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# CWRUPDATE

**FALL 2018** 

## Strengthening Communities in Laos, Sharing Faith

This past year, CWR partner Mulberries in Laos continued to reduce the poverty of 270 vulnerable farmers through organic production of mulberry leaves (for tea) and soybeans. Last year they also successfully raised silk worms and harvested a total of 2.25 tons of silk cocoons! The silk is used for onsite training in silk weaving, spinning, and producing natural dyes.

Mulberries plans to add 300 new silk farmers and 100 new weavers by 2022. But the impact of Mulberries goes beyond economic empowerment for the community. Local staff are also given the opportunity to share their faith in a nation where many people have never heard the gospel.



Mulberry leaves produce tea and also are food for the silk worms.



Spinning silk is a special skill taught at Mulberries.

Laos, officially the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), is a creative access nation and Thathom District in Xaisomboun Province has no known Christian presence at the moment. Xieng Khouang and Hua Phan are also ethnically diverse populations with a very small Christian presence. The presence of the Christian staff is bringing the word of God to many local areas.

The Christian staff at Mulberries encourages students to attend the local church in Xieng Khouang and incorporates prayers in their daily life. This past December, four students were baptized in Vientiane. These students had been preparing and studying the Bible for five to six months prior to accepting Jesus.

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