

STORIES FROM THE MISSION FIELD

AN ACCOUNT OF A BIBLE SMUGGLER

Bringing the Gospel to Unreached Villages



On July 28, 2023, in Nong Khai, Thailand, our team prepared for our departure from Asia after ten days of traveling across Laos. We'd successfully moved half of the Bibles we'd stored at a hotel near the Thai-Lao border into Vientiane the night before. Despite a minor hiccup with Wayne's passport, Pat and I managed to complete the delivery to our contacts. We scheduled a pickup with our Lao driver for the remaining Bibles the next morning.

Feeling optimistic despite our weariness, I embarked on the mission at 11:00 a.m. with 240 bibles in a small SUV, accompanied only by our taxi driver, Tony. Pat and the team were ready to hire a second taxi if needed. With Tony's limited English and the help of Google Translate, we communicated as we crossed the Friendship Bridge. However, my confidence waned as we took a different customs lane for foreign cars.

My unease intensified as we encountered a longer queue and a larger checkpoint manned by numerous agents. They were rigorously inspecting a vehicle ahead of us. With a silent prayer, I continued.

At 11:15 a.m., after Tony and I passed through passport control, an agent inspected our luggage and requested further examination. We were led to a room for questioning, where language barriers persisted. Eventually, an interpreter named Elizabeth joined the conversation. Mr. Warren, a stern officer, led the interrogation.

Questions about my purpose in Laos and the Bibles filled the room while I attempted to engage in a deeper discussion about the Bible itself. However, Mr. Warren interrupted, indicating his understanding of English. A more senior officer named Marvin joined the proceedings, intensifying the questioning. Tony, who had been unaware of the Bibles, was escorted out.

The questioning became an interrogation, spanning over an hour. I provided vague answers to protect contacts in Laos, and their attitude shifted from hostility to friendliness. Despite the confiscation of the Bibles, a subtle connection formed.

At 1:15 p.m., agents unloaded our vehicle, questioned me about its contents, and had me sign confiscation documents. Later, I was denied entry into Thailand, and my only option was to return to Laos with my suitcase and backpack full of Bibles.

At 3:00 p.m., I returned to Laos, praying to pass passport control. Thankfully, I received a new visa and proceeded successfully.



With an overweight backpack and suitcase, I exited the border area and found a taxi to the airport. Our contact collected the remaining Bibles without any issues. I eventually reunited with the team in Bangkok, grateful for the experience and hoping to have shed some light on the people I encountered.

Looking back, I would have done things differently to ensure the Bibles' safe passage. Nonetheless, I believe God worked in mysterious ways, and despite my mistakes, His light shone through my interactions with Tony, Mr. Warren, Elizabeth, and Marvin, whose real names remain unknown. - David Fisher



Scan here to give electronically!

Please use my gift of \$_____ toward:
(Use reverse side to give by credit card or EFT.)
 Monthly

- Where needed most
- Bibles
- Vision for Pastors
- Vision for Women
- Vision for Children
- Humanitarian Aid
- Other: _____

My current email address: _____
Privacy Policy: All donor information is kept strictly confidential. Contact information is never shared in any way.

- I would like to subscribe to:
- Monthly newsletter
 - Vision for women updates
 - Vision for children updates
 - Vision for pastor updates
 - Weekly Prayer & Praise
 - Vision for refugee updates
 - Bible project updates
 - Travel Updates

Vision Beyond Borders is an accredited member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. Financial statements are available on request or may be found at: <https://www.ecfa.church/>

