



Association of Adventist Women

Lang “Aileen” Van

— Woman of the Year —

Spiritual Life

1998

Cambodians around the world benefit from the ministry of Pastor Lang Van. She has ministered to refugees in camps on the Thai border, in France, and currently in Southeastern California. Seeking to attract Buddhists to Christianity is just one of her many challenges. In addition to this front-line evangelism and pastoral duties in her growing Cambodian congregation, Lang has also spent many hours translating Sabbath School lessons and books such as *Steps to Christ* and *The Bible Speaks* into her native language.

In the early 1970s Lang Van took teacher training courses and studied literature at a university in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. She also discovered she

could learn English at a nearby language school conducted by Adventist student missionaries. On September 14, 1974, she was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

With a friend, Iv Sophareth, Lang decided to pursue a Christian education in

Singapore. One week after leaving Cambodia, their homeland fell to the Communists. Lang never saw several members of her family again, many lost to the killing fields. Political problems made it impossible to remain in Singapore; providentially, Lang and her friend were able to transfer to Cologne, France. After six years of diligent study and hard work to earn her



tuition, Lang graduated with a B.A. degree in theology in 1981. She also obtained a certificate to be a French teacher.

When the Southeast Asia Union invited Lang Van to become director of the Voice of Prophecy for the Khmer people and a Bible instructor, Lang accepted. In the refugee camps on the Thai border she helped raise a church of 300 new believers. From 1984 until 1991 Lang served in the North France Conference as a full-time pastor to Cambodian refugees in Paris. In 1992 she moved to the United States and became a part-time Bible worker among Cambodians in the Southeastern California Conference. After four years of full-time ministry for partial pay, Lang was recognized as a “sole pastor” for the Cambodian group. Since January, 1997, she has been paid full-time. Forty attend the Loma Linda Cambodian church, 25 of whom are baptized.

Of her contributions, Lynn Mallery, president of the Southeastern California Conference, says, “Lang Van has an extremely visionary vocation. Her devotion and tenacity are great assets. We are very excited about and proud of her accomplishments.”

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