



# The Khmer Chronicle

The Cambodian Ministry Newsletter  
for Immanuel Lutheran Church, Snor Village  
Siem Reap Province, Cambodia  
Winter 2021-2022 (in US)  
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Immanuel Lutheran  
Church Snor

It has been a long year. For many it has been a longer, almost two year stretch, into a new norm. I can raise my hand on that one.

Yet so many times I have been reminded of Psalm 118:24 that tells me "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Maybe....it is time for me to rejoice in the 'years'...rejoice, and be glad in it.

May we all embrace this wondrous Jesus season.

Each day I am able to wake up and praise God for another day in His world to be His hands and feet. Some days it's not been easy, and some days I think I've not done as good as I should have, but I know God's grace reigns in my world.

One thing is for certain though as I write this winter update. My hope lies in what only Christ and His coming to earth brought to me. He is a God who understands me, who can bring me true peace, and because of that, I am given the opportunity to share God's contagious love thru my life here day by day. It think it is perfectly stated in scripture with 'love your Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' Matthew 22:37-39.

God certainly knew what He was doing when that little babe was born on a cold night, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. He had a plan from day one in my mind for me, from the moment Mary was chosen as his earthly mother to birth him and raise him with Joseph. We all know how this life ended, but to consider that God came down from heaven in this babe and had a life filled with so much is important because it meant that Jesus got into me forever, and into you as well.

Each Christmas I am reminded of the best Christmas gift of all that I have been given...Thank you Father.

And also that none of this may never have happened to me if God had not given me a husband who loved me like God himself does, and because of these two, I am forever His.

May you have a blessed 'Jesus' birthday Christmas...because of this one day each of us is earmarked.

Love, Shary ..., and George who proofreads this in heaven.

## Update Cambodia

This past week we were able to get a strong internet signal for over an hour, giving us some wonderful time to talk about life in general, ministry in Siem Reap, and some new goals going into 2022. This photo is not uncommon and

is our usual method of communication amongst us.



Obed is back in school three 1/2 days a week. Classes are smaller so splitting the actual in person learning has fewer students (was 50). Benjamin will start school in January. Many parents are still not sending their children to school as I write this.

Cambodia now has open borders with no testing requirements prior to arrival for all those who have been vaccinated. Surrounding countries are not all on the same page as yet.

Additionally, new national rules from the Department of Cult and Religion now require advance approval for any gathering. Pastor Samuel asks for prayer as this department is made up of Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, and Catholic heads, but at this time the Protestant community has no representation at the table which means that the Christian community has no spokesperson to ask advice of. There are a lot of questions from the Siem Reap group as yet.

Large projects rolling from 2021 into 2022 include a much needed major water well upgrade (extensive digging) that will not only benefit the church but also the community at large. Additionally, land behind the church may be purchased to extend the pond to raise fish, provide a large garden area, and an area for raising chickens. All of these projects had been initiated and on the drawing board between the two men on our last tenure. Already there has

been an area designated, and planting of fruit trees has started, as well as a designated parking area for the church bus and motos that are there. Pastor Samuel will be doing a large food security package for each family in the community this Christmas as well. Things are not so good yet in that way.

## Looking Ahead

2022 will soon be ringing in as a new year for each of us. A clean slate, a new agenda, and at this point an empty calendar to start with. As we each ponder how this new year will be wrapped up, spread out, and used day by day, I pray each one of us is doing just that...to take time to listen to what God would have in store for us in our daily lives in service to Him.

For me, the tug and nudge to return to Cambodia is paramount, God willing of course. When we left the last time from Siem Reap, the ministry platform was growing by leaps and bounds. House by house, one by one, the loving message of Jesus was being shared again and again. Even outside of those areas, Samuel was going house by house, or person to person to share the gospel. I have seen more and more young adults stand up and accept the call of Christ in their lives thru the ongoing connections in the international community and thru updates. Remember these young adults are the largest percentage of Khmer out there these days. These kids have not known the ravages of war nor displacement, and have grown up with at least some food in their bellies. Now many are searching for, and many have found, is that Jesus yearns to be solidly set in each heart. Praise God for each and every soul who accepts the offer of salvation in that life journey.

Global Lutheran Outreach will remain intact as my base to return to Cambodia, just as they served as our sending agency from the beginning. The landscape of the world has changed so much, and as with most ministry couples, each have certain roles in the ministry. That being said, I will need to step back a bit to

grasp those particulars that George handled and I do not know much about. Gratefully I have two fantastic administrative pastors who will be my advocates as I navigate the rigors of the unknown and make wise decisions.

As I write this today, George has been wearing his heavenly crown for over five months already. In his physical absence here, I am forever grateful for the hands and feet of church members and family and friends who have stepped forward into areas they knew better than I did. Even more so, the three adult kiddos and their families have encircled me tightly with their love, patience, and guidance in so many situations. So blessed \* \_\*.

## Knee Thoughts

Please pray for 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 encourage 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.

## Giving Page

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