



## *Soap, Soup and Salvation*

*By: Bill Allegacoon*

In 1988 southern Thailand was plagued by the worst flooding in 30 years. Many people were forced to move to safer areas.

One village, Khuang Ka Long, opened a settlement for 163 families affected by the floods. Each family was given a half-acre of land on which to build a house and start life again. The pastor of a nearby church asked us to visit these people and determine how we could help them.

We knew they needed to hear the gospel, but we also sensed their need for food and clothes. Adopting a “soap, soup, and salvation” approach, we supplied them with basic temporal needs and then shared the message of God’s love.

Our efforts won the favor of government officials in charge of the project. They responded by giving us an open door into this Buddhist community. Today church services are held in a multipurpose building. During the week we use the building as a classroom and teach believers skills such as sewing and furniture-making to earn a livelihood. Non-Christians are invited to join the program, and many have since received Christ.

Two new believers, Papart and Mid, came to us in search of healing for an aunt who was dying of cancer. Although she died a few months later, she accepted Christ as her Savior. Papart and Mid continue to attend church and are growing in the Lord. They have witnessed to their neighbor and won him to Christ.

Another new believer, Lung Prom, came to the Lord after seeing a remarkable change in his wife Sawang’s life after she believed. He had been a medicine man who told fortunes and did mantras to produce rain for the village. Now he often testifies of God’s goodness to him and his family.

For the believers at Khuang Ka Long, singing, testifying and praying are new experiences. No more can they see, touch and smell the objects of their worship or depend on a priest to act on their behalf. They are learning that Jesus is all they need, and they can come to Him as they are. Once destitute and displaced, they have found security and peace in Christ.

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