

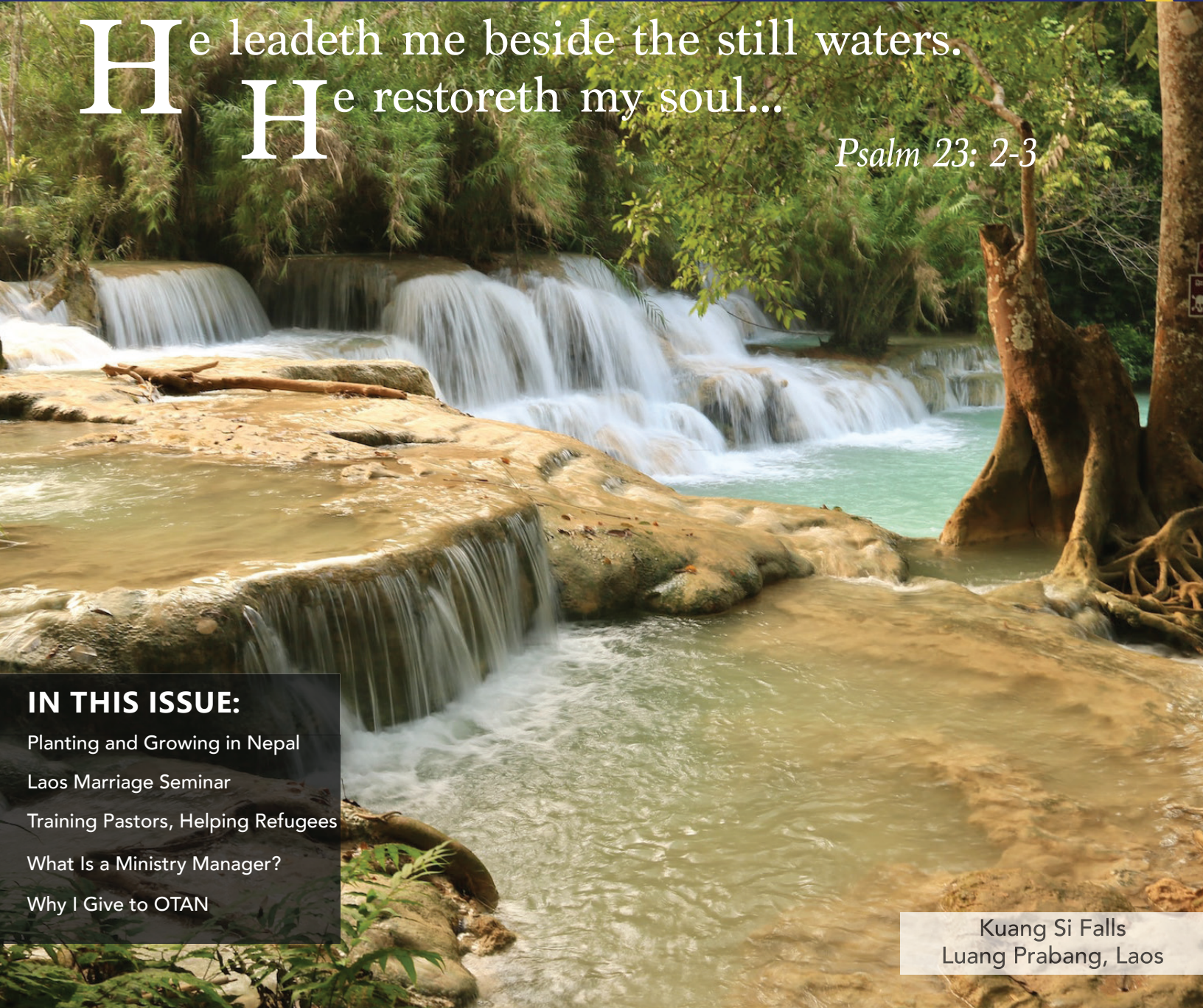
OTAN

OUTREACH TO ASIA NATIONALS



He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul...

Psalm 23: 2-3



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Planting and Growing in Nepal
- Laos Marriage Seminar
- Training Pastors, Helping Refugees
- What Is a Ministry Manager?
- Why I Give to OTAN

Kuang Si Falls
Luang Prabang, Laos

**TRAINING AND RESOURCING
PERSECUTED ASIAN PASTORS
TO REACH THEIR PEOPLE**

LAOS MARRIAGE SEMINAR

Raising the value of marriage and women

The family is an important institution in Laos and tends to be the foundation of social life. Laotians often have large, close-knit families with 4-5 children on average. In rural areas, three generations living together is common.

Recently, our Laotian pastors have asked us to host a marriage and family-based seminar that would include their wives. Traditional attitudes and gender role stereotyping have kept women and girls in a subordinate position, preventing them from equally accessing education and job opportunities. Also, there are few Christian marriage resources in tribal languages.



Laotian village couple

This fall, OTAN will be hosting a *Love and Respect* marriage seminar in Laos. The 4-day event will feature the *Love and Respect* curriculum, which focuses on strengthening relationships by exploring why spouses react negatively to each other and how they can deal with conflicts biblically.

Pray for the OTAN staff who will be traveling to lead the seminar and for the Laotian couples who will attend. If you would like to defray some of the \$200 cost for the seminar, designate "Laos Couples" on your check or when you give online.

Pray for North Korea

For security reasons, not much is shared about OTAN's ministry to bring the gospel to North Koreans. This ongoing outreach is challenging and carries great risks.

Please pray for the protection of our staff and for the grace of God to go before us and to open doors.



