

The Lamet of Laos and Thailand



Peoples of Laos, Paul Hattaway ©
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The Lamet people live in northwestern Laos with just a few, perhaps 200, who live across the border in Thailand where they are known as Khamet.

The Lamet have retained their customs and traditional dress and have not allowed themselves to be assimilated by neighboring ethnic groups. They are the most isolated Mon-Khmer group in northern Laos. Their villages are not easily entered and visitors are not always welcomed. Rice is their main staple crop.

By custom the Lamet do not marry within the same clan. For several years after the wedding the couple lives with the wife's relatives, in homes with two or three families under the same roof. Only after three or four years is the couple allowed to move out and start their own home.

The Lamet are one of the few groups in Laos who build a house to accommodate the spirits they believe control their lives. The spirit house is positioned in the center of the village.

The few known Christians are all in Thailand although a missionary in 1898 came to the Lamet and presented the gospel. But later the French government banned Protestant missionaries.

Pray that translation of the Bible into Lamet will be started soon.

[some information taken from Asia Harvest profile, by permission]

Primary Religion:

Ethnic religion

Disciples (Matt 28:19):

0.001%

Churches:

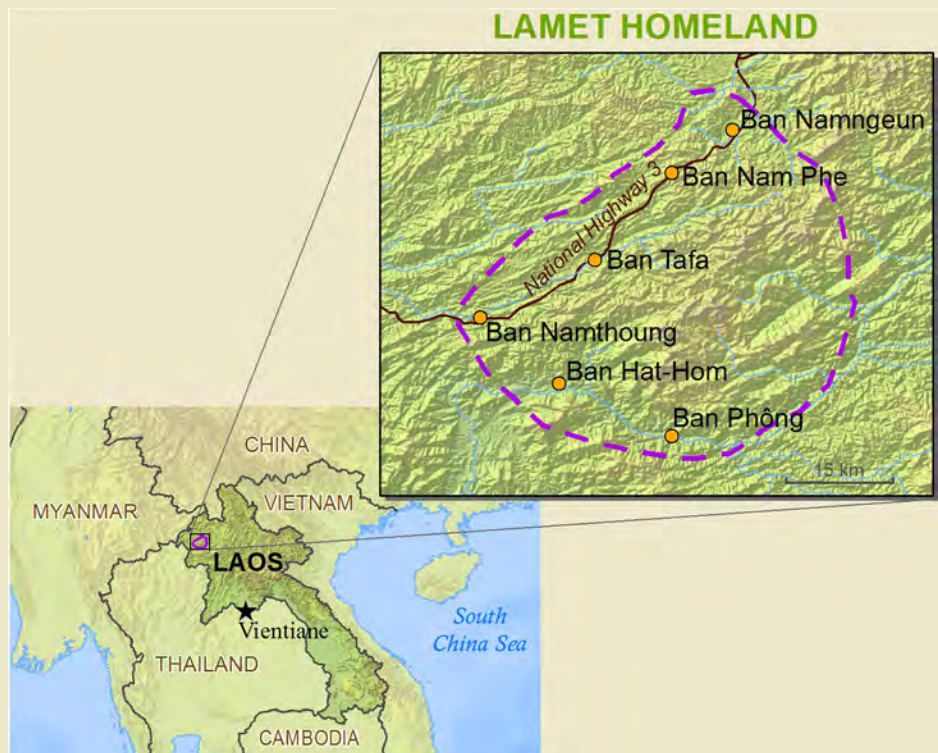
Unknown

Scripture Status (Matt 28:20):

None

Population (date):

20,020 (2005)



The Lamet of Laos

Have They Heard The Gospel?

Call Themselves Christian (%)	less than 0.001%, all in Thailand
Believe in Jesus as God & Only Savior?	Perhaps 10
Believe in their traditional religion (%)	99%
Have not heard who Jesus is (%)	Unknown
Number of Pastors	Unknown
Number of Missionaries Working	None
Number of Communities	87 villages (1995 census)
Number of Churches	Unknown
Response to the Gospel	Good response by the group living in Thailand.
Is The Word Of God Translated?	Nothing in their language
Translation Medium	n/a
Any Hindrance to Scripture	The Lamet do not have the Scriptures written yet in their heart language.
Other Forms Of Gospel Presentation	Jesus Film: Not Available Audio: Bible teaching from Gospel Recording Network Radio Broadcast: Not Available
Kind of Missionaries Needed?	Cross-cultural missionaries would have a hard time obtaining visas to work in Laos but could work in Thailand
Bilingualism	Unknown. But there seems to be a lot of contact between the Lamet and the Khmu [kjg] language. Some also use Lao [lao]

The Lamet of Laos

General Description

Geography & Environment

Location	Luang Namtha and Bokeo Provinces; also in Oudomxai
Elevation	500-1100 meters (1600-3600 feet)

Language & Linguistics

Primary Language	Lamet
Alternate Language Names	Kha Lamet, Khamed, Khamet, Lemet, Rmeet
Dialects	Lower Lamet, Upper Lamet
Linguistically Related Languages	Con [cno]
Neighboring Languages	Khmu, Lü, Northern Thai, Con, Kiorr, Hmong

Literacy

Adult Literacy Percentage	28% (men 49%, women 10%)
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Education

Comment:	71% have never attended any level of school
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