

“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.” -1 Thessalonians 1:9

October 2011

Dear Praying Friends,

In the last four months, Straight Road Baptist Church of Phnom Penh has added some exciting new programs. Your prayers and support have played a part in this! Thank you!

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

Since arriving in Cambodia eight years ago, God has always burdened us for the many nationalities here. Many methods have been used to reach them, including Bible studies, street evangelism, and tract distribution. Although there was some fruit, we fell short of getting these to be a part of our church services. But since June, visitors from Pakistan, Ghana, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, and India have come to our evening services, which are now preached in English. The morning services are still taught in the Cambodian language.

SRI LANKAN REFUGEES

The Twenty-Year War in Sri Lanka has left many casualties. Among those were five young men we recently met on the street near our house. They are basically men without a passport. But after almost three months of contacts and ten Gospel presentations, they finally have a new passport—a passport to Heaven!

STATISTICS AND SALVATIONS

Over the last 3½ months, our records show that we had Gospel-related conversations with 222 people. There were 21 who prayed for salvation, and our church saw 27 brand-new visitors. Each soul is precious to God, but several recent stories especially stand out.



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- