

OTAN

OUTREACH TO ASIA NATIONALS

The Lord shall preserve
thy going out and thy coming in
From this time forth and
even for evermore.

Psalm 121:8

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Zebu Cattle in Village
Street, Cambodia

TRAINING AND RESOURCING
PERSECUTED ASIAN PASTORS
TO REACH THEIR PEOPLE

PEACE IN THE MIDST OF WAR

Burmese pastors bring hope to their churches

In 2021, a military coup began in Myanmar (formerly Burma) that continues to devastate the country of more than 54 million today. A *TIME* magazine feature in 2024 put the death toll at around 50,000 people. Recent numbers have claimed more than 80,000 have been killed and more than three million have been displaced. Some schools that were closed during COVID have still not reopened for students.

In the midst of struggles and deprivation, the grace of God is sustaining our Myanmar pastors as they keep their small congregations together, offer them hope and comfort, and even see people become new followers of Jesus. Pastor N recently sent us some photos of our faithful brothers and sisters who regularly gather for Sunday services, Bible studies, prayer and worship, and even outdoor baptisms (faces obscured for security).



Myanmar house church meeting for prayer

Ongoing airstrikes, some as recent as August, continue to claim lives and displace families and communities. Pastor N told us, "At this time, Pastor B, Pastor NT, and their church members are fleeing away from home because government military is targeting and bombing with military air strikes. Please pray for them."

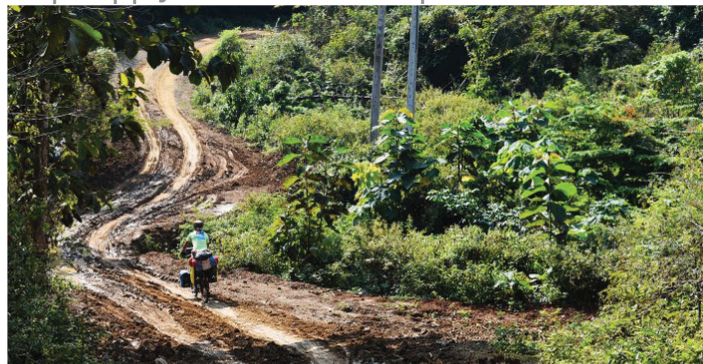
Today, would you pray for peace in Myanmar? Pray that OTAN will be able to stay connected to our national pastors and that they would find ways to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the Burmese people. Ask the Father to protect His leaders and His churches there as they gather and serve. To give a gift to the Myanmar ministry, choose "Myanmar (Burma) Ministry" on the "Give" page at our website: OTAN.org.



River baptism in Myanmar

MOTORBIKES FOR 3 LAO PASTORS

Help supply this critical transportation need



Biker navigates muddy roads in Laos

"Almost impassable." That's how Arthur, OTAN's Laos ministry manager, describes the condition of rural roads in Laos, especially during the rainy season. "Motor bikes are the main mode of transportation for the pastors and leaders that OTAN partners with."

Many of these leaders are farmers who plant rice and other crops, eking out poverty-level livings for their families. Almost all of them have experienced persecution of some kind. Arthur says, "Many are ostracized by family and villagers for leaving their established religion (usually Buddhism). They become part of a lesser economic class of people because other people don't want to do business with them. Some have had their homes, property, rice supply, or livestock taken."

For the pastors who serve in the rural and mountainous regions of Laos, the cost of owning and maintaining a car, truck, or SUV is completely out of reach. "Gas is very expensive, and motorbikes are the cheapest and most economical way for them to travel," says Arthur. A motorbike is often not only the sole means of transportation for a pastor and his family, it is also the only way to attend trainings, meet with other pastors, or have access to believers in remote areas who need pastoral care.

Would you consider giving a gift to provide this much-needed transportation to our Lao pastors?

One of the bikes will be given to a key pastor who travels extensively, and two of the bikes will be shared by a team of pastors whenever needed. **The total needed for all 3 bikes is \$12,000.**

To give securely online, go to otan.org, then choose the "Give" tab. Select "Laos: Motorbikes for Pastors" from the giving menu. Or if you prefer, send a check payable to OTAN with "Laos Motorbikes" in the memo line. Thank you!

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TRAINING LEADERS IN NEPAL

Fall pastors' training addresses key issues

In the area of Nepal where OTAN trains and equips national pastors, most churches consist of 40-60 members who meet together in houses or in small buildings. Of the 25+ leaders who will be attending our fall trainings in Nepal, a few have larger congregations of over 100 people who meet in clearly distinguishable church buildings.

