



# The Khmer Chronicle

The Cambodian Ministry Newsletter  
of George and Shary Frahm  
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Let us keep Christ as the heart  
of Christmas,  
the reason for all of our joy,  
Let us reflect on the season's  
true meaning...

The birth of a dear little Boy,  
Whenever we see decorations that  
sparkle and tree lights that glimmer  
and glow.

Let us remember the star that  
shone brightly and lit up that night  
long ago.

Whenever we send out our  
holiday greetings and open the ones  
we receive,

Let us remember the heavenly  
greetings proclaimed on that first  
Christmas eve.

Whenever we wrap up our  
presents to others and dream of the  
gifts we'd like best,

Let us remember God's gift of a  
Savior--

the gift that outshines all the  
rest.

Let us keep Christ as the heart  
of our Christmas and take time to  
think of His love--

The secret to feeling the true  
Christmas spirit and knowing His  
peace from above.

(Diana Manning)

This is our year to spend Christmas on this side of the pond with family and friends here. In our absence of being in Siem Reap, Pastor Samuel and Sophena, along with Obed and Benjamin, welcomed new sister Esther into the family. We praise God for a safe delivery for this little one and for Sophana.



Recently Pastor Samuel has been engaged in translating for short term team revisiting again who have come to do medical clinics. We accompanied him and the teams last year and filled in some of the blanks as things were done in the chosen communities.

This year it has taken him away from the Siem Reap area and home, as other areas chosen by these teams were the recipients of their visits. This is an important job for him as it provides an income to support his family. We praise and thank a loving Father for such a passionate provision for everyone. He is a dynamic hard worker each and every time he is called upon to do this task.

So as it is December, we eagerly look forward to spend time here with family and celebrate the birth of

our Savior Jesus Christ. As usual we hear Christmas music on the radio and TV, see decorations in all the stores, people out preparing for the upcoming day in so many ways. We see lights outside, and may even take a drive or two to see the decorated light exhibits around town.

Interestingly Cambodia also takes up the theme of Christmas patterned much like what we would see here outside the church. We would hear the same music in the expat stores and restaurants (sometimes those used by foreigners), see the hotels decked out with zillions of lights and revolving displays, generally probably taxing the entire electrical system of the country (as it's purchased outside the country). The big country to the north sends stuff that floods the open street shops with any type of Christmas wear decorations as well. Rows upon rows of red and white items are hanging on racks up and down the streets that can be purchased.

They have learned quite well the general mantra from other parts of the world for this holiday. For Cambodia as well as the rest of Asia, Christmas is not a religious holiday, but an economic event.

They don't get snow though, so the songs of 'I'm dreaming of a white Christmas' or 'Frosty the Snowman' don't make a lot of sense to them...but they are still heard everywhere. Even more interesting is to hear 'Feliz Navidad.' (haha)

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Snor will open its doors as it does each and every year, providing the community with a wonderful Christmas program that the regular churchgoers have been practicing. The church leadership will gather together and provide a wonderful local type meal to everyone plus give them a goody wrapped gift filled with surprise school supplies, personal care products, candy, instant noodles, and a toy or two (adults get something else).

As we sit here and write this, we could easily close our eyes and see the goings on in Snor with the community there. Yes, the basics are the same, but for many who happen upon this celebration in the church, they may have never heard the Jesus birth story as we have. As we engaged with the community last year, it

was obvious that some who came for the first time were intrigued about what was going on. We pray that each and every one of those who came have come back or will remember to do so this December as well, to hear the Jesus story one more time—and seek to understand how much Jesus loves them too. That is our prayer for those in Cambodia this Christmas.

## **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.
- 2- Our time here to be fruitful in the midst of unexpected challenges and yet it still be a time to share Jesus here as well.
3. Praise for the safe delivery of beautiful Esther to Pastor Samuel, Sophana, Obed, and Benjamin.

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