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Celebration Story

We invite you to share with your congregation the following story from Rad and Pat Houmphan in Thailand. The story should take no more than 2 minutes to read aloud. You might also wish to include it in your church newsletter.

Tuning in to Christ



Rad and Pat Houmphan, MC Canada Witness workers in Borabu, Thailand, recently met Sontee*. With his wife and six children, Sontee lives in a Southeast Asian country that has no religious freedom. He shared with the Houmphans a story of transformation that freed him from fear and gave him courage in the face of oppression.

His story began by accident 14 years ago, in 1994. Sontee was working in a village far from his home when by chance – or by the grace of God – he tuned in to a Christian radio station. He was intrigued by what he discovered there and over the next two years he listened to stories about God, Creation

and Christ. What he learned compelled him to give up animism, the belief that all animate and inanimate objects have spirits, and turn to Jesus.

Sontee found peace and joy in his new faith – a stark contrast to the fear of evil spirits that surrounded him when he practiced animism. He found hope and comfort in the Christian teaching of eternal life, and in the notion of a God who loves and sustains his followers.

After some time, Sontee returned to his home village and eagerly shared his newfound faith with other villagers. In response to his passion for sharing the Good News, nine families accepted Christ into their lives. A small church was established and these new Christians gathered in their homes for worship and fellowship.

This year, however, Sontee's faith in Christ has been challenged. Local government officials have threatened him, his family and the other Christians in his village. They have been ordered to give up their "Western" faith or they will be kicked out of the village, their children will not be able to go to school, and they will cease to receive any state benefits.

As a result of these threats, four families have rescinded their faith in Christ. However, Sontee says that despite of this, he will continue to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ and share the Good News with others. He is not afraid of persecution and death. "No one lives forever and if I die, I will go to a better place with Jesus."

By tuning into a Christian radio broadcast, Sontee replaced fear with boldness and his life has become an example for others.

Let us be thankful for the many ways in which God is using Christians in Southeast Asia to build God's church, including the church planting ministry of Pat and Rad Houmphan. Please continue to pray for the safety and continued strength of those who have dedicated their lives to God in Southeast Asia and around the world.

*"Sontee" is a pseudonym

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor. 3:11