Black Lahu (Charlee, Pa Saeng, Na Leh), the Yellow Lahu (Ma e, Julie, Worawut and Yu Hpong) and the Sheh Leh (Andreh, Na Shi). As we are learning the various differences in their customs, we are also trying to learn the Black Lahu language, which is considered the standard dialect as well as the language of the only Bible translation. Thank you for praying for us! We need your prayers.

DEAR PRAYING FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

AS WE BEGIN A NEW YEAR, THOSE OF US FROM THE WEST ARE REMINDED TO MAKE A LIST OF THE CHANGES WE WANT TO MAKE IN OUR OWN LIVES.

HERE IN LAHU LAND IT IS A TIME OF FAMILY/VILLAGE REUNIONS AND REST FROM THE NORMAL LABORS OF LIFE, ESPECIALLY THE BUSY HARVEST SEASON.

WHENEVER WE ARE INVITED TO THESE REUNIONS, OUR PRAYER IS THAT OUR PRESENCE BE A REMINDER OF ALL THAT OUR SAVIOUR WANTS TO DO IN OUR LIVES. IN AS MUCH AS IT IS A TIME OF SELF REFLECTION, WE LOOK TO THE ONE WHO FORGIVES AND FORGETS OUR SINS AND BLESSES US WITH HOPE FOR OUR FUTURE.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR TEAM AS WE ARE ASKING THE LORD TO ADJUST OUR MOTIVES WHERE NEEDED AND SHOW US HOW WE MIGHT CHANGE ANY METHODS IN THE WORK.

THE ENEMY WOULD RENDER US USELESS AS HE REMINDS US OF OUR SHORTCOMINGS, BUT THE RESULTS ARE UP TO THE LORD. ALL HE ASKS OF US IS A WILLING HEART FOLLOWED BY OBEDIENCE. THIS IS OUR GOAL FOR EACH DAY, ONE DAY AT A TIME, USING THE TIME HE HAS GIVEN US FOR THE WORK HE HAS PREPARED.

*David, Marilyn Charlee and Ma e*



## Meet Pa Saeng's family

On our annual "Thanksgiving" trek to Pa Saeng's house, we



noticed that the struggles of this past year had taken a toll on him.

Pa Saeng with his wife and mother in law, their 8 children and two daughters-in-law. Not seen are 2 sons-in-law, 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Little did we know of the heartache he was dealing with. Only when the worst seemed inevitable did he call to ask us to pray. Another son and daughter both came to tell us that their parents were crying every day. They were stunned that their lovely sister "Napapon" had refused to stop seeing an unbeliever. The couple was married on Dec.10th. We did not attend, but we did return last week to spend New Year's weekend with the family.

Pa Saeng and his wife Na Hpeu seemed to have moved on with life, though a sadness remains. We had a wonderful celebration, though there was an unmistakable void at the party. Napapon did not come home, and Narumon, her 18 year old sister with Downs Synd. was in the hospital, so sister Cirapon attended to her overnight. Please pray for Pa Saeng and Na Hpeu, for grace to rebuild the lost relationship with their precious

daughter, and for the health of their daughter Narumon, who brings such joy to this large family.



*(Narumon's spirits were lifted by listening to Lahu children's songs on my MP3 player.)*

Pray that we will continue to find the best ways to encourage this family, as we have opportunity to mentor a few of the adult children in Chiang Rai.

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## Worawut and Yu hpong are house



parents for a children's home. As this couple has attended our Eng. Class, our burden for the children's "hostels" of Chiang Rai has grown. We have invited two young ladies from back home to come spend a month living at the "Blessing Home" as one of the ministries they will be involved in Jan. 17 - Feb. 16. Please pray for Amanda and Emily. I am sure our next letter will have plenty to report of their adventures. Pray that our team will bring encouragement to this important ministry to Lahu children.