

ZEEKISMS

July 20, 2015

Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.
Psalm 119: 129-130



Project 316: Testimonial Njua's Story

Njua (Hmong: Ntsuab) sits quietly in her wheelchair outside her small 3-room house cross-stitching clothing. Though she has many ailments and difficulties, she rarely complains and her smile brightens everyone's day. She is limited to a path between her and her parents' house and cannot access the main paved road because the alley road is very rocky and muddy. Njua patiently helped Mike learn how to speak Hmong. She also made the cross-stitch bags and tissue box covers some of you have seen.

When she was only a teenager, Njua contracted an infection. Her parents consulted the village shaman to see what spirits they must

have offended. Unfortunately, the rituals and sacrifices did nothing to help stop the infection from spreading. She was finally hospitalized but now is paralyzed. Sometime during her hospitalization or shortly thereafter, a missionary befriended her and shared the Gospel. She became a believer, although her family did not.

When Njua received a Project 316 audio player, she was ecstatic! Her inability to go to the church building in her village saddened her, because she wanted to learn more about Jesus. The player enables her to listen to the Bible and Biblical teachings every day. As she listens to the audio player, she calls and

discusses what she learns with Na Shau (Hmong: Nom Saub), a blind lady who lives in



another village about six hours away. They are both growing in their faith and encouraging each other, which has also helped them create a strong bond with one another. Praise God!

Why are the Hmong in America? Forty Year Anniversary

In 1975, the first group of Hmong started to arrive in the USA as refugees from the Vietnam War and the “secret war” that was taking place in Laos. Although the Hmong played a significant part in the war at that time, most Americans still have no idea who the Hmong are.

When the US participated in the Geneva Conference of 1954, it prevented the US from entering into Laos during the war. Therefore, it gave the communists a strategic advantage in the war. Because the communists did not abide by the Geneva Accords, the communists would attack the US troops in Vietnam and then retreat back over into Laos because they knew that the US would not follow them there. Prior to the war, as tensions in the region increased, the CIA started to recruit the freedom loving Hmong in Laos, because they knew the potential problems that the communists would impose. They were given weapons and training so the US could oppose the communists while at the same time keep their commitment to the Geneva Accords. But this aspect of the war wasn't even known to the US Congress until several years later in 1969. The CIA and the Kennedy administration kept this information secret. However, the worst part about this secret was that after the US pulled out of the region, they

did not provide any more protection and support for the Hmong. Over 100,000 Hmong died because of the war. Many of the Hmong sacrificed their own lives by saving American soldiers in enemy territory. When the US soldiers started to leave, large numbers of Hmong tried to escape into Thailand. They were being shot at by the Pathet Lao as they tried to swim across the Mekong River. Many Hmong babies were given opium by their parents to prevent them from crying as they tried to cross the river at night undetected. At least 30,000 lives were lost including women and children. (If you look closely at many of the Hmong's story cloths you will see the Mekong River and portraits of the Hmong escaping across it.)



Those who survived and made it to Thailand lived in refugee camps for years. There was no running water and toilets for some time so sickness and disease was quite common. In one camp there were up to 45,000

Prayer Requests

- Our relocation into the Hmong (and Amish) community in Eastern Lancaster County - That the kids will adjust well and that we will be effective at ministering to the Hmong there.
- Finding a Hmong believer or believers who can go to Southeast Asia this winter and help with translation as Project 316 audio players are distributed and updated.
- Additional funds to purchase audio players for those on our waiting lists.

Hmong living on less than one square mile.

Even in 2009, some of the Hmong who escaped to Thailand were forced to go back to Laos and were placed into communist repatriation camps. So the Hmong are still being harassed and threatened to this day.

**Freedom isn't free.
Let us not forget this, and let us not forget the Hmong.**

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