

Indochina

(Mainland South East Asia)



Outreach

We have been burdened for the region known as Indochina (Mainland South East Asia) since 1998. This region includes Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar (formerly, Burma) People of the region have known many hardships over the years; poverty, colonization, the Vietnam war, then the cruel regimes of communism. Suffering due to the communist takeover of most of the region cannot be calculated. The Vietnam war which was fought in an effort to stop the advance of communism, greatly affected the population of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. It also involved Thailand in support of the US efforts. Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam are still ruled by communist governments. The government of Cambodia is a fledgling democracy that still has not found it's legs. Thailand is the only



country in the region with a stable, constitutional government. In fact, Thailand is the only Southeast Asian country never to have been ruled by a European power.

One of the main reasons we have been so burdened about the Indochina region is the lack of fundamental Gospel literature available. When questioned about it, many of the national pastors and missionaries in the region expressed the need for such literature.

It seems we have come far from the days of Adoniram Judson, pioneer Baptist Missionary to Burma, who translated, printed and distributed Bibles and tracts, as well as literacy aids such as dictionaries and grammars in several languages. In these modern times, it seems that we have forgotten how the Lord used those efforts in years past.

For us, the vision for ministry in the region had to wait until now. At this time we have the involvement of several printing ministries here in the USA. These ministries

are committed to Asia and we have been working with them in preparation for outreach in the region. Some of them have printed materials for Southeast Asia in the past. This however is a comprehensive literature effort focusing on every country and major language in the region. Therefore, we are introducing several culturally adapted tracts as well as correspondence courses, follow up and discipleship materials, as well as Scriptures in several of the languages. It can be an ongoing effort due to the extent of the need and the involvement of those who provide the materials.

The first shipment is slated for September, 2004. Plans call for us to go to press in June, 2004, with most of the remaining items that have been developed. This first container will be a unified shipment of tracts, lessons and Scriptures in Thai, Burmese, Lao and Khmer.



Myanmar

- ~ Government: Military regime
- ~ 41,734,853 Population (2000)
- ~ Population Growth Rate: 0.64%
- ~ Ethnic Groups: Sino-Tibetan 89.3%; Mon-Khmer 5.7%; Other (Rohingya, Indian, Nepali, Malay, Moken) 5%
- ~ Yearly income per person: \$2,610 (8% of USA)
- ~ 83.1% literacy
- ~ Religions: Buddhist, 82.9%; Christian, 8.7%; Muslim, 3.8%; Chinese, 3%; Traditional Ethnic, 0.8%; Hindu, 0.5%; non-religious, 0.3%
- ~ There is a degree of freedom yet many restrictions on Church buildings, proselytizing, job opportunities and importation of literature. There have been many cases of Christians being forced to build Buddhist temples and to renounce their faith. No foreigners with the official status of "Missionary" are allowed.

Laos

- ~ Government: Communist State
- ~ 5,433,036 Population (2000) ~ Ethnic Groups: (a complete mix of 138 groups) Lao-Thai, 58.9%; Mon-Khmer 30.8%; Hmong-Mien 7.1%; Sino-Tibetan 2.7%; Other (Chinese, Caucasians) 0.5%.
- ~ Yearly income per person: \$400 (1.3% of USA)
- ~ Languages: Lao (official), French, English, and various ethnic languages
- ~ Official language, Lao
- ~ Literacy 57%
- ~ Religions: Buddhist 61.05%, traditional ethnic, 31.2%; non-religious, 4.2%; Christian, 1.85%; Muslim, 1.1%; Chinese; 0.5%; Baha'i, 0.1%
- ~ After the Communist takeover in 1975, two-thirds of believers fled the country, but a core group of believers exist in the country and they are standing by their faith. Missionaries are not allowed and national pastors are often found in jail.

Thailand

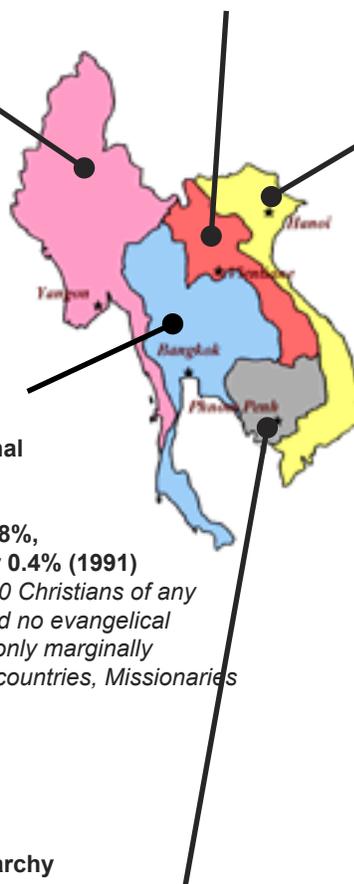
- ~ Government: Constitutional Monarchy
- ~ 64,265,276 Population (2003)
- ~ Ethnic Groups: Thai, 80.4%; Chinese, 10.5%; Malay, 3.8%; Mon Khmer, 3.4%; Tibeto-Burman, 1.1%; Meo-Yao, 0.2%; South Asians, Vietnamese, Westerners, Koreans, and Japanese make up 0.6%
- ~ Yearly Income per person \$2,740 (9% of USA)
- ~ Languages – Thai, English (secondary language of the elite), ethnic and regional dialects
- ~ Literacy is 96%
- ~ Religions: Buddhism 92.34%, Muslim 3.8%, Christianity 1.62%, Chinese 0.4%, other 0.4% (1991)
- ~ In 1992, 14 provinces had fewer than 1,000 Christians of any type, and three had less than 100, four had no evangelical congregations. The situation in 2000 had only marginally improved. However, unlike other regional countries, Missionaries are allowed and have freedom to operate.

