

OUR MISSION IN LAOS

寮国的传教使命



Background to the Call to Laos 在寮国宣传教义的背景

Through the Sisters in Thailand and the then Singapore Ambassador to Laos, Mr Dominic Goh, there were calls to respond to mission especially in the area of education and formation in Laos. 通过在泰国的修女们以及星加坡驻寮国的外交官， Mr Dominic Goh， 我们得知寮国需要在教育及资讯方面援助。

Laos is a landlocked country. The GDP is the lowest in this region which translates to abject poverty for the people especially those living in the remote villages. 寮国是一个被陆地环绕的地方。国内生产总值是本区域最低，那也就是说人民是赤贫穷困的，尤其是居住在偏僻乡村的人们。

The Seed is sown 种下教义的种子

At the IJ Asian Forum held in Bangkok in November 2016, after discussion and discernment, the Sister participants at the Forum affirmed the call and asked that a feasibility study be made to explore the response we can make to mission in Laos. As it is a collaborative effort of the Provinces of Asia, the Asian Mission Team (AMT) was formed with one representative each, either a religious sister or a Lay Partner, from Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, Myanmar and Singapore, under the leadership of Sr Woranuch, a Thai Sister.

在 2016 年十一月举办的圣婴修院亚洲论坛时，通过大家的讨论与探究，参与的修女们决定做出可行性的研究，以探索如何接纳这个在寮国宣传天主教教义的使命。由于这是亚洲教区共同的协作计划，亚洲使命团 AMT 就此成立。合作伙伴包括从泰国，马来西亚，日本，柬埔寨以及星加坡的修女或非圣职人员，领军者是泰国的 Sr Woranuch 修女。

This year 2022 marks the sixth anniversary of the Asian Mission Team. In the last two years the Lao borders were closed to us because of the Covid virus. This Lao Mission, to quote Sr Brigitte, is a gift that brings us together, this gift of God, when received by good hearts, multiplies, spreads and adjusts to cultures and times.

2022 年是亚洲使命团成立的 6 周年。由于疫情的关系，过去的两年，寮国的边界是不开放的。Sr Brigitte 认为这是寮国的使命团得更团结，上帝的礼物，当我们以善心来倍增、传播、以及在文化及时间上的重新认识。

Our Visits 我们的拜访

In 2017, the Team met and made 2 visits to Laos that year: In early 2017 the team made its first trip to Vientiane, capital of Laos. The Singapore ambassador to Laos, Mr Dominic Goh, introduced us to the Cardinal and the Minister of Education. At our invitation, the Minister of Education came to Singapore and visited St Nicholas Girls school. Another visit followed, this time by the full team in September.

在 2017 年，我们的团员两度访问寮国，2017 年年初，我们首次访问永珍，寮国首都。星加坡驻寮国的外交官，Mr Dominic Goh，介绍我们认识枢机主教以及教育部长。在我们的邀请下，寮国的教育部长到新加坡来，同时访问了圣尼各拉女校。接下来的九月份，他们会带领一个访问团前来。



In April 2018, the Team visited the Bokeo area; an area close to the IJ Thai Community of Chiang Khong. Some background work – contacts and visits - had already been commenced by the Thai Sisters. 在 2018 年的四月，他们的访问团探访了 Bokeo，一个邻近 Chiang Khong.泰国圣婴修道院。泰国的修女们也启动了资料的收集及互访的安排。

The members of the AMT crafted the following goals. 亚洲使命团 AMT 设建了以下的目标：

- To assist each child to receive an education 帮助每个孩童都能接收到教育
- To equip the students with proficiency in English for better job opportunities 训练学生能掌握一定的英文水平，以便有更好的就业机会
- To build teacher capacity and upgrade their teaching skills 为教师设建能力及提升教学技巧
- To train teachers in teaching the English Language 训练更多的英语教师

This is in line with what we read in the book Better than Light “that the plight of young people preoccupied Fr Barre constantly. He remained convinced that the lack of human and religious education lay behind many of their sufferings”. “年青人的困境常困扰着巴雷神父。他坚信缺少人性及宗教教育是他们苦难的根由。” 这是依循 Better than Light 书中的教导（此书记载了巴雷神父的思想）

After the visit, the Team was keen to partner 3 schools – Namhodthai Primary School, Huayjod Primary School and Danthin Secondary School. 这探访过后，访问团有意愿与– Namhodthai Primary School, Huayjod Primary School and Danthin Secondary School 建立伙伴关系。

