

Thank you for your passion to protect vulnerable women and children from trafficking, abuse and exploitation. Your investment in World Concern through Women of Purpose has made life transforming changes possible. Children know how to protect themselves. Teenagers are learning viable job skills and don't have to choose risky migration as a path to employment. Mothers have started small businesses, and can now earn enough income to keep their children in school and stay out of debt if a medical crisis occurs. Families are helping one another thrive, and making their communities safer for everyone. Your gifts, prayers and participation in Women of Purpose activities have lifted up people in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Thailand and Laos. God bless you for all you do!

This month we have an encouraging story from Sri Lanka for you, along with an update from our village and a couple of prayer requests. Read on!

### **Mathi's Nightmare is Finally Over**

A nightmare of abuse in what should have been a loving home has ended for Mathi. She is safe at last. When Mathi was nine years old, her parents separated and she went to live with relatives. For three years, young Mathi suffered unwanted advances by her uncle. Frightened and too young to understand what was happening, she did not speak up at first. But as she grew, she knew that the bad touches were wrong, and he was hurting her. When she refused him, he beat her.

Alert school officials noticed scars during a routine medical check-up. They swiftly called police and the World Concern Sri Lanka child protection team. The uncle has been taken into custody. Mathi is receiving medical care and is living in a safe place, while continuing to receive regular counseling. World Concern's child protection advocates are staying in touch with Mathi to make sure she remains safe and continues to heal.

This positive change in Mathi's life came about thanks to committed people like you who make it a priority to support child protection in Asia through your giving, prayers and activism. Thank you so much for caring!



### **News from Thongkouang Village**

We continue to hear encouraging news from our adoptive village in Laos. Fewer people are choosing to migrate to Thailand in search of work, thanks in part to the diligent efforts of the Village Development Council you've helped establish there. The Council has been educating people about trafficking risks, required travel permits, and newly-implemented fines from the Thai government for people who migrate without proper documentation. Knowing the risks has deterred many people from migrating. Praise God!

October 23, 2018

You have created incredible change to your Women of Purpose village of Thongkouang in Laos. Over nearly three years, you've walked alongside the families of Thongkouang in rural Laos, faithfully supporting them as their lives and their village have completely transformed.

When we first met our friends in Thongouang, they were living in extreme poverty and crossing the border to Thailand, many never to be seen again. In need of some of life's most basic necessities such as clean water, food and education, our friends were most in need of a restored hope for their families' futures.

Over the years, because of your faithful commitment, the people in Thongkouang have received just that. Through your support and God's provision...

- Families are healthier than ever with access to clean water in their village.
- More youth are staying in Laos to pursue an education rather than cross the border.
- Women are earning incomes and saving for their families' future.
- Programs are in place to keep loved ones from travelling to work in Thailand.

All of this and so much more is because of you. You chose to partner with the people of Thongkouang through Women of Purpose, and today this village is transformed.



***Thank you for transforming the village of Thongkouang!***

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*In fact, your village has come so far and made such great progress that we are ready to move on to a new village. Because of the impact and value of your gifts over these three years, we are ready to do this again!*

**WELCOME TO NONGSALA!**

I would like to introduce you to the community of Nongsala. Like Thongkouang, this small Lao village is near the Thai border--a dangerous crossing that many are drawn to in hopes of finding job opportunities. As you know, these opportunities are rarely found. Instead, many villagers in Nongsala are trafficked and forced into dangerous situations.



***Welcome to your new village! Your ongoing monthly gifts will continue to transform lives in Nongsala Village!***

Their vibrant youth are desperate to learn, grow, and find safer opportunities to provide for themselves and their families. With little access to education--particularly for girls--the ability to pave a more hopeful path is daunting. *But you can help change that.*

**Although the people of Nongsala are resilient, they are in desperate need of someone like you to come alongside and invest in them as they make the journey towards transformation, just as you did for the people in Thongkouang!**

As a One Village Transformed sponsor, your ongoing monthly gifts will help families build better lives through improved farming, education, healthcare and clean water. Moreover, an emphasis on prevention and education will help keep young, vulnerable villagers from crossing the border into Thailand and falling into the hands of traffickers.

**With you, the people of Nongsala can see lasting change.** I look forward to sharing regular updates with you about your new village!

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