



The Khmer Chronicle

The Cambodian Ministry Newsletter
for Immanuel Lutheran Church, Snor Village
Siem Reap Province, Cambodia
Christmas 2022



Immanuel Lutheran
Church Snor

Merry Christmas

We would like to start this newsletter by wishing each of you a very Merry Christmas and joyous Advent Season.

Advent is the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event and certainly, we are celebrating the arrival of Christ over 2000 years ago. But, when we use the advent season to prepare for Christmas, what we are really preparing for is the second coming of Christ as prophesied in Revelation. This is not the coming of Christ as our Savior, but the coming of Christ as our judge, and while we do not know when, we do know that we are closer to this second coming each day.

Consider this December how you are preparing, not only for Christmas as a celebration of what Christ has done for you, but as an opportunity to keep your lamp trimmed and filled with oil, ready for the arrival of the bridegroom.

As this is also the end of the fiscal year for us as individuals, it is also a time to prayerfully consider partnership in this ministry into 2023. Thank you.



Advent Week one

Pigs, Chickens, English, and Church Oh My!

'It is hard to imagine that 'lions, tigers, and bears, oh my' I first heard this in the 1939 movie of The Wizard of Oz in my very early years. I remember singing with Dorothy the famous song "Over the Rainbow" as I watched the movie on our home black and white TV.

We all know the story? The scarecrow, the lion, and the tin man accompany Dorothy and Toto after they were transported to another realm during a tornado in Kansas.

Each of these characters brought with them a flaw in their character as they went toward the Emerald City. The lion had to work up his courage, the scarecrow had to think (brain), and the tin man had to mend his heart. And Dorothy was lost and wanted to go home. We

are all planning to 'go' home someday aren't we?

We all know that at the end of the movie Dorothy and Toto were finally back in Kansas.

So while I am not in the midst of any lions, tigers, or bears at the moment, as this ministry rounds out the year this December into 2023, there is a lot of different points to share with you.. It is a new road for me to travel down.

When I first arrived, I was introduced to a vacant school compound that had fallen into disrepair during the last 2 1/2 years when so much of the world was upside down. As I looked at its history on fb, it was quite obvious that this school had been a vital part of the local community situated north of the city. Just like so much elsewhere that has happened in these 2 1/2 years, when offshore funds stopped, the school did not have a plan in place to stand and continue on its own. I have seen that time and time again. As of this writing, this still waits on its future, which I do not know.

In the summer newsletter, I briefly mentioned that CWF (Concordia Welfare Education Foundation) staff made a visit to Snor and surrounding communities to assess the current health needs. What has transpired from that is an urgent project need to supply those communities with clean drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities, as each community has grown exponentially during this time. I felt called to participate in this project, writing various grant proposals and opening a specific line item under my GLO account for any of you who would like to partner in this project as well. In December this finally made it onto my bucket list as a line item for donations.*****

Then there are pigs...I love pigs. I love

piglets. And I was not raised a farm girl. But I also love elephants and orangutans too. Just saying. And my dogs.

Talking here about pigs is a priority at the moment. Things have changed so much over the last two years, much of which is not of free reading here because of the sensitivity of the environment and authorities around.

In order to stabilize this long standing ministry platform established long before we first arrived, Samuel and I have concluded that a viable income generating source had to be set in place. Both of them have lost their previous jobs. She was with an NGO serving as house mom for students, he serving as tour guide and translator for ministry teams. We have researched this option and have come up with a location from which a pig farm could be built for the long term. People need to eat, pork is a usual commodity here. So are chickens and ducks, if that can be an addition into the future. Thank you for your encouragement, prayers, and support in this area.

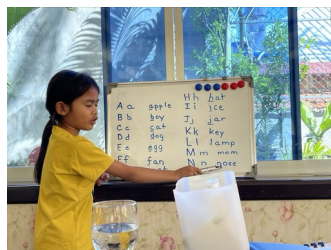


This is how the pig farm may look.

English

The foundation of teaching English is solidly in place these days as all willing participants are on board and on track to learn and / or pick up what they don't know with each meeting. At the end of each solid two hour plus teaching teaching, the down time is a game that should be only english conversation (we are working on that yet) but

it is so much enjoyed by everyone. Garbage and fish have been our mainstays for the moment, but each new game is rewarded with the same kind of enthusiasm as the others. We do it either at church or in my AC room (at night which is a welcome reprieve from the humid night air outside). Even little Esther is into short spurts of learning with the rest of the family. There is a consistent platform in place going into the new year so that this can be rolled into a school situation quite easily when that opportunity presents itself.



Rice And More Rice

This month and into December is the major time for harvesting rice that has been growing around the countryside. It is a major undertaking to say the least, and requires all able bodied hands to be out there during that time. For most of the country it is done by hand, because the rice harvesters are too big for small fields, are too expensive for a solo person to rent (or even as a village), or aren't available in their area. During these days, our church attendance is less with a larger portion of them being small children who would not be able to help with the harvest. Those as young as 8 or so can be seen handling younger siblings in church during

these weeks. (the real younger ones sometimes are a bit adventuresome, and so there are attempts by the older ones to 'pinch' them into obedience and submission. Trust me, it doesn't always work, but I look at the determination in both camps to do whatever is in the moment. I just am available to grab those church books from littles who are adept at destroying those pages in a blink of an eye, no less.



Rice gathering center



Hauling the rice stalks



Many hands make light work...maybe. Shared yes!

And in conclusion:

From the works of Robert Louis Stevenson comes the following prayer to share with you this Christmas season. Though the poem is not new, it speaks of a heart softened by the love and relationship with His father.

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

May you have a Blessed Birthday with Jesus !



Knee Thoughts

Continued urgent prayer need for the visa I will need to have in order to remain here long term. May our efforts honor and glorify our Father who has this all in His hands. It's in the government's hands yet. Update: it's here!

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

A huge prayer of thanks for my safe travels back here and my continued good health.

WhoHoo!

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

Prayer for clarity of the direction of what God wants me to take.

Prayers for safe travels for family and friends traveling to share Christmas time with us.

Thank you so much !

Giving Page

By mail ~ Make check payable to
Global Lutheran Outreach
6709 Ficus Drive
Miramar, FL 33023
Memo: Frahm/Cambodia

Secure online giving page:

<http://globallutheranoutreach.com/support-frahm.html>

Contact Information

E-mail: smf.s.mail@gmail.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/EmpoweringLCC>

Website and Blog:

<http://globallutheranoutreach.com/blog/frahm>



[On the way to church...14 of us tucked inside for the trip.](#)