



EASTERN LAWA | Thailand

SUMMER 2024 UPDATE

The annual Eastern Lawa Christmas outreach event was a great opportunity to connect with Lawa speakers, and share the Good News of Christ's coming.



STORIES OF IMPACT

Deliverance and baptism

The main Eastern Lawa translators, Tawan and Jum, have prayed for years for their son Captain, who was clinically depressed. His situation became so severe that they feared for his life.

By God's grace, a true miracle has taken place in Captain's life. Captain received medical intervention, and soon thereafter, team members met with him to pray. They laid hands on him and invoked God for his deliverance. Captain himself prayed to give Jesus lordship over his life, and asked for freedom.

Jesus answered in a powerful way: Captain has experienced true transformation! He no longer battles voices in his head. After a year of isolation, he was able to move out from his parents' home and find a job. He discovered a church near his new home. Against all odds, Captain even received a scholarship from his university to develop a business idea. Last quarter, the team—especially Tawan and Jum—rejoiced as Captain decided to get baptized. Hallelujah! The project coordinator shares,

"We were very happy to be part of Captain's baptism. This is a great relief to Eastern Lawa mother-tongue translators who were [consumed] with him every day, and worried sick. Now, they say they feel free! Praise God. . . Please pray for Captain to grow and to stay free."

Impactful Christmas outreach events

Christmastime in Thailand is a meaningful season to engage community members and publicly share the Good News of Jesus. This year, the Eastern Lawa team planned Christmas outreach events in the main Lawa village, and in a smaller Lawa village called Gong Loy. In the 1960s,

Gong Loy became the first Thai village where Christian missionaries lived. Unfortunately, locals distrusted these missionaries and forced them to flee the village. It became unclear how Christianity ministry would take off in the area again.

Six decades later, in 2023, the Eastern Lawa team met a believer who was originally from Gong Loy. She shared that she had been praying for an outreach opportunity in her home village for years! The Eastern Lawa team decided to run a Christmas event in Gong Loy, geared toward children. The gathering was a great success! Festivities included a Christmas gospel presentation, songs, activities, and delicious food. It was especially encouraging to see parents watching from the sidelines. Many wanted to learn more about the Christmas story!

To date, there are very few Christians in the Gong Loy community. Yet, since the Christmas outreach, Lawa speakers in the village have expressed a desire to follow Jesus. The project coordinator says, *"Praise God for this open door after this village had historically been very closed!"*

Since Christmas, the team returned to Gong Loy to run a sewing workshop for 14 women. The team also ran a Sunday morning church service. Praise God for these wonderful opportunities to tell Lawa speakers about Jesus.

God is at work in Gong Loy—and among Eastern Lawa speakers as a whole. Praise Him! The coordinator continues: *"This wouldn't be possible without help from many people—including Wycliffe Canada and their supporters."* Thank you for your support.



RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Baptized new Lawa believers!** Last quarter, the Eastern Lawa team baptized two new local believers. They later baptized the son of the main Lawa translators (see impact story). All glory to God.
- **Advanced reviews of Lawa Bible translations.** The book of James is being team checked, while Mark and Jonah are being consultant checked.
- **Held successful community checks.** Following team checks for the Gospel of Mark, the team shared: *"Praise God the community testing helped us improve our translation of Mark's gospel. We had some great talks about Jesus and the gospel with the four testers. Pray the seed sown in their lives would bear fruit."*
- **Supported team members learning the Lawa language.** Workers Jeff, Dongin and Hyunjin are steadily becoming more proficient in Lawa. The whole team memorized Psalm 23 in Lawa together!
- **Prepared and distributed Lawa materials about the Christmas story.** The team created a book about the Christmas story in Lawa, based on Matthew and Luke. They also created a digital app for Lawa speakers to listen to recordings of the story. These were shared with Lawa speakers at Christmas outreach events.
- **Tested literacy primers.** Community testers were encouraged by the curriculum. Eastern Lawa leaders are eager to see mother-tongue literacy classes launched in Lawa villages using these primers.
- **Created literacy videos.** These serve as an alternative to the Lawa literacy primer book.
- **Continued sharing translated oral Bible stories.** Sharing Scripture orally is an effective way to foster hunger to dig deeper into God's Word.



UPCOMING GOALS

- Publish the books of Mark and Jonah once approved by the consultant.
- Complete reviews of James, and begin translating one of the epistles.
- Continue the sewing group for Eastern Lawa women, and teach them to read. There are currently four local women actively participating.
- Develop the new Lawa songbook. The team has translated 23 songs into Lawa so far.
- Continue using translated portions of God's Word, including oral Bible stories, in weekly church services or small groups.
- Create additional literacy teaching videos for Eastern Lawa speakers, and upload them to social media channels. The goal is to develop 80 videos in total.



PRAY WITH US

- Praise God for local buy-in toward mother-tongue literacy. What a blessing to see community members and leaders support this work after opposition in the past!
- For the successful completion of consultant checks, especially for the book of Mark. May God grant the team perseverance.
- For the creation of literacy videos. We hope these resources help Lawa people get excited about learning to read their language.
- For outreach in the Gong Loy village. May locals be open to hearing more about Jesus!
- That the Eastern Lawa team would see many more people decide to follow Jesus and get baptized.



The baptism of Captain, a young Eastern Lawa man whose parents serve on the Bible translation team.