



The Khmer Chronicle

The Cambodian Ministry Newsletter
of George and Shary Frahm
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Strategy for Missions

Cambodia is a small country in Southeast Asia. It is bounded on the west and north by Thailand, by Laos, and by Vietnam on the east. It has more luxury automobiles per capita, more NGO's (Non Government Offices), and more land mines than any other country in the world. But, it only has 24 provinces.

Ninety-five percent of the population is Buddhist. But the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cambodia (ELCC) is about to change that. The board of the ELCC has adopted a goal of placing a minimum of one Christian Community Center in each of the 24 rural provinces. This strategy has been spearheaded by Rev. Vannarith, the President of the ELCC, The Concordia Institute of Cambodia, and Cambodia Lutheran Association. He is constantly reminding us that even though our theology is that of a confessional Lutheran church that we must work with all the other Christian churches in this country to avoid the consequences of Mark 16:15-16.

Currently, Christians here represent about 3% of the population of just under 15 million. But, this is the fastest growing mission field in the world today, much like China was about 15-20 years ago. There are about six times as many Christians here as there was in 2013 despite the fact that we are in the 10-40 window, an area coined by The Joshua Project. Cambodia is still among the least evangelized countries in the world, dominated by the preponderance of Buddhists in government. Along the northern borders there are still unreached people groups that are being ministered to by the ELCC with fantastic success. But there are challenges such as prosperity theology because of the great numbers of poor and unemployable people with missing limbs or loss of sight.

But this is where God has called us to work. You should know that when we first visited for a week in

November 2010 after serving three years in Indonesia that we had no intention of coming here to minister. But God had other ideas. We came to appease our host, a man who invited us with the phrase, "come and see what the Lord is doing here." We even made a pact that we would not even talk about Cambodia while we were in country. But, it was a promise that neither one of us could keep. It was the call of the Holy Spirit that changed our minds, and we returned.

Our host that invited us here is now gone. The project that he proposed we work on has been cancelled. We are still here in the world's fastest growing mission field, working with the local churches. We are proud to be the representatives of Christ and those who support us to do this work.

Concordia Dormitory

For those of you that knew us during our previous deployment here in Cambodia, you knew that we were working on a dormitory project to bring the underprivileged youth from the provinces to Phnom Penh to attend public high schools and hear the world of God in their off hours. You will also probably remember how we were devastated when the financial manager expressed that they were no longer interested in the project and the government of Cambodia passed a new law stating that youth under the age of 18 must reside with their parents. It seemed like we had made a big mistake.

In the previous article, we talked about the ELCC's desire to create a community center in each of the 24 provinces. Each center will provide a church and a Christian day school. Many of the centers will also have an agricultural area and a few may even have privately funded Christian businesses to help develop sustainable economies to support the church, the school, and its workers.

But, about two week ago, Pastor Vannarith asked us

into his office. "Can you get me a business plan for a dormitory in Stoeng Treng?" he asked. "I want to put a dormitory for the youth across the river to attend high school," he said. "And there are three schools in the Stoeng Treng City that are running out of dormitory space. I want to make space for them." What he was referring to is the Stoeng Treng Police Academy, a nursing school and a teacher's college.

So instead of constructing one dormitory for about 50 young adults, we have gone to multiple dormitories, possibly as many as 24 with a capacity of 50 residents each. This will give us a reach into the provinces of up to 1200 residents rather than the original 50. College students are considered adults. They are not affected by the family stay law, but the parliament also revised its family stay law that the high school students can stay away from home during the school week, but have to return home weekly. We can live with that.

A big smile came across Pastor's face as he reminded me that two years ago, he said, "Just pray, things cannot stay like this. There will be a dorm." Great, but who could have imagined how the Holy Spirit would answer prayer.

This proposal will be presented in the next week to the governor of Stoeng Treng Province. We are expecting approval but ask that you pray with us on this community outreach.

Motorbikes for Ministry

The longer we stay, the more involved we become in the various projects taking place. Right now, there is a need for three motorbikes to provide transportation for three pastors or field workers to reach 10 preaching stations apiece. We will need approximately \$5000 for the three bikes and the first several months of usage. Things are not totally in place yet, but the board of Global Lutheran Outreach has approved a reduction of the percentage taken from project monies for GLO operating expenses. We hope this will be approved yet in January.

The Prime Minister of Cambodia, Hun Sen, also announced on January 6th that motorbikes under the size of 150 cc will no longer require a driver's license. This make motorbike ownership much more affordable for those people willing to drive the smaller

bikes, including these pastors.

Once the GLO board approves the change to the operating expense charge and we get documentation on how to set up the project accounts, we will let you know and ask that you pray how God would have you give. All donations will receive a thank you when we receive notice of a gift, and within a year, we will post pictures of the results of the project.

Somewhere, we hope that we can produce a project that will excite you. Projects like this can be funded by churches, school classes, or even bible study groups. The idea is that we want you involved.

Knee Thoughts



Praise for the celebration of our Jesus to earth.

Pray for the continued growth of the church both here and the US.

Pray for our continued good health and the needed stamina to be effective workers in His church here.



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