When we visited Namhodthai Primary School, there was no water supply, no electricity and no toilet facilities. There are 110 students and six staff members. 探访 Namhodthai Primary School 时，发现他们没有水的供应、没有电及卫生设备。这学校有 110 个学生及 6 位教职员。



The next school is [Huayjod Primary School](#). 下一间是 Huayjod Primary School

- Total number of classes: 5 (Primary 1 to 5) 一共有五个班级(6weuilaoshi 小一至小五)
- Total number of teachers: 6 (two males and four females). 6 位老师- 两男四女
- Total number of students: 120 (including some students from the kindergarten and nearby leper colony) 120 个学生, (从幼稚班及邻近的麻风族群)
- Subjects taught: Mathematics, Environment studies, Physical education, Art and Handicraft 学习科目: 数学, 环境研究, 体育, 手工。
- School hours: 9am to 11am and 2pm to 4pm 上课时间: 早上九点至 11 点, 下午 2 点至 4 点 (students go home for lunch between 11am to 2pm) 学生能从 1 点至 2 点回家吃饭
- Students learn the English language from Primary 3 onwards 学生从小三开始学习英语
- The Principal requests for assistance with the teaching of the English language. 校长希望能得到在英语教学上的帮助
- Classrooms are generally bare, except for a blackboard. Nothing is left in the classrooms as they cannot be locked. 可是只有黑板, 课室不能上锁, 所以不能将东西留下
- The students share the textbooks that are provided by the government. These textbooks are handed down from class to class. 学生分享由教育部提供的课本。这些课本是由各年级传递下来的。
- The school is greatly in need of library books. There is currently no existing school library. 学校缺乏图书, 现在也没有图书馆。
- The Laos government is promoting oral hygiene amongst students. The school has insufficient funds to build a trough required to teach the students how to practise good oral hygiene. 寮国政府提倡口腔卫生教育。学校缺乏经费来安装水槽让学生练习良好的卫生习惯。

[Huayjod Primary School](#) is helmed by a proactive Principal and many projects can take off. This school has 100 primary school pupils and 20 kindergarten pupils.

Huayjod Primary School 是由一位有先见的校长领导。学校也推行了许多专题作业。学校有 100 个小学生及 20 个幼稚班学生。

[Pana Primary School](#) is at the foot of the mountains. It serves mainly children from the tribal groups. Most children in Pana belong to the Lahu tribe. The tribal children are the most marginalised, have no IDs and thus have no access to health care and education. There are 120 pupils taught by 6 teachers.

Pana Primary School 是在山脚下。她的学生多数来自 Lahu 土著。这些孩童多数是被边缘化, 没有出生证件以及无法得到卫生照顾及教育。6 位老师照顾 120 个学生。



Danthin Secondary School

[Danthin Sec School](#) has 34 teachers serving 470 students. Danthin Sec School 有 34 位老师及 470 个学生。

- Subjects taught: Lao, Mathematics, English, History, Social Studies, Geography, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Physical Education and Art 学生学习: 寮文, 数学, 英文, 历史, 社会科学。地理, 物理, 化学。生物, 体育, 及美术。
- This Secondary school takes in graduating pupils from Huayjod Primary School and another Primary School. 中学接纳从 Huayjod Primary School 及其他学校的毕业生
- The teachers are keen in learning the English language. 教师们对学习英语感兴趣
- The school is in need of library books, a science laboratory and computers for the teachers to work more efficiently. These are almost non-existent at the moment. 学校需要图书, 实验室, 电脑来帮助老师更好的处理公务。现在这些设施都不存在。

In November 2018, a Mission Outreach was organised for 5 Singaporean Volunteers, 1 Interpreter and 2 Team members. During this visit, the Namhodthai Primary School was not included as the Team had been advised that another Group had adopted the School as their mission work. 在 2018 年 11 月, 5 位星加坡义工, 一位翻译, 级位团员, 组成使命传递团。他们的访问没有包括 Namhodthai Primary School. 因为, 另一个宗教团体已经锁定他们为传教目标。

Another visit to Huayjod and Danthin was made in September 2019 to discuss in greater detail the areas of partnership and collaboration. 在 2019 年 9 月, 另一次的访问即将进行深层的建立伙伴关系及协作。

