

Our Experiences from Trip to Vientiane, Laos, March 2 - 7, 2014

According to our 2014 proposal, we planned for a **Laos trip**, to Vientiane, to visit the families of our Laotian prisoners in Thailand. We did it on 2-7 March 2014.

The 5 members from our prison ministry team had made connections with our collaborator in Laos, so that they could help us from the beginning of our trip, and they did help us greatly, right from the moment we stepped on the land of Laos. A vehicle, driver, and accompanying friend were all arranged and ready to go.

Within 6 days, during Mar 2- 7, 2014, we managed to visit 22 families, plus two ex-prisoners who were released last year. At the end of our trip we, Prison Ministry team, and our collaborator in Laos, agreed to continue our mission to help the Laotian prisoner's families that are in need of support through our connection.

It was a very good experience. We received a very warm welcome from the families. This event built up our relationship with the prisoners' families, making us feel as if we are part of their families and can be the link to their loved ones.

Our expenses for the Trip to Vientiane, Laos (amount in THB)

Trip to Laos - visit families of prisoners	Actual expenses	Budget	%used vs budget
Accommodation in Laos 5 nights	8,223.00	18,000.00	46%
Food- Laos trip 6 days	10,814.00	10,800.00	100%
public transport - Bus BKK-NongKhai-BKK	8,176.00	12,000.00	68%
car rent with gas 6days	17,020.00	32,000.00	53%
other exp. (Alms to familis & etc)	7,597.00	7,200.00	106%
give scholaship to one girl \$ 1,0000	33,730.00	0.00	
	85,560.00	80,000.00	107%

We received very good support on our trip by our collaborator in Laos. They found for us a very reasonable vehicle for rent during our trip. The cost of car rent less than we expected. Our expenses was less than our budget. Which we then use to support a girl (Anna) for her education (story below).

Scholarship to one girl \$ 1,000 - Upon our visit we found the case of one child of our prisoner, name Tasaporn or Anna who need education and she works so hard in order to be able to study, so we decide to send USD 1,000 to help for her education this year. This by the help of our collaborator in Laos who will give to her and follow up her study to make sure the fund we send will be used for her study.

The following are stories of some families whom we visited. Each family has different difficulties; their loved ones are in jail in Thailand. The message brought from us produced tears, smiles, hope, happiness, sadness, gratitude, and even surprise !! Whatever news we brought was welcomed with thanks.

The first family is Anna who we support for her education using the budget of our Laos trip as show in Financial report above.

BOTH OF MY PARENTS ARE IN JAIL IN THAILAND

I want to study. I practice vegetarian as a merit to my parents so they will come back home sooner.

Quoted by : **Ms.Tasaporn Phatthavong (or Anna)** – the youngest daughter of Mr.Kampa Phatthavong (father) and Ms.Thong Nosakul (mother)



Thong (mother who is in Thai prison) photo with PhayAn (Anna's sister) when she went to visit mother at Nakornrachasima women prison.

Grand mother and Anna (white shirt) hold her niece name Donut.

Kampa Phatthavong – father of Anna is prisoner in Klong Pai Prison, Sikiew, Nakornrachasima ; he was arrested February 2001, drug case, life sentence.

Thong Nosakul – mother of Tasaporn is prisoner in Nakornrachasima women prison ; she was arrested August 2008, for drug case, life sentence. **Kampa** and **Thong** have 3 children, 1 son and 2 daughters.

Anna (youngest daughter) read the letter we brought from her father with tears. Her father taught her in the letter... “see my life as your lesson and don’t do anything like me, the mistake I have done shall not happen to you.”

Tasaporn or Anna is now studying in the College for Business Administration. She works very hard in order to be able to study. She takes care of her nieces (daughter of her elder brother), sewing children’s clothes for sale, works at the shopping center as a salesperson during weekends, all to earn some money for her study. Our collaborator helped us to find information about her study, we found that she is quite a good student, works hard and tries her best to study. Our support will help her and her family a lot. After our trip we found there is little money left from the budget we plan so we send \$ 1,000 to our collaborator to support Anna to help for her study this year.



