

Our Love in Action

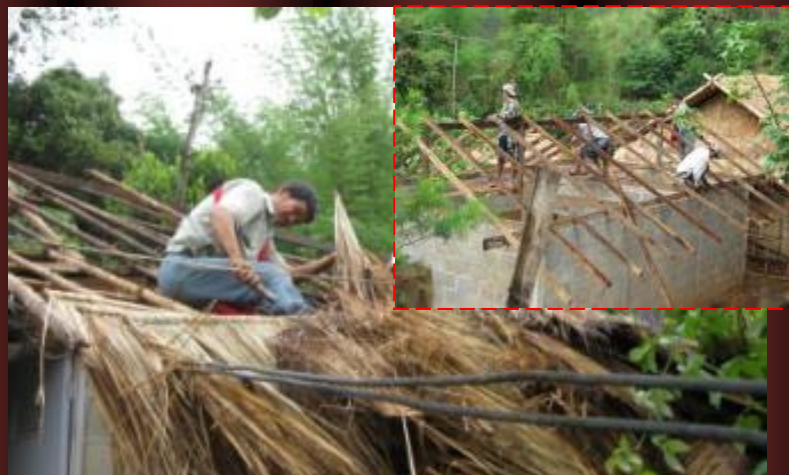


You may well remember the story of this family I have reported a year ago.

Mother is disabled because of chronic arthritis resulting in deformity of both hands and legs. She can hardly move her legs even with the help of walking sticks. Her 15 year old daughter, E Phat, is a student in F2. She also has to take care of her mother and all house hold responsibilities apart from her study. She cooks and prepares food for her disabled mother before going to school. Both of them have no income because none of them can work. They survive by the generosity of the neighbors. Sometime the family has no food to eat and young daughter was compelled to beg for leftover food from the villagers.

E Phat believes in Christ and her faith is very strong. Mother said, "She prays every night before going to bed. She prays very long. Sometime she was trembling while praying."

E Phat gives this testimony. "One day after coming back from school, I realized that we don't have food to eat at home. Then I went out to the mountain where I use to pick up wild eatable food grown naturally. But that day I did not find any food at all. I tried and tried from one mountain to another to find any food. But I did find one. I came back home very disappointed. Then I remembered to pray. I asked God to help me to find food. After prayer I went back to the mountain again and did another search. It's a miracle. I found a lot of vegetable grown on the mountain where I did not find any in my previous search. I collected a lot of vegetables and came back home and cooked the food for my mother and me."



Their house was very old and ruined. It was roofed with Thatch (a kind of long grass grown naturally on the mountain). Thatch are normally last for only one year and it has to be replaced every year. They have no money to replace the roof. There are many holes in it. They could not sleep when there's rain and water dripping down from damaged roof. They have to put a plastic sheet above their bed, below the damaged roof, so that the bed won't get wet. (photo)

I went to see the village-head and elders and asked them to help the poor family. But they have no resources to help. Finally they agreed with me that they would help replace the roof if I would provide the resources and materials.

The village head led the building team and I provided material. Finally the roof of the house was completely replaced with tilt. They do not need to worry about the rain and replacement of the roof every year any more. It was done in three days amid rain interruption.



After Sunday worship service young people from our Church, 7 to 15 year old boys and girls, were armed with baskets and sweepers to offer cleaning services to the house. After a few hours the house was washed and cleaned and ready to move in.



During renovation period, the family was temporarily moved to the church. Three days later the family moved back to their new house. Villagers helping disabled mother to walk up the hill back to her home. The family was extremely happy to see their new house. They exclaimed “we don’t need to run away again when the rain comes”



Later in the evening, E Phat going out house to house in the village not to beg for food but to invite them to come to her home for thanks giving service. We expected about forty people but more than one hundred people, including village-head, came to join us at thanks giving service. They were so happy to sing praises with us. The music and songs were led by M.Div final year student from Myanmar Institute of Theology who came to do her internship under our Shan Missions. Villagers expressed their gratitude to Shan Missions. E Phat said words of thanks to village-head, villagers, neighbors and Shan Missions for helping them building the roof.

I have the opportunity of preaching gospel to these villagers for the first time.

We are supporting the family financially for their daily food and living.



E Phat accepted the Lord and baptized on the same day

1 Cor 13:1-3 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

James 2:14-20 What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? 15 Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. 16 If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? 17 In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. 18 But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do. 19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that-and shudder. 20 You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?

James 2:26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Matt 25:34-36 "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Thanks for your support

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