



# The Khmer Chronicle

The Cambodian Ministry Newsletter  
for Immanuel Lutheran Church, Snor Village  
Siem Reap Province, Cambodia  
Fall 2021  
Volume 11 Edition 4-9



Immanuel Lutheran Church Snor

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

In a world filled with so many frequent changes, the very best thing in all of this is that ‘the church’ remains stable and constant. Yes, things around us are definitely different, but the church has not changed. God is constant. God has each moment of this detailed in His plan for each of us.

We are still ‘the church.’

From this statement comes forth the platform of this newsletter. I, Shary, have the solo privilege and honor of writing this latest newsletter.

George gracefully received his heavenly crown of glory on June 27th. He had run the race and finished well. It was really tough to say goodbye and send him off. That still lingers. Counting those days, a bit over ten weeks has passed..... just now, as this is composed.

Anyway, Twenty days after his glorious departure, his family and local friends were able to globally share his celebration service, so that we all could come together one more time to honor him.

If you happened to tune in to his celebration service on that July 17th, then you were able to hear this Godly man share his love and passion that God himself had totally connected a half a world away in Asia and particularly to Cambodia with Pastor Chut Samuel. Yes, he opened his own service with a message for each of us. “We are the church.” If you’d like to hear his voice (and his message) please grab this link and put into your browser to listen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YS1ysCvytjg>

While this ministry may look a bit different going forward, ‘the church’ has not changed. God is constant. He loves each of His children.

This following link is the celebration service connection. Please grab the link and put it into your browser to listen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59aBrMClhng>

## Update coming from Cambodia

At the end of August an update on the current situation in the Siem Reap area came

from two local on the ground men who know their own situation all too well. First is Mr. Orleang, who has walked with us in all of our housing needs since we moved from Phnom Penh in early 2015. When he changed positions as manager of guest houses in the area, he took us along to his new location. He has always taken really good care of us. He would sit for hours with George and ask questions about the 'why'....he couldn't initially understand why two elderly folk would land in such a different environment and happily share life with people they didn't know. He gave us the utmost respect ever. We treasure his friendship.

Orleang shared that Siem Reap remained pretty much shut down with the touristy traffic as each visitor had to quarantine two weeks upon arrival there, and give a hefty \$2,000 beforehand, sometimes perhaps more.

As of June 17th we had heard from Pastor Samuel that the area of Siem Reap was fairly restricted with provinces, districts, and communities each being isolated and borders closed due to the increase of virus cases in country. The government struggled to protect its citizens as best as they could.

Pastor Samuel with Sophena and Obed, Benjamin, and Esther quarantined at the dormitory where Sophena serves as house 'mom.' The five of them shared a room during this time and food was delivered twice weekly (per the rules in place) to cook for everyone.

Gratefully as numbers have leveled off and steadily decreased, some restrictions have been lessened to the point that Samuel has been able to return home. About 65% of the population have been vaccinated he says. The target date for in person school is the end of October. The latest restriction is set to

expire on the 21st of September as announced by the US embassy and verified by Pastor Samuel who has heard it from the Cambodian government.

In the midst of all this though, the church has remained constant.

Late last year he sent us a request for funds for food security for the local villages. The communities were already feeling the effects from the global environment. Because of the current global situation, the tourist industry had come to a halt and so many who relied on that industry could not feed their families. Mind you, at that point, the country had escaped the initial global wave that the much of the rest of the world was seeing. Pastor Samuel made a huge investment into food security into the villages where he had been present in the past. Along with feeding those stomachs with much needed food, he also shared the love of our Jesus and the gospel message again and again.

Fast forward to now and ministry continues. The church is alive and functioning. The key word here perhaps is the word 'remote' as this ministry has adapted there, as we have had to do here.

Gratefulness and glory to God for the opportunity to have set forth all those hours beforehand where Pastor Samuel introduced ministry into remote communities and with other Godly servants formed a coalition of leaders for this moment and time. Church, Bible studies, and outreach are continuing on that platform. People are hearing those important words on a regular basis, oft times over their phones as most places do not have internet as we know it. Besides the revolving restrictions, fear in the remote communities of the unknown and unavailable resources has isolated them from the city

community interaction for the present.

Pastor Samuel and I have talked in length. The ministry in itself will not change. As I sort out those new episodes in this chapter of my personal life on this side of the pond, God willing, plans will be put into place for return to Cambodia early next year. Stay tuned for those exciting developments. In the meantime, please mightily pray for the army of God to power forward into eternity from wherever you stand. Thank you so much.

Here are a few wonderful photos that just came as I completed this newsletter.



Service time at church.



Samuel, Sophena, Obed, Benjamin and Esther.



Painting the church compound front wall



## Knee Thoughts

Please pray for the return of and the continued good health for the people of Cambodia, especially Pastor Samuel and his family and God's ministry there.

Give a prayer of thanks for the technology that

God has provided to stay connected.

Prayer for favorable government rulings that would affect the spread of Christianity in Cambodia.

Prayer for clarity and direction for the next chapter in this ministry that is half worlds apart for me. I dearly miss being in the villages with the local folk and loving on those kiddos I've watched grow up over the years.

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