

Meet Sunya

“I never heard anything like that before.”



Sunya couldn't hear every word of the conversation, but she overheard enough to piece together what the two strangers were talking about. It was a spiritual conversation, and one of the people was talking about the Bible—what Sunya knew as “the black book” of the Christians. Raised a Buddhist, she was curious about the God of the Christians and about what they believed. But her family would not approve of her desire to investigate another faith.

Sunya later learned that the man who was talking about the Bible was the pastor of a small house church in her village. Wanting to know more, she found out the location of the house church and, not daring to go in, she stood outside of it one Sunday morning.

She began returning each Sunday, always standing outside. Several times, Pastor Jai came out to talk with her and invite her to come in and listen, but she refused. She had many questions, but she feared the disapproval of family and fellow villagers.

Finally, after many weeks of standing outside, Sunya went inside and sat with the Christians. She heard the gospel message clearly. “I never heard anything like that before,” Sunya says. “He was talking about a God who loved me and who sent Jesus to show me that love and to take the penalty for my sins. I knew it was true,” she says. Sunya believed!

Today, Pastor Jai and Sunya are husband and wife. Pastor Jai is a key contact for OTAN's work in Laos. He and Sunya often host other Lao pastors for training and fellowship—always keeping security and safety in mind. Sunya loves to cook for the training meetings and welcome the Lao pastors who come to covertly study the Scriptures and learn leadership skills to shepherd their house churches with confidence.

Sunya says, “I am still hearing and learning so many amazing things from God's Word that continue to stretch and change me in ways I never thought possible.”



For security, names and images are representations only.

In a country of more than 7.5 million people, about 3 percent of Lao people are evangelical Christians. There are 126 people groups in Laos, and about 60 percent of the population identify as Buddhists.*

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**Statistics from Joshua Project*