



LWML MISSION GRANT

LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA

\$8,000 PARTIAL PAID OF \$72,000

With this \$8,000 installment of funds from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) has printed 1,000 copies each of *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* into the Lao language (for the country of Laos) and *Luther's Small Catechism* into the Burmese language (for the country of Myanmar, also called Burma).

Both Burma and Laos are primarily Buddhist countries. Their Communist governments severely curtail church activities, including limiting the number of people who may gather together in a place. There is no Lutheran church body in Laos and only two or three very small Lutheran churches in Burma, but because of the lack of Christian materials in their own languages Christians of all denominations (and Buddhists curious about the Christian faith) are eager to read the books LHF publishes and distributes in their countries.

Laotian children like *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* because it's easy to read

and has beautiful illustrations, but the youth are not the only ones benefiting from the book. Rev. Ted NaThalang (LHF's coordinator for Southeast Asia projects) has talked with many adults who have learned about Jesus through the book, too.

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Rev. Khamphone leads the distribution of the Lao edition of *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* to leaders of various churches and house churches of the Lao Evangelical Church.

“Most of Southeast Asia is Buddhist,” he explained. “The people have a very different religious vocabulary. When they try to read the Bible, it’s almost like it would be for Americans to read the Greek or Hebrew. They may be able to read the words, but they don’t understand the meaning. Because *A Child’s Garden of Bible Stories* is simple enough for anyone to read, all can learn of their Savior, Jesus Christ and share in eternal life,” he said.

Luther’s Small Catechism is key for the people in Burma/Myanmar to understanding Scripture. At a recent seminar LHF sponsored for Christian leaders in Burma/Myanmar, the leaders were perplexed by several teachings. By the end of the conference, participants wrote on evaluations, “Today we have learned that we should baptize babies and infants!” – a clear indicator that the Holy Spirit had worked powerfully through the little book we Americans have readily available.



Rev. Niran, a pastor from Thailand who delivered the Lao-language edition of *A Child’s Garden of Bible Stories* to Rev. Khamphone, a pastor in Laos. Sitting on the floor near Rev. Niran is his wife, Oh. To the right of Rev. Khamphone are his daughter and son-in-law.



Rev. Khamphone is pictured with students at the only Christian school in Laos.