Snippets from the Mission Trip to Danthin Secondary and Huayjod Primary Schools, Bokeo, 26 to 29 November 2018. 访问的剪影。26-29 日 11 月 2018 的访问 Danthin Secondary and Huayjod Primary Schools, Bokeo

1. **IT Workshop** - The teachers wanted to learn to use computers to research and develop better teaching resources for their classes and also to give the students hands-on practice in using computers. They also want to build a computer lab. 电脑工作坊-教师想学习电脑的操作, 以便更有效地发展更好的教学资源及教学生实习是用电脑。他们也要建立一间电脑室
2. **Health Workshop** - The workshop focused on the infectious diseases and how to limit the spread through good hygiene practices such as frequent hand washing. 卫生工作坊-工作坊的焦点在于传染性疾。通过勤快洗手防止病毒的传染。
3. **Interaction with Students** – Team members played games and sang English and Laotian songs with students. Folding Paper planes excited the children 与学生交流-团员们通过游戏, 唱寮国歌及英文歌沟通。学生也喜欢折飞机游戏。

4. **Presentation of gifts** – English Text books to all students; Science equipment (magnets, microscopes, test tube stands, 2 laptops, compasses, tuning forks, thermometers) 献礼物-所有学生都会有一本英文书。科学仪器（磁铁，显微镜，试管架，2部电脑，指南针，音调调整叉）

5. We also presented the Principal of Huayjod Primary school with a **cash gift** to build a water trough to put into practice handwashing and tooth brushing habits. 现金，我们也送给 Huayjod Primary school 的校长资金用来建立一个水槽，用来教导良好的学习洗手及刷牙习惯。

Completed Projects 完成了的作业。

Water supply: Dantthin Secondary has been purchasing its potable water from suppliers and aims to get their own clean water. We connected them to an Organisation in Cambodia that has not only brought clean drinking water to communities but is also involved in educating those communities on its sustainability. Two other schools have also requested for clean water.

水供应= Dantthin Secondary 已经可以购买移动性用水，将来期望可以有自己的清洁水用。我们为它们联系了柬埔寨的一个机构，他们不止提供干净水至学校，同时也指导学校如何持续性使用这些而错失。其他 2 间学校也希望又干净的水用。



The Clean Water Project is completed for all the three schools. Wells are dug and water is stored in **water tanks**. The school community now has clean water to drink and wash themselves. During the dry season the villagers nearby come to collect water. This has forged a closer relationship between the nearby villagers and the school. 提供干净水的计划，在这三校中已经落实了。开了井，并把水储存在水箱中。学校成员现在又干净的水喝及洗身子。在干旱时，附近的村民也来取水用。这为学校以及村民建立起亲密的关系。

Water is filtered before drinking. Children are encouraged to bring a bottle of clean water home. 水必须过滤后，方可饮用。学校鼓励学生带一瓶干净的水回家。

Another completed project is the **water trough** in Huayjod Primary. This is for pupils to brush their teeth and wash their hands. The Ministry of Education encourages all schools to install the water trough to improve hygiene. However, the school was not able to do so without financial assistance. 另外一项措施是为 Huayjod Primary 建立水槽。这是为了方便学生刷牙及洗手。虽然教育部鼓励所有的学校安置水槽提升确保卫生，但因学校缺乏资金，学校无法达成。



On going projects 持续的项目

More than a year ago Huayjod Primary has embarked on the Lunch Project (**Food and Nutrition Programme**). The pupils bring a ball of glutinous rice for lunch. Some of them go without lunch. The lunch project provides each pupil an egg on two days of the week and some meat and noodles on a third day. This source of protein is much needed for growing children. The teachers reported that the children are more alert and look healthier. 一年前 Huayjod Primary 推行了午餐计划（食物与营养计划）。学生只带一粒糯米饭团来学校。有的学生没有午餐。午餐计划在每星期的 2 天给予学生一粒蛋，第三天则有肉及面条。成长中的儿童是必须有蛋白质的，计划施行后，老师汇报孩童看起来更加健康及反应更敏锐。



Parents roster themselves to boil the eggs and cook lunch three days a week.

家长依照三天的轮值表来学校煮鸡蛋及安排午餐。

The school projects see the parents helping to dig wells, paint the classrooms and cook lunch. They are more engaged in the school life. 家长帮忙挖井，为课室油漆及著午餐。因为有这些活动，他们与学校的关系更密切。

The school has requested for a **library** for the pupils. The steel cupboard (as rats gnaw through wooden cupboards) in Huayjod Primary staff room serves as a central library of books in English and Lao. The baskets are used to bring the books to the classrooms - their mobile library. 学校征求为学生建立一间图书

馆。教师办公室的一个铁橱用来放置英文及寮文书籍。（因为木橱会被老鼠咬破）篮子是用来运载书本。这是他们的流动图书馆。



Sr Wonaruch is our team leader.

