



Rev. Tom Chaleunsouk was born in a small village in Laos, where he also met his wife Kayson. He worked security at the American Air Base. Fearing for his life after the regime change, he left his family and home in 1980 and crossed the Mekong River to Thailand where he was detained in a refugee camp. Months later, Kayson and two of their children escaped Laos and joined him. She had to leave their eldest son behind with her father; he was five years old. It would be three years before they would see their son again. They were introduced to Christ in the refugee camp by a Christian aid worker.

In 1981, Chaleunsouk and his family were brought to Pease, Minn., where they were sponsored by the Christian Reformed Church. The community and church helped to locate and bring their eldest son and Kayson's father to the U.S. They were baptized, and that is when Chaleunsouk became interested in becoming a pastor to share Christianity with his people.

In 1998, Chaleunsouk began studying part-time through the WELS Pastoral Studies Institute. By 2000, he became a full-time student and graduated in 2005. After graduating, he was called to serve as a missionary in the Nong Khai province of Thailand and offer pastoral instruction to interested students.

Chaleunsouk and Kayson have three grown children and one grandson.

