



My trips to the Joma village went very well. I was able to connect with an old friend who I hadn't seen in a number of years. I was also able to do some dialect checking of stories that we had recorded. Normally my time in the village is usually full of big meals with lots of people, but this time it was more intimate, just having lunch with Uncle Nam and his wife Khim, and that was very welcome.

I was able to connect with a young lady who is a Joma Christian and we had her and her boyfriend (not Joma but who goes to our church, and no we didn't know this before the night in question) over for dinner. We gave this young lady a page with the newly minted Joma alphabet and she was able to read it with only a few indications. But it was over dinner that we heard news that blew us out of the water. This young lady told us that indeed there are at least 70 Joma Christians in her province (same as Uncle Nam's). But as if that were enough, a number of those Christians (including this young lady) are in the village directly adjacent to Uncle Nam's. And these believers are meeting as a the church right there 5 minutes from the village where we have spent so much time. We praise God that the Gospel like leaven has been slowly spreading throughout so many areas of this country and particularly among the Joma! So when you worship in your local congregation, know that there are many Joma believers who are joining in and praising God with you!