Vietnam

- ~ Government: Communist State
- ~ 81,624,716 Population (2003)
- ~ Population Growth Rate: 1.49%
- ~ Ethnic Groups: Vietnamese 86.9%; Mon-Khmer 4.1%; Thai-Dai 4.8%; Hmong/Mien 1.6%; Sino-Tibetan 1.6%; Malayo-Polynesian 1%;
- ~ Yearly Income per Person: \$310 (1% of USA)
- ~ Languages: Vietnamese (official), Chinese, English, French, Khmer, tribal languages (Mon-Khmer and Malayo-Polynesian)
- ~ 94% Literacy
- ~ Religions: Buddhist, 54.14%; non-religious, 21.8%; Christian, 8.16%; Traditional Ethnic, 8.1%; Cao Dai/Hoa Hao, 5.6%; Chinese, 1.1%; Muslim, 0.7%; Baha'i, 0.4%
- ~ Seeing the role of Christianity in the demise of Communism elsewhere, the regime has attempted to either control or wipe out believers. Government efforts have intensified as churches respond to persecution with growth and outreach. At any time there are probably dozens of Christian leaders imprisoned. Most pastors have had times of imprisonment in grim conditions. Of course, no foreign missionaries are permitted.

Cambodia

- ~ Government: Constitutional Monarchy
- ~ 12,212,306 Population (2000)
- ~ Ethnic Groups: Mon-Khmer 86.5%; Tribal 3.2%; Malay 3.8%; Other (Vietnamese; Chinese; Lao; Thai; Vietnamese; Chinese; Lao; Thai) 9.7%
- ~ Yearly income per person: \$300 (1% of USA)
- ~ Official language: Khmer
- ~ 35% Literacy
- ~ Religions: Buddhist, 82.57%; Chinese, 4.69%; Traditional Ethnic, 4.35%; Muslim, 3.9%; non-religious, 2.92%; Christian, 1.19%; Hindu, 0.26%; Baha'i, 0.12%
- ~ In 1999 there were over 300 evangelical congregations (of all kinds). Missionaries are allowed but there is no official recognition of their status as missionaries. The Government is so new and undeveloped that they frankly do not know what to do with missionaries. Several fundamental Baptist missionaries are in Cambodia now and are experiencing a real harvest. A Cambodian proverb says in essence "Where blood flows, the heart grows soft." The people suffered so much during the Vietnam war and afterwards under the hand of the Khmer Rouge that their hearts are now tender to the Gospel.





Evangelistic, follow-up, and discipleship literature is now being prepared for this region. This will include tracts, correspondence courses, discipleship materials, Gospels, and New Testaments (when available), in each of the languages listed. We have worked with brethren in each place over the last two years to prepare for this effort. Much of it is ready for printing as this is being written.

Several printing ministries in the USA, and one in Australia are committed to help with the printing. Plans call for going to press with the first of the materials in June, 2004. We hope to have the first container shipment in Bangkok, Thailand, by early September. Surely, it will take multiple container shipments to fill the need in the region. Facilities must be rented to warehouse and distribute the materials.

From a centralized location in Bangkok, plans are to get the materials into position to be used in the surrounding countries. Of course, not much will be said about this in a public manner, to keep the effort out of the spotlight. It will require a lot of networking with the right people all over the region. However, it is possible, and has been done on a smaller scale in the past. The cost may seem to be high, but we know of no other way to get literature into position for these hard to reach countries. The literature will be available to nationals and missionaries. We already have contacts in each of the places for which this literature is targeted. As you intercede, please keep these plans before the Lord.

Pray for the following needs;

God's provision:

- ~For the printing ministries who are providing the literature.
- ~Funds for moving the literature from the various locations around the USA to a central point for loading in containers. \$2,500 (est.)
- ~Container shipment to Thailand. \$3,500 (est. incl port charges, etc)
- ~Rental of storage facilities in Thailand (\$250 per month)
- ~Moving of materials over land to the target countries. (\$3,000. no way to estimate)
- ~Setting up the Gaudet family in Thailand.

God's protection:

- ~Thailand is free and open. All of the surrounding countries have restrictions in place. Christians in at least three bordering countries are persecuted regularly. It is not uncommon to hear of pastors and other leaders being incarcerated.



Regional Languages / Literature

(We will deal with in the immediate future) (We plan to have available in the region)

Lao
• Tracts
• Gospels

Hmong
• Tracts
• Gospels

Burmese
• Tracts
• Gospels

Kachin
• Tracts
• Gospels w/study notes

Thai
• Tracts
• Correspondence Courses
• Gospels
• Various small books:
The Trail Of Blood

Vietnamese
• Tracts

Khmer
• Tracts
• Gospels
• Various Smaller Publications

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The list of literature reflects what we are preparing for press now. As other material is developed, it will go into subsequent shipments. We are projecting at least two container shipments in days to come.