Our Nepali pastors come from varied backgrounds and have differing levels of education. "A few have college degrees," says Gary, OTAN's Nepal ministry manager. "One or two are IT workers. Some are chicken farmers."

A 2021 national census stated that more than 80% of Nepal's population of nearly 30 million people identify as Hindu with about 8% claiming to be Buddhist. Estimates of the Christian population vary widely from 2% to just under 10%. Nepal's anti-conversion laws (National Penal Code Act, 2017) mean that—for instance—churches can't openly invite the community to events or hold evangelical outreaches in public places like a park or village square. "Some of the leaders we work with have been questioned by police," Gary says. "And multiple letters of consent are needed to baptize a new member, especially one under 18, to say that they were not 'coerced' in any way."

At the fall leadership training, OTAN will address key leadership issues that impact the Nepali church. "In many Asian cultures, conflict resolution is a huge issue. People don't want to bring shame on themselves



People gather outside a temple in Nepal

or have others think poorly of them. Rather than addressing an issue, they'll 'beat around the bush,'" says Gary. This can lead to unresolved issues that can destroy the fellowship and unity of a church.

"Measuring achievement, setting limits, and the character of leaders—these things are all a part of the principles for leadership that we'll be presenting. Regardless of culture, all leaders can benefit from these Godly principles," he says.

Despite the restrictions faced by these pastors, Gary says, "Our greatest asset in all of this is training nationals. To God be the glory. . .these leaders have a strong desire to plant churches and share the gospel."

To support OTAN's work in Nepal, click the "Give" page at OTAN.org and choose "Nepal Ministry" from the giving menu. Or send a check with "Nepal" in the memo line to the address on this newsletter's back page.

RESPONDING TO CAMBODIA'S NEEDS

Pastors face growing "orphan" crisis

Open doors and unique opportunities will make 2026 a year of expanding ministry in Cambodia for OTAN. "We see the Lord's hand in the launch of our Mobile Bible College in Cambodia which will enable us to train as many as 40 pastors for the first time," says Al Doomy, OTAN's executive director.

As we equip and train these leaders to know and understand Scripture more deeply and to gain the confidence to lead their churches, we are learning more about the immediate needs in many of their communities. "Many of these churches are caring for significant numbers of children in need," Al says.

"Poverty and unemployment are driving parents to look for work in other towns and even other countries. Children are often left behind in the care of grandparents who are struggling to make ends meet as it is. They don't have the financial means or the physical ability to really care for these children, so the kids end up in the care of local churches. One church we heard of is made up of 17 adults who are helping to care for 90 children."

"And these pastors," Al continues, "they're using their own money to help...money that they can hardly get by on themselves. We're excited about the plans for our Mobile Bible College trainings in 2026, but we also can't help but see the financial strain that caring for these children is putting on the pastors and the churches right now."

OTAN friends and partners like you can make an impact. "We're asking for help to supplement the income of some of these men. I would love to see churches or small groups or maybe a Sunday school class commit to supporting the pastor of one of these churches," says Al. "\$120 a month would replenish some of the salary of a pastor in a church that is caring for these children. These leaders do SO much with SO very little. Think what we could do with just some of the 'MUCH' we have as Americans." Al believes so strongly in this, he is personally supporting a Cambodian pastor.

Would you consider partnering with your church, group, club, or other friends to help support a Cambodian pastor who is serving the children of his community? Your gift of \$120 a month—or of any amount—can make a lasting difference. Click the "Give" tab on our website and choose "Cambodia Ministry" to give your gift securely. Thank you!



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Partner By Giving

Give online at **otan.org** or by check to **PO 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.



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 WE GIVE TO OTAN

I'll never forget the question, "Do you know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?" It was the first time I had met Otis Goodwin, and that was the very first thing he said to me. To be honest, it caught me a little off guard because I was serving as youth pastor at Calvary Bible Baptist Church in Whitefield, Maine--the church from which God called Otis and his wife Roxanne to start OTAN. He asked because he cared and wanted to make sure I knew Jesus.

Otis' enthusiasm for Jesus and wanting others to know Him drew me in as a young pastor, and I value the conversations I had with him. Twenty-five years later, I am still at Calvary as a pastor, and although many things have changed, as a church, we continue to support OTAN. We do this not out of obligation but because throughout the organization we see Otis' same enthusiasm for Jesus and for wanting others to know Him. We believe in OTAN's philosophy of training and resourcing nationals to reach their own communities for Christ.

~Pastor Doug Richards Calvary Bible Baptist Church, Whitefield ME