

**AN ORIENTAL LAND OF THE FREE;
OR, LIFE AND MISSION
WORK AMONG THE LAOS OF
SIAM, BURMA, CHINA AND
INDO-CHINA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649149216

An oriental land of the free; or, Life and mission work among the Laos of Siam, Burma, China and Indo-China by John H. Freeman

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JOHN H. FREEMAN

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A SACRED PO TREE

Probably five hundred persons could sit under its shade

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AN ORIENTAL LAND OF THE FREE

or

Life and Mission Work Among
the Laos of Siam, Burma, China
and Indo-China

By ✓

REV. JOHN H. FREEMAN

Missionary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign
Missions at Chieng Mai, Laos

Philadelphia
The Westminster Press
1910

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PUBLISHED MAY, 1910

AN ORIENTAL LAND OF THE FREE

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	9
I. WHO ARE THE LAOS?	13
II. SOCIAL CUSTOMS—WOMAN IN THE HOME	22
III. THE YELLOW ROBE AND WHAT IT BROUGHT TO THE LAOS	31
IV. DEMON WORSHIP AND WITCHCRAFT	42
V. ARTS AND INDUSTRIES	53
VI. THE LAOS YEAR IN FIELD AND HARVEST	65
VII. THE FACE OF THE LAND	80
VIII. TRADE AND TRAVEL	89
IX. GOVERNMENT PAST AND PRESENT AMONG THE LAOS	98
X. THE COMING OF THE GOSPEL	107
XI. TOURING AND TEACHING	124
XII. HOSPITALS AND HEALING AND HOW THEY HAVE HELPED	138
XIII. SCHOOLS, THE PRESS AND CHRISTIAN LITERATURE	151
XIV. THE NATIVE CHURCH	163
XV. OPPORTUNITIES, OUTLOOK, NEEDS	173
QUESTIONS FOR STUDY	179
APPENDIX A—APPENDIX B	191
APPENDIX C	194
INDEX	197

EDITORIAL PREFACE

Mr. Freeman's furlough expired before he was able to see the manuscript of this book through the press. Dr. J. W. McKean, of Chieng Mai, has advised with the editor and has supplied the tables of distances between the Laos stations, and of the pronunciation of proper names. The only editorial changes worth mentioning have been a slight rearrangement of the original order of the chapters, the insertion of subsequent information received from Mr. Freeman, which will be found at the end of Chapter I, and the substitution of a set of questions on the text for the use of study classes.

T. H. P. SAILER.

March, 1910.

It is not the wish of the writer to forestall in any way that story. He rather seeks to answer for a larger audience a few of the questions that constantly have been asked of him as he told the story of the work of the kingdom in that far-away land. Who are the Laos? Where do they live? What is their religion? How do they make a living? What do they eat? What of their language, homes, schools? What special helps and hindrances does the missionary find in presenting the gospel to the Laos people? By picture, as well as by pen, he hopes to answer these questions regarding a people he has grown not only to respect but to love, for their physical prowess and mechanical skill; for their courtesy, kindness and openness of mind; for moral qualities that make them morally the peers of any race in Asia: our brothers for whom Christ died.

The writer hopes, above all, so to present the facts that the reader will be enabled to appreciate a people less known to the world than any that compares with them in numbers and in character, and to estimate fairly the responsibility that rests upon the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America for the evangelization of this great and growing people.

This little book is intended primarily for study classes and for reference, but it is hoped that the facts have been so presented as to commend it also to a larger public who are interested rather in strange people and lands than in mission work.