PLANTING AND GROWING

Updates from some of our Nepali pastors



Outdoor service in Nepal 2023

OTAN has been serving in Nepal for more than 15 years, building connections with 30 churches. One pastor with a congregation of 60 members recently shared:

"Our church ministers through a Saturday worship service, a house fellowship meeting, meetings for women and youth, and a fasting and prayer fellowship. At Christmas, we were able to hold an outdoor service in a public place. We have also started a branch fellowship to the Gurung tribes in another village.

"Pray for our young people who often leave because they cannot find work. Pray for our funding needs to build a church to meet in. Pray also for the spiritual lives of our new believers and for a bike for our ministry to use.

"Thank you for your precious prayers and support!"



2023 baptisms in Nepal

Another Nepalese village pastor wrote:

"After 10 years, we are constructing a church building! We are so very happy and thankful for our Almighty God and our OTAN family. We enjoy the monthly Zoom meetings with OTAN.

"In the past year, 20 people have been baptized and 25 others have accepted Jesus Christ for their personal Lord and Savior!

"Please pray for the leader of a new church plant, pray about the challenges we face from government restrictions, and pray for our financial needs."

For the safety of our pastors, identifying details are not shared.

REACHING LEADERS AND REFUGEES

News from our Middle East Ministry Manager

OTAN is planning to host a leadership training conference in the Middle East this fall. We expect to host 150 pastors, some of their wives, and other church leaders. Training sessions will focus on how to study the Bible in its context and how to cultivate maturity in the Christian life.

The attendees will come from different denominations and different governorates. Most of these pastors are working in small villages and poor areas. At least 50 of the attendees will be Sudanese pastors who work among thousands of Sudanese refugees.

The conference is four days and three nights, and the cost is \$50 per person. We are praying to be able to sponsor all of the attendees.

Pray for the people who will be teaching. It can be very difficult to teach pastors and evangelists who are already in the field. Pray that the Lord will send the right people who will be motivated and willing to change their traditional ways of approaching the gospel.



Spices in Middle Eastern market



Middle Eastern city street

When we started the first Middle East training in 2018, an Egyptian believer became a source of encouragement and an essential part of our team. At the second conference, he invited Sudanese pastors and leaders, and the gospel spread through this ministry “exceedingly abundantly above all that we could ask or think.”

When a civil war erupted a few months ago in Sudan, hundreds of thousands of refugees fled. We have a great team working among Sudanese refugees. Along with sharing the gospel, they are helping to supply food and medical care to the needy. In June as the Muslims were celebrating the Eid al-Adha (sacrifice) feast, our team arranged a program to help with food and clothing distribution and to explain the real meaning of sacrifice.

Please pray for these refugees, for the expansion of the gospel among them, and for our team who are working among them with love to build relationship bridges and share the love of Jesus. If the Lord guides you, please consider supporting this outreach. Note “Middle East Ministries” on your check or choose it from the drop-down menu when giving online.

~OTAN Middle East Ministry Manager

WHAT IS A MINISTRY MANAGER?

by Arthur MacArthur, Laos Ministry Manager

OTAN would not be able to accomplish its mission goals in the 11 Asian countries we serve without each country having a Ministry Manager. It has been a great joy for my wife, Eloise, and me to serve as Laos Ministry Managers for 15 years.

Because OTAN works in restricted-access countries, a Ministry Manager is a different type of missionary. Ministry Managers live in the United States and travel to their focus country when national pastors are able to host them. Nationals cannot always leave their village and travel to meet for a training session without the permission of village authorities.

Ministry Managers are responsible for:

- Promoting the various ministries in a particular country.
- Representing that country and OTAN to pastors, churches, and individuals in the western world in order

to create interest and commitment for that country and the ministries the national pastors are doing.

- Encouraging pastors, churches, and individuals to partner with OTAN in funding the training of national pastors, the pastors themselves, the distribution of printed materials and resources, special projects, and anything else that will help to advance the Kingdom of God in that country.
- Tracking and verifying how national pastors use the funds raised for the work.

Ministry Managers also raise funds for their own travel expenses as well as for the ministry in their focus country. This can be difficult, challenging, and very time consuming.

Visits to these restricted countries must be selective and short due to the security risks to the pastor and his church members. But such joy comes when Ministry Managers are able to meet with these pastors during a training and visit some of the churches to see the work they are doing.



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Partner By Giving

Give online at otan.org or by check to P.O. Box 2440, Winchester, VA, 22604. Please designate your gift in the memo line.

Want to use the text-to-give option? Text "OTANtraining" and your gift amount to 540-274-5524 (example: OTANtraining 75).



Partner By Praying

If you feel challenged or inspired by this update, would you consider praying for this ministry? We're so grateful for the prayers of our fellow believers.

Want to learn to effectively pray for missionaries and their outreach? Visit otan.org/pray.



Partner By Going

Not everyone is able to go to foreign fields, but every believer can ask themselves the question, "Am I called to go?"

Is God calling you into the mission field? We'd love to talk to you about it! Connect with us at otan.org/serve.

WHY I GIVE TO OTAN

About ten years ago, some people came to my church and shared about Outreach To Asia Nationals. The speakers were a husband and wife team who had gone to China and done some teaching there. They handed out information about OTAN, and I sent in a donation. Later I met another person who was also involved with OTAN. From time to time I sent an occasional donation.

Over the years, I have come to love supporting OTAN regularly because they focus on training nationals to be better leaders. Training is spread out over many months so nationals have time to apply what they have learned in their villages in between trainings. To me, it's more like biblical on-the-job training instead of many years of college know-how that has no immediate application.

I know that my donations go directly to the mission field, and my dollar goes a long way because expenses are kept to a bare minimum on the field so more pastors and leaders can be trained economically.

~ Michael, a 10-year donor to Outreach To Asia Nationals