



# The Khmer Chronicle

The Cambodian Ministry Newsletter  
of George and Shary Frahm  
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## A Decade Later

Every New Year, many of us take time to reflect on our past. Over the New Year of 2007-2008, we found ourselves on an airplane, crossing the international date line and the equator for the second time in our lives. We were on the world's longest commercial airline flight at that time, from Newark, New Jersey to Singapore. After a short stop in Singapore, we continued on to Soekarno-Hatta International Airport. We were now international missionaries at Universitas Pelita Harapan, the University of Light and Hope, located in Jakarta, Indonesia.

God knew all too well our weak points as we boldly left our comfort zone of the US to be infused into a culture that was so very much not like anything we had experienced before, not even through all the years of international ministry and VISA. Like exercising, those weak points got stronger, just like He planned.

This was to be our training ground for the next three years teaching engineering and nursing and loving the students sent to us, but most important of all, Jesus and Christianity. It was there that we learned to trust God in all things and for all of our needs. Then we got to open another new chapter in our lives~ for the next seven years. Cambodia!

We have embraced and are deeply rooted into this culture now, again being infused into an arena dissimilar to our own and to our initial Indonesia placement. We contend that God, who knew our weaknesses, was getting our feet 'more wet' as we stepped out in total faith to serve. Honestly, this was not a location that appeared on our radar either but we decided to at least see the answer to the door opened by God himself. It was before the altar of a small country church in Cambodia that God moved in our hearts to open up and love a country and its people that desperately need a Savior too. With that we moved God's ministry to Cambodia and have been blessed to this day.

Cambodia is our second home for sure. It probably wasn't love at first sight as we struggled to digest and figure 'it' out when we finally arrived to serve. But, even with the bumps on the road and the curve balls thrown at us, we have come to this point and juncture to humbly praise and give thanks to Him for the honor of being in this time and this spot to watch, participate, and rejoice in His ministry.

So, we ask you to celebrate ten years of international ministry with us. January 3<sup>rd</sup> ten years ago was our first departure into Asia as we stepped onto that Singapore Airlines plane bound for Indonesia and teaching at Universitas Pelita Harapan. Fear and excitement gripped our very core. It does in some ways, even today. That hasn't changed. But now it's for Cambodia.

## Christmas Album Praises

I don't know if a picture is worth a thousand words, but if it is, then Pastor Samuel has blessed us many many times! One of the projects that was begun last year was to install high speed internet in Pastor Samuel's house in Siem Reap. On New Years Day, Pastor blessed all of us with pictures of the Christmas celebration, Cambodia and Siem Reap Style.

Of course, Christmas begins with Christmas eve and an evening service at one of the four preaching stations which is in Siem Reap town. This service was not held indoors, but out of doors at a private residence. Note the Christmas tree! Pines are not native to Cambodia, so having a pine tree whether present or not is a big deal. Imagine singing "Oh, Holy Night," in Khmer.



Of course, Christmas Eve is followed by Christmas Day, and this year, it appears that a celebration was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Snor. This church did not exist in July of 2017, but now it stands tall in the village. The children are seated on a tarp outdoors, under another tarp to protect them from the sun. The meal is one of Khmer curry, noodles, and bread.



Curry at Christmas is a special meal cooked in large woks over open fires. It takes an immense amount of time to cut and cook all the vegetables and meat, but forms a delicious broth for celebration. The following picture shows a good view of the meal, and something else. Note the red and green boxes. Shoe boxes! A sign of Operation Christmas Child in the area. This is one of the benefits of working in Cambodia after working on OCC in the US. We get to see the results.



Now, I am not sure if the meal followed the service, or the service followed the meal, but all Christians there know and understand that the greatest gift is not a meal or a box, but Christ's love for us.





Of course, if you give a pastor a microphone and battery powered amplifier, you get the Christmas story. :)



Followed by praising the Lord in Song.



And of course, what everyone was waiting

for, the blessing and distribution of the OCC shoeboxes.



But, what the members of the church want to tell you, especially if you have been part of this ministry is thank you, and Merry Christmas.



## Knee Thoughts

1-Please pray for us and our involvement in God's ministry with Pastor Samuel in Cambodia.

2-Pray for yourselves, how to partner in effective ways such as being a prayer warrior, a financial partner, an advocate in your church community.

3-Tell others about the growing ministry platform you read and hear about thru us in Cambodia. We all have different networks and you are our best advocates.

4-Pray for clear direction as to our departure return to Cambodia in the not too distant future.



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