A nursery room was built for the kindergarten students aged 3-5. 为了幼儿班 3-5 岁的儿童，也建起了一间育婴室。

The list of completed projects is not exhaustive. Others like stationery and school bags for all children and sports equipment for the pupils are needed.

已完成的计划不尽其数。文具用品及书包，运动器材也极其需要。

Future projects. 捡来的计划

Some schools have only one toilet to serve the whole school community. Namhodtai Primary has no toilet. This will be an immediate project AMT will embark on. 有的学校只有一件厕所，. Namhodtai Primary 也没有厕所。这是 AMT 在进行中的项目。



- The Principal and some teachers are keen on a two-day educational trip to Chiang Khong, Thailand to visit the IJ school there for **exposure**. This is part of the upgrading of the teachers' project. 校长与老师们也相主办一个与泰国 Chiang Khong 的 IJ 学校交流的 2 日游。这是老师们提升能力计划的一部分。
- **English Language Training for Teachers**. The proposal is for the English Language teachers to receive training during their school holidays. We will source for trainers and a venue for training. 英文培训班。英文老师希望能在假期时接受培训。我们正在寻找培训师及可供上课的地方。



Teachers meeting part of the team

Fr Bounty is a local priest who works closely with the Pana school while ministering to about 1000 parishioners in the Bokeo region. The Lao Mission Team has expressed our wish to work with Fr Bounty. Fr Bounty 是一位在 Bokeo 地区照顾 1000 名教友的，同时也邻近 Pana school。寮国使命团希望能与他合作。



Fr Bounty



Fr Bounty's parishioners

The various visits by the Thai Sisters, Mission Team members and volunteers; the discussions with the Principals and teachers have seen some **positive outcomes**: 泰国修女，使命团团员及义工的多次访问及与校长教师间的商议，带来下列的成效

- Villagers and parents got together in April 2019 to paint Huayjod School. Huayjod School 的家长在 2019 年 4 月为学校油漆
- In May 2019, with the help of Principal Boon Nheaw and support of Fr Rangsiphon, the villagers helped to build the road up to the Church. Boon Nheaw 校长得到 Rangsiphon 神父的支持，建立一条通往教堂的路。
- Villagers donated the grilles for the windows in the teachers' room so that materials may be stored safely. 家长报效教师室的窗户的花铁枝，以免教学材料的失落。
- The Asian Mission Team is ever grateful for the partnership of Mr Damien Lam. He has been very generous in offering his advice and assistance with regard to policies and protocols in Laos. 亚洲使命团感激合作伙伴 Mr Damien Lam. 他为我们提供了与寮国合作的政策及礼仪。

With Mr Lam's extensive help, we could purchase text books for the students in Danthin Secondary School. He is also helping us to source for Laotian Children's Story books to add to the collection of English books that he helped to transport to Vientiane and onward to the schools. 由于 Mr Damien Lam 的大力协助，我可以为 Danthin Secondary School 购买课本。他也帮助我们寻求适合寮国孩童的书籍，增添了他们的英语书本的数量，同时帮忙运至永珍及送到学校去。

We in the Lao Mission Team are reminded by **Pope Francis** "to show particular solidarity with the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. We are called to reach out to those who find themselves in the existential peripheries of our societies and to show particular solidarity with the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters: the poor, the disabled, the unborn and the sick, migrants and refugees, the elderly and the young who lack employment... Pope Francis 也提醒我们亚洲使命团应对于神父及修女们的特殊合约及脆弱性特加留意。我们是宣召为在社会的生存边缘上伸出援手，同时也要照顾到神父与修女们的合约与脆弱性。

Please continue to pray with and for us as we reach out to our brothers and sisters who need a helping hand! 请继续为我们祈祷，我们努力为有需要的神父修女伸出援手。

Thank you and God bless! 谢谢。愿上主祝福你!

Contact: 联络处

To communicate with the IJ Sisters about the Lao Mission Team, kindly email us at ijsisters.sg@gmail.com 如要联络 IJ 修女有关寮国的使命团事宜，请电邮 ijsisters.sg@gmail.com