

CARP Chiangmai, Thailand's heavenly tribal messiah Blessing in Santidham

Kamol Thananopavarn
May 2018



The Chiangmai CARP center held a heavenly tribal messiah Blessing in the village of Santidham, Papae Sub-District, Mae Sa Riang District, Mae Hong Son Province in the mountain area in northern Thailand. Chiangmai is the capital of the province of the same name. It is 690 kilometers (430 miles) from Bangkok. It is the largest city in the northern part of Thailand.

There were three hundred and fifty participated, even though it was a blessing ceremony at the village level only. Most of participants are Karen and Lua mountain tribespeople. This is the hometown of Mrs. Kanya Sunantapisit, the Chiangrai center leader. She had witnessed to her parents, her older brother's family and the family of many other relatives in the village of Santidham and persuaded them to take part in the blessing ceremony and to complete the three-day ritual. She has witnessed to many young people and has guided them to become CARP center members.

In the Papae mountain Sub-District are twelve villages, but most of them know one another well.

Kanya has many relatives who are working in Sub-District administration, are village leaders or work in other areas of government. In this heavenly tribal messiah blessing ceremony, Kanya's mother and older brother served as the core of the mobilization. Most mountain people in this area believe in Shamanism as a base, but 70 percent practice Buddhist Shamanism and 30 percent practice Protestant or Catholic Shamanism.



Divine Principle lectures and the blessing ceremony have transformed the mountain people of Papae as a life-changing experience. They never heard of any other organization coming to their remote mountain area to teach about family values, the value of marriage and of importance of the sexual organs and of fidelity in marriage. These concepts are absolutely consistent with the Karen tribe's and Lua tribe's Shamanistic understanding that if anyone has a sexual relationship before marriage or commits adultery, a Shaman spirit will be angry and punish the individuals or family severely. They express feelings of deep gratitude to have many high-level people, including FFWPU foundation leaders and religious leaders, come to their sub-district. This is one of the most auspicious events in this far away sub-district in its history. At the end of ceremony, all the participants took part in the indemnity stick ritual with grateful hearts and happiness. The Papae Sub-District director and chairman of the Papae Sub-District

administrative office requested that FFWPU come back again and organize Blessing Ceremonies in the twelve villages of Papae. They also want to receive more education in the near future. This heavenly tribal messiah blessing ceremony in the Papae Sub-District has established gives hope over the long term to expand the heavenly tribal messiah movement in the north of Thailand building on the momentum of earlier heavenly tribal messiah successes in Thailand's northeast region.



A young leader and her family

Kanya connected to CARP in 2010 and she joined the church in 2012, in the third year of her university studies. In 2015, she became a Chiangrai CARP center leader. Chiangrai is the northernmost city in Thailand. Her father and mother as well as her older brother and his wife received the blessing in December 2012. For the last three years, her older brother has been offering a tithe every month and practicing blessed family traditions regularly. Now her brother has one child born before his blessing and one born after his blessing.

Since that time, when her family members received the blessing, Kanya has been able to persuade many young people from her mountain village to join CARP in Chaingmai and in the city of Chiangrai. She also witness to a few other families, whom we are now teaching. They received the Four Great Holy Items and the new Cheon Il Guk holy wine in December 2016.

Kanya received the blessing with a Thai member in 2017. They started their family at the beginning of April. Before I gave permission, at the end of March, for them to start their family, I pushed her to organize the first heavenly tribal messiah blessing in her hometown on April 15, because in Thailand that is when we celebrate New Year's Day. All families will stop all their hard work on the farm or other job, and many people will have the free time necessary to take part in a blessing ceremony. Her mother has a great deal of influence among her Lua tribe. Many of her relatives are influential in the community. The chairman of the Papae Sub-District administrative office is her mother's close relatives. Furthermore, many village leaders and community leaders are familiar with her mother and respect her. Normally, mountain tribe people know one another well. They live in villages that are difficult for others to reach by any sort of transportation and they hold ceremonies and develop heart-to-heart connections in the isolated area among the members of their tribe.



This time Kanya, her older brother and her mother spent a short time doing mobilization but it was good because all her relatives that are either government or community leaders became excited and wanted to participate in this event during the New Year celebration. It is good to spend a short time mobilizing because people will make up their minds and immediately promise to come. Now, our blessing ceremony and True Parents' teachings are becoming very widely accepted and we have experienced sincere gratitude from all these village people. Kanya plans to organize a blessing ceremony in each of the villages of the Papae Sub-District, conducting one every three months.

She had her traditional wedding ceremony recently, in March. They held a Lua tribal ceremony. The other members are extremely happy because they have gained confidence from seeing this example that they

can bring their parents and relatives to join, too.

Mountain people face modern Problems

This area is a very high mountain area in northwest Thailand near the Myanmar border, where many tribespeople live. They are all members of a great variety of mountain ethnic groups. The people that live in these mountains are hearty. Here, one can find Thailand's three highest peaks, Doi Inthanon (2,565 meters) Doi Pha Hom Pok (2,285) and Doi Chiang Dao (2,175). This area is the absolute last place in Thailand that development is reaching due to very high mountains and the mountain people themselves are another factor keeping development at bay. As believers in Shamanism, they have not taken a liking to materialism.



Traditionally, people in this area have been pure and good-hearted. The divorce rate and incidents of adultery in this region are the lowest in Thailand, but increasingly the village is confronting the free-sex culture. They are beginning to discover many problems among those in the younger generation. The older generation had firmly maintained belief in Shamanism and belief in ghosts that would punish anyone who had sexual intercourse outside of marriage, but times have changed. The local government and all the village leaders feel overwhelmed. This is where their gratitude toward True Parents comes from. True Parents' teachings and the blessing ceremony have come to their villages.

Mrs. Kanya Sunantapisit is a successful young CARP leader. She has more than thirty-five center members and more than fifty regular members come regularly to meetings at her CARP center. I am proud of her as a leader among the young generation, who is very successful in mission, in witnessing and in heavenly tribal messiah work.