

JANUARY 20, 2024

# ZEEKISMS

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## PERSECUTION RAGES ON!

Unfortunately, the sinful world which we live in primarily revolves around money and power. In certain places in the world, this results in the persecution of believers. Within the Hmong communities of southeast Asia, particularly in Laos and Vietnam, many of the villages are very isolated and so reports of persecution taking place in these areas go unreported. A unique situation in Laos is that in one district (there are a total of 17 districts/provinces in the country) you may have no persecution at all, but a neighboring district may have intense persecution. Although still part of the country of Laos, these districts can vary greatly from one another in regards to how the local government and police run things. You might ask, why can't believers in one district move to another to get away from the persecution? Because they need to ask the governing officials in each district for permission to move, which is often denied. Freedom? There is none! But these regulations don't stop the Hmong from spreading the Gospel.

Another example from Vietnam is actually the opposite of what we see in Laos. Those who become believers are often kicked out of their homes unless they renounce their faith. Often the local government will put pressure on a non-believing family member of the believer and make life miserable for them if they don't do anything to prevent the believer from sharing the Gospel. The governing authorities can destroy the non-believing family member's fields or prevent them from doing business. Because it is against the law in Vietnam to directly persecute Christians, the governing officials therefore say that they are not actually persecuting believers, but will say that it is the families who decide to kick



them out. Obviously whether persecution is direct or indirect, it is persecution either way. But with this kind of approach they believe that they have skirted around the issue. The Hmong believers have tried to appeal to the authorities on the regional and federal level, but they are rarely successful; especially since the Hmong, who are poor for the most part, don't have the money to push (or bribe) their concerns into the spotlight.



It is also common that when believers get together to worship, gangs come and harass them during the worship services. This doesn't hinder the believers, but only makes them stronger. Although we cannot help them escape persecution, we can certainly pray for them and help equip them with Project 316 audio players. Currently, about 200 audio players are or have been in the process of being distributed into some of these areas and another batch will be sent out in the coming months. We thank God and we thank you all for helping us in getting this vital resource out to the Hmong believers of southeast Asia.

*God bless and maranatha,  
Mike, Sonja,  
Sinjin and Mikaela*

## Prayer Requests

### Please pray...

- That the Project 316 audio players will be brought into areas where heavy persecution is taking place so that the Hmong believers can not only grow in their faith, but be encouraged as well.
- For the protection of the Project 316 ministry team as they deliver the audio players into difficult areas of persecution.
- For the patience of many Hmong who are still waiting for an audio player.
- Praise God for the additional partners who have become part of the team in helping distribute audio players into new areas.

## Jesus said...

**Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also.**

**John 15:20**