



The Glory of God

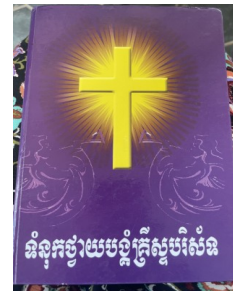
## The Khmer Chronicle

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Lutheran Worship  
and Hymnal book

The photo above is a sunrise over a rice field somewhere outside Siem Reap. Sunrises are gorgeous here when it's clear. These days are a bit cooler yet, so it is about split in half for those days where you can see the glorious sunrise versus its hazy entrance. In my book, whatever it is, that's fine for me.

2024 has rolled into high gear from day one. How can I not think it otherwise after entering the fourteenth year of this ministry, with God at the helm. He keeps the ball rolling, with surprises at hand. (When I say to myself, "I am getting too old for this" I am reminded of Abraham.) Goodness. Sigh!

As the new year now takes shape here, a new arm of this ministry has slowly emerged for me. Named Taros, it is perhaps 35 minutes from where I stay. Taros Promised Land Church and School is its name. It is also the home of Pastor Ravy.

I would like you all to meet Pastor Ravy. He was in one of our earlier classes many years ago when we first arrived to Cambodia and lived in

Phnom Penh, where we met and worked side by side. He is a part of the first Cambodian Lutheran Institute of Southeast Asia graduates to be ordained. We were there for that ordination. That was the first one ever in the Lutheran church here. Interestingly to note here is that before c-d Ravy and a fellow friend SoNgim Un came to me one day from Phnom Penh to talk about this very time and place, hoping that we would join them when they were ready to move out of their mother Lutheran church there. George was out that day teaching in a remote province so he did not hear this directly. Now I can imagine that the seed was planted then. God at work around us as usual.



Today Ravy is not only a pastor, but a motivational speaker with Lutheran Hour Ministries. He also, upon returning to Siem Reap to care for his elderly parents, has begun teaching

English to the local children where he built his home for his family. This is when we crossed paths again on a more regular basis in November of 2022, just after I returned last time by myself for the first time. He asked me to sit in and help with his English classes back then. It was a perfect addition to my weeks, as the children welcomed me into their lives.

As I sit outside my room working on Sunday School lesson and English class lessons, I am now beginning to realize a tad what is going to swirl around me soon, and has already begun.

We are still working out an English class routine as other facets of this platform take face. Read on please.

Two months ago Pastor Ravy began church services under the steel canopy of the front of his house. A few of the adults and elderly came with the children from English class.

He attends church at his stepdad's church in the morning and does the music for the services (guitar and keyboard). His dad joined the heavenly realm years ago (also a pastor) and his mom married another pastor thereafter. They are a marvelous couple together. Their love is contagious. In the afternoon he does a service back at Taros.

Pastor Ravy will remain under the Lutheran umbrella for his own church.

He is ordained, has been taught well by others who visit and do that teaching. He is doctrinally sound. His time has come to grow this school, start the church, and invest in the community in so many ways. He lives there 24/7. He has a plan. God is in the driver's seat. And he, Ravy, desires my time to work with him when I am here, or even when in the US.

There is already an interested person who will invest some time in this ministry initially and provide some assistance and guidance as needed in the business platform for Ravy going forward. Ravy yearns to be transparent and a Godly pastor, father, and husband example into his community. Thank goodness for zoom and other tools of the 21st century.

I consider it a privilege to be a part of this ministry with Ravy. His Lutheran Hour ministry radio broadcasting in the province, I understand, is a growing audience. He is a dynamic servant. He would like to expand ministry now into his community beyond the school itself. Hopefully, that will get a start in this new year while I am here.

Lest any of you who could muster over 30 hours to get here, you are so welcome to come and see God's handiwork through his people here. Your English skills alone, to just sit and share yourself with those who cross your path in the day to day life there will grip your heart.

