



The Khmer Chronicle

The Cambodian Ministry Newsletter
of George and Shary Frahm
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Subtle Changes.... But Obvious

Six years ago, when the weather would start to turn warm, we used to head for a little seaside community called Sihanoukville on a long weekend when we had a break. It was not very big, but it had some beautiful sandy beaches, nice small and economical hotels and some real unique beachside restaurants. It's located on the Bay of Thailand.

It was a wonderful place to get away from a bad week in Phnom Penh and meditate and recharge ourselves. On the way down to Lion's Circle, there was one building that seemed a bit out of place, a Chinese casino where Khmer were not allowed, even to work.

In 2017, Stronghold Cambodia which was centered in Sihanoukville, hosted a national youth conference. The conference was great and well done, but we were especially interested in the town that we once knew. All the old hotels where we stayed were sold and brand new and huge hotels were going up. With the hotels came changes to the beach where new restaurants were built. Both had casinos attached. The small international community we knew had become distinctively Chinese. When I asked how many casinos were in town, 41 is the number I was told.

When we returned in 2018, we started asking about Sihanoukville. The number of casinos was now up to 81 and the native Khmer were being forced out of town by the high cost of housing.

Even our friends at Stronghold Cambodia announced that they were moving to Kampot, where things were much more affordable.

Things have also changed in Siem Reap as huge megahotels and all inclusive resorts have been built by the Chinese and Vietnamese. Even the little Boutique Cambo guest house where we have stayed for several years while here has been sold to the Chinese. Restaurants which fielded all sorts of international foods are now showing distinctively Chinese cooking.

This quiet invasion is not being conducted with tanks and guns, but by purchasing large tracts of land and reserving their use for Chinese expansion.

Earlier this week, we heard a Voice of the Martyrs broadcast that President Xi Jinping had just been told that he no longer had any term limits that applied to him. Effectively, he is president for life, and he is known for his persecution of Christians, demanding that pictures of Jesus Christ be taken down and replaced with patriotic posters.

How will this affect us? We don't know. We can see the large number of Chinese now in Cambodia. We watch Khmer lose the jobs that they have to the invaders. The door to peoples hearts here are still open, but we don't know how long it will last. We ask for your prayers that God will change a few hearts and permit us to minister here. Please pray with and for us.

Surprise!

Last month we shared forward some local needs to further stabilize the church property and give some smaller improvements to the general overall property itself and to establish a firm foundation beyond what is currently there.

As this newsletter is being written, the church is now getting much needed doors and windows to the structure. Yeah! Until this time the metal grates on the windows had been covered with wired sheet metal and the outer doors with wired tar paper. It's not any too soon either as the tar paper is disintegrating and tiny hands are helping the process to grow in size. The windows can now be opened to let in a breeze during those hot steamy days and also to protect the inside from water intrusion during the rainy season. (pictures at the end).

That finishes the first item on the list so to speak. Thank you to each of you who have prayed and donated thru this need for the church.

If you are curious to know the other things on the 2019 list they have been listed below. Each has an urgency of its own, or will help grow the church into independent sustainability with the community. George can share greater details on any of these so please ask him.

1. Water tank and washing station 550\$
2. Back wall and clean/dig out fish pond 1400\$
3. Front yard 600\$
4. Garden 780\$
5. Table and chairs 800\$
6. Tuk tuk engine change 450\$
7. Chicken Aviary
8. Altar Tables 2 meters
9. Storage cabinets
10. Dishware and Silverware

A Reminder to All Our Partners

We don't know if you have noticed, but we have a Global Lutheran Outreach pair of partners in Joe and Viya Stoltenow with a mission called Ray of Hope to the young street children of Battambang. We are proud that God has blessed us with two missionary couples where just a couple of years ago, there were none. This has been wonderful for the growth of the church, but it has also caused some problem and we need your help.

One of the reasons that we joined Global Lutheran Outreach is that they do not try to dictate where gifts from our partners go. If you say you want your donation to go to Guinea, there is no problem, your gift is going to go to Tim and Beth Heiney. But when we are blessed with more than one set of missionaries such as we have in Cambodia, we need to have you place our name on your donation memo line so that it gets in the proper budget bucket.

Global Lutheran Outreach is very good to us in that they send you a receipt and a thank you that your gift has been received. However, this means that it has been received at GLO. At this point, it is not in our bucket. Every couple of weeks, Shary reviews our list of recent donors, and we personally send out an e-mail of thanks. If you have given and not received a personal thank you, please contact us and tell us of your gift. GLO tries to be both expedient and accurate, but sometimes your gift can end up in the wrong bucket, but if you let us know, we can usually find out where it went and follow your wishes. It does not matter if your gift was either large or small, we want to make sure we and GLO are following your wishes.

And please, keep praying for us! We have had several instances where things have happened

without our understanding of why and we later find out it was your prayers. God never fails us, especially when you pray.

Knee Thoughts

1- You fill in the blank here as you pray. Each one of us has the single opportunity to take our requests to our Father in all needs. We've shared this one with you.

2- Our time here to be fruitful as He wants us to work and serve. We are less than two months out from departure. It will go so fast~

3. Preparation for a local medical clinic (new for the community)~ and the Immanuel eyeglass clinic team, their travel, and their service to the local community to be shining Him.

4. Prayers for this family as we grieve the loss of a sister/mother/grandmother/wife into eternity.

Giving Page

By mail ~ Make check payable to
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Memo: Frahm/Cambodia

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The change with these windows and doors is impressively brighter. The air flow and light shining inside feels so good. The windows and doors are tinted against the tropical sunshine. Very welcoming!

***** So much is happening on a daily/weekly basis that it isn't easy to pick and choose what to put here at months end. Please visit our facebook page listed on the other side to see the 'daily' / weekly happenings in this life. Thank you! *****