Photo from left to right : PhayAn (older sister of Anna), Anna, and our collaborator



Our Prison Ministry team visit Kampa family on 6 March 2014, and we learn that Anna wishes to study. Our help can support her a lot

REAL LIFE SENTENCE

Once in jail, mean can't see husband any more and...may be father also. IT IS LIFE TIME LOSS !!



5 of us and one Scholastic in Laos with the father and daughter of Saisamorn; Sam talked with the father, daughter stand behind

Five of our PM team and a friend in Laos took photo with father and daughter of **Ms. Saisamorn** who is now in Women's Prison, Bangkok, Thailand. **Ms. Saisamorn** was arrested on 11 Mar2008, sentenced to 33 years 4 months

Saisamorn's father is now 92 years old; he wonders if it will be possible for him to meet his daughter again. He is yearning to hug her once again. We brought her letter, which Saisamorn's daughter read for him. After that he held the letter tightly in one hand, a handkerchief in the other hand, while he told us how stupid Saisamorn was to believe her friends and to go away with them; now she is in jail.

Saisamorn's husband passed away about 8 months ago; she already got the message.

(visit 2 March 2014)



*Kep talked with the father of Saisamorn
He had the handkerchief and letter in his hand*



The house of the family, also is a grocery shop for their earning

We would like you to know that we are all fine and miss you....

(But... Where have you been, why no news for so long..... and things change.....)

However, you don't have to know;
wait till we meet !!



Photos : we met Husband (left) and Son (right) of **Hong T Fueng**, took from picture : husband and another Son (Monk)

Hong T Fueng (woman prisoner in BKK) - was arrested in 2002, Drug case, life sentence.

Family got no news from her for more than 10 years.

Finally her husband remarried (2 years ago). Of her three sons, one has died; another is ordained into the monkhood at his brother's funeral and then continued to stay on as Buddhist monk; the eldest one can't continue to study but works in the market along Thai-Laos border. Husband wrote a letter for us to give to Hong T. Fueng, but told us "please don't tell her that one of her sons passed away and don't tell her I remarried. But only let her know everyone is fine, we love and miss her."

(visit 2 March 2014)



Our team took photo with Hong T Fueng 's family

From left to right :

Second from left : Mr. Luan (our collaborator in Laos)

3rd and 4th from left : Hong T. Fueng's son and husband

Our team : Tohm, Sam, Kep, Br. Bee and Ken

Being in Jail
Lost the Chance of being a MOTHER



Ms. NGEN INDAWONG – in Women’s Prison BKK, drug case, arrested 2008, sentenced to 50 years, Her little baby girl’s name “Motsom ” is left with the grandparents when she was arrested. Ngen’s mother sells noodles, the father takes some labor work occasionally. “Motsom” is now about 7 years old; she has a lovely face. She showed us her notebook from school. She is a dear one for her grandparents. Sad that Ngen has no chance to see the growth of her baby. She is really a cute little girl.
(visit 2 March 2014)

Ngen’s father wrote letter to her with full anxious of her little daughter



Naen’s family : Mother, daughter, cousin couple and her father

We thought our son died already. It was so good to know that he is still alive.
Although he is in jail, we are so happy that he is still alive.



Sang, prisoner at Sikiew Prison, Drug case, Life sentence, Arrested 6 March 2002

We were seeking for **Sang's** family in Viengkam town. People told us that they were at the market selling things. We followed the direction and found the father and mother of Sang at a little shed selling miscellaneous things. When we gave the letter of Sang, which had his photo also, they were overjoyed, although the sadness never disappeared. They told us their son was disobedient, very hard for them to teach, always went with friends, went away from home often. And one day he disappeared, hasn't come back again..for many years. They went to ask the fortune tellers; some said **Sang** died already, some said not yet. They were both brokenhearted in wondering where their son was !! With our visit we confirmed that **Sang** is still alive and that we visit him regularly at Sikiew Prison in Thailand. We hope one day **Sang** will return to his parents.

(visit 5 March 2014)



Our team took picture with Sang's family

From left to right:

Stand : Sam, father& mother of Sang, Kep, aunt of Sang, Tohm.

Front row : Ken and Br. Bee,