



The Khmer Chronicle

The Cambodian Ministry Newsletter
of George and Shary Frahm
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“Idle hands are the devil’s workshop; idle lips are his mouthpiece. An evil man sows strife; gossip separates the best of friends. Wickedness loves company ~ and leads others into sin.” Proverbs 16:27-29

Reflections on Ministry

Every once and a while there comes a time to sit back and reflect on what has been accomplished. There is also a need to report to those of you who have partnered with us in ministry here in Cambodia.

In the last two years, we have had two visits from the "See More Clearly Team" from Immanuel and the last time, they were joined by another team from Immanuel, but from a different location. We are also attempting to entice additional teams from (where else?) another Immanuel and at least one of two Trinity's to join us here in the field of Svay Chek, Snao, and Kok Kraul. Teams become a very important resource here. They carry additional ministry materials that we cannot get in our suitcases, bring accomplished, additional perspectives, and large amounts of additional labor for larger projects. Teams are also witnesses to how your gifts are used, hold us accountable, see with their own eyes what is being accomplished, and fulfill a link back to the US.

But I also have to wonder who is the bigger beneficiary of short term teams. Is it the Cambodians who receive the gift of restored sight? Or is it the Cambodian pastors who observe different styles of ministry? What about the volumes of fresh ministry materials that can be shared? Or is it the encouragement that they

receive as we worship together? But what about those that come to join us? We may scare them with thought of eating frogs, crickets, spiders and snakes, but we watch as they discover a new culture and develop courage to walk into that culture and witness what Christ has done for them. The pastors coming from the US may not agree, but I see them embolden their preaching, and the teams stretch us to study more.

Working with Pastor Samuel has been extremely fulfilling. He is teaching us to speak oral Khmer so we can go with him to talk to the people without a need for him to always translate. We talk about projects to grow the Church. We teach skills that can be used to enrich the local villages so that they can tithe and support their own church such as soap making, jewelry making from recycled and native materials, and making decorative items for sale to the tourist industry here in Siem Reap. We also encourage local pastors and challenge them to think about their theology and personal statements of faith.

We also teach English several times each week, using Christian materials. The students, many times numbering over 50, love to sing songs, and bring their notebooks faithfully to copy down the words we add to their vocabulary. These are introductory classes that span several levels of English fluency. Some of the students are not even in school yet, and others may be in the fifth or sixth grade with some vocabulary skills, but lacking the confidence to create their own sentences.

But, our work is not just in the villages, but also where we live. We live in a building with a regular flow of people speaking English, the de

facto language of the world. They have commented many times on our witness and we give all glory to God. We pray for the staff and their well being as well as the many visitors.

And then there are the “special” projects of fund raising and writing various proposals in English for translation by Pastor. One project in particular that we would like to call your attention to is found on the weraise.wheatridge.org web site by the name of “How Firm a Foundation,” a project to repair and prevent erosion damage to a church building site. The rainy season badly damaged the site last year, and we are trying to prevent further damage this year. The local people in this village live on less than \$2 a day, making repair from their own resources extremely difficult. We avoid making promises of salaries and ongoing support, because we know that they can grow into dependencies, but we do work on projects which are short term with definite ends.

Many times too, we are called upon merely to encourage the local people in their faith, or to teach the catechism. Talking about the 500th anniversary of the reformation, Luther’s three solae, and what it means to be a Christian are extremely important to these people. Next deployment, we hope to talk more about the church calendar and what Advent and Lent really mean.

In short, we are busy. God has been good to us, allowing us to witness 45 baptisms in the few months we have been here this time. We appreciate your support of us and our projects. God bless you all!

Late Breaking News (a short step back)

It is Saturday morning, and Pastor Samuel and his family have been out of town for several days for a family wedding. We were not expecting the phone to ring, but it did. On the other end was

Pastor Samuel saying that he would pick us up by 9 o’clock. We were going to a funeral with the Siem Reap Christian Funeral Association in Snor.



As we made our way out to Snor, and while we were passing through Pouk District on our way to Snor, Shary and I suddenly realized that we were in a funeral procession with motorbikes and tuk tuks all around us and everyone of the riders carrying a purple fan and a small bouquet of flowers including at least one closed lotus blossom which looks like praying hands. We progressed steadily forward in the procession until we realized that the white pickup truck in front was the substitute for the hearse, carrying the very plain coffin. As we entered the town of Pouk, Pastor slid past the pickup and we were leading the way to the cemetery.

We turned north on the bumpy gravel road toward Snor, with dust billowing as delivery trucks passed the procession. On our left, was the Buddhist temple that normally is our landmark as we approach Snor. But today was different, I had no longer seen the temple when we turned east on a very rutted and muddy road/path and traveled another mile to the cemetery. To the north was a sight I had only imagined previously. Blue metal roofs stood above the rice fields and trees.



I asked Pastor if I was looking at the land which we want to stabilize from a distance and different angle. The answer was yes, and we both realized how important this will be to Samuel in the future.

If you haven't already done so, please consider partnering with us at:

<https://weraise.wheatridge.org/en/projects/36323-How-Firm-a-Foundation>.

And please don't forget to share the page with others.



We Raise, the crowd funding platform of Wheat Ridge Ministries is many people investing small sums of money to do great things. Your investment can be as little as a dollar or as large as you wish and you are not charged if we do not achieve our total primary goal. But, please do it now, as all pledges must be in by June 30th.

Knee Thoughts



Prayers:

- 1 Work in the villages that continues to grow to show God's glory.
- 2 Pastor Samuel and his 'full plate' juggling agenda to remain in line with what God desires.
- 3 New English program that has added two more classes to shine Jesus to all.
- 4 Well rested bodies and clear minds to carry on in this work for all of us.

Praises:

1. A guest house staff that cares for us and encourages us in this ministry.
2. Our prayer warriors and financial partners.
3. God opportunities each day we wake up to serve Him/here.



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