



LUTHERAN HERITAGE
FOUNDATION UPDATE:

BIBLE STORYBOOK FOR ASIAN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES



LWML - NEW JERSEY DISTRICT TELLS ASIAN CHILDREN OF JESUS

Thanks to the generous support of the LWML – New Jersey District, children in Cambodia and Burma – and immigrant families here in the United States! – are reading and learning about the Savior Jesus in languages they can understand.

A \$2,500 mission grant awarded to the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) at the 2016 LWML – New Jersey District convention has helped cover the costs of printing *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* into both the Khmer (spoken in Cambodia) and the Burmese languages. The books are given freely to the churches, missionaries and families who need them.

Like most countries in Southeast Asia, Cambodia and Burma (also called Myanmar) are strongly influenced by the Buddhist religion. Fear of spirits and bad karma abound.



But the books that the New Jersey LWML have provided open eyes to a different faith and a new way of life.

“There are many Cambodian people who are impacted by reading a book from LHF,” said Rev. Sopha Korn, pictured at left. “One of them is Pitou Ny. He is 10 years old and in grade 3. When Pitou was 4 years old, his parents broke up, and the mother went to get married with another man. His father is a poor fisherman, so Pitou, his sister and father

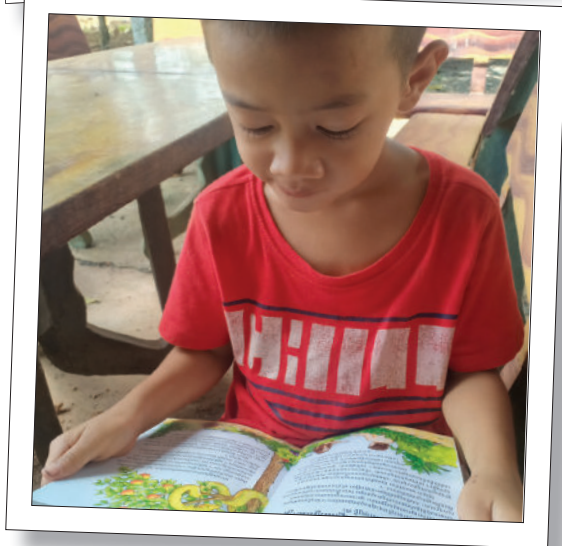
moved to his aunt’s house to live.

“One day in 2019, when he heard about a pastor teaching *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* to the children in the village, he walked to study with them,” he continued. “After learning from the book for

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some months, he began to believe in Jesus Christ and was then baptized in December 28, 2019 at Christ of Hope Lutheran Church!”

Similar stories are emerging from Burma.

“Here in Burma, children under the age of 18 constitute approximately 40 percent of the population. Children are at high risk as destitute parents take them out of school to beg or to work in factories and teashops,” explained Thuza*, who distributes LHF’s books throughout the country. “Only about a third of our children graduate from primary school; many are exposed to drugs, petty crime, arrest, sexual abuse and exploitation and HIV/AIDS. Sometimes street children who can’t produce ID are recruited into the Burmese army.”

A Child’s Garden of Bible Stories in the Burmese languages has brought peace and hope to those who receive them.

“This book is a best friend for children, especially for those who live with fear and loneliness in civil war areas,” Thuza said. “The book is their companion and their inspiration. They find peace and security, knowing about God’s love and care by reading it as they run from place to place. We can’t travel to all places in Myanmar, but the books can reach anyplace and preach Gospel to people anywhere!”

The Khmer and Burmese Bible storybooks provided by women of the LWML New Jersey District aren’t used only in Southeast Asia. They’re also used by LCMS churches and missions right here in the United States,

who are seeking to share the Gospel with immigrants in their communities.

For example, LHF was recently able to answer this deaconess’ call for resources: “I’m currently Deaconess at Shepherd of the City Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana and executive director of The Shepherd’s Hand Community Outreach Center. We have begun hosting health resource fairs, and plan to make the Burmese children’s Bible story books available to kids who come. We serve a diverse community, and at our last health fair, had a large turnout of Burmese families, many who are not Christian.” Thanks to the LWML New Jersey District’s support, LHF has been able to send her dozens of Burmese Bible storybooks!

“On behalf of LHF-Cambodia, I would like to express deep gratitude to all American donors and supporters who have kind hearts, not only in praying for my Cambodian people, but also giving their generous gifts for printing LHF’s books in Cambodian language,” said Rev. Korn. “Through these generous gifts, LHF is able to spread and sow the seeds of the Gospel in this Buddhist country.”

To learn more about LHF’s work in Southeast Asia, go to www.LHFmissions.org.

** Thuza’s name has been changed to protect his identity.*



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