The general church has grown from 1/2% to what I am told is over 6% in our years here. It's the daily life that teaches each of us so very much not only about the heart of His work here, but also His using us in that work. His love knows no boundaries. You will go home with a global perspective on what impact each of you have had over the years in partnering with this ministry.

### See More Clearly Eyeglass Clinics

In January the Taros church was able to gather a local group from the membership to give two full days of eyeglass clinics into those communities with our limited number of glasses brought in December. Almost two hundred pair of glasses were fitted after simple eye exams were done.



#### Photos:

1-tuk tuk transport of glasses. Yup the glasses traveled across the skies in those boxes.

2-sign

3-waiting area for glasses

4-one happy young lady

5-this man(red shirt) is a generous spirit who fills so many roles in his church. He stepped up to do the exams at the start of both clinics.

6-Pastor Nith Banyan prays with each client.

It was the first time that the local community had basically jumped in and did a lot of the clinic themselves. My daughter and I handled the glass fittings for those days for now. That teaching will come later if necessary.

One concern we encountered was a need for sunglasses for everyone who came through those church doors. In the blazing sun day after day, and riding a moto most likely, we saw a lot of environmental damage to eyes. In the future we hope that we are able to provide some relief when doing more clinics in the remote areas. In the meantime, each person was encouraged to protect their eyes as best possible.



## **Raising Walls, Doors, and Windows You Say! Oh My!**

Teaching English under a gazebo steel room overhang provides shelter from the overhead elements to a degree. It does not keep out barnyard animals, nor the dust and dirt that are the norm in open territory. Nor the cats or dogs roaming the village.

Pastor Ravy has wanted to build walls and put on doors and windows, basically enclosing the porch area for use as a school and church. The area is not large, but it is very sustainable in this new upcoming improvement overall.



Because of some kind donors there has been enough funds available for the walls, doors, and windows to be raised up. At the end of the day, all of the dust and dirty air will be held outside the structure and the children can learn English, and the church hear the word of God in a better situation.

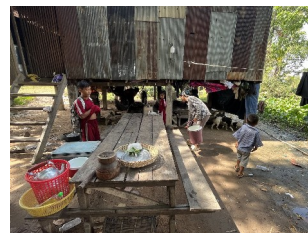


You can see the inside at the start of the project on the left and the right with the

cement covering the bricks. Awaiting this to dry to paint the walls. There is a 6 month window to do this correctly. (Monsoon season hampers drying).

## **This Weekend**

This weekend Ravy and I will start visits with each family in the village to meet their families, and generally see how life is for them, to evaluate needs and assess the overall state of the community. Please pray for eyes to see and ears to hear what we are to do. This is not going to be a simple task. It will be good to put a face with the family they are a part of.



## **Rounding out 2023 (upon arrival)**

The 31st was a Christmas celebration at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Snor. In addition to the usuals who came to church every Sunday, Pastor Samuel had traveled a fair distance to the Kulen Mountain area to bring some of those church members to join. That included 4 men, who easily and graciously helped in both the set up,

activities, and take down of the day's events. I do not know how many churches these four represent, nor how big their churches are. It is common to go between churches this time of the year and help with the Christmas celebration, and then go back to your norm until the next celebration occurs. I may not see these folks again. It was a good day.



### **Knee Thoughts**

Praise for the growth in the Taros English school and church community.

Prayers for the Taros Promised Land Church building development and church body.

Prayers for the local community in Snor to prosper, and the farm and church to grow. The church has the tools to reach that community and go forward now. In God's time of course.

Praise and prayers for sharing His love message to everyone sent our way.

Prayers for the journey ahead with many spinning plates of service.

Praise for a year long visa approval.

**Thank you so much !**

### **Giving Page**

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(due to the changes on the FB ELCC platform, I have decided that going forward my own facebook page will also house the ministry of Cambodia. Thank you.

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Please pray how you could possibly partner for the future of this ministry. Even a starbucks cup of coffee or two amount goes a long way here. While my budget is small, I still have expenses to stay here. I know God's family provides!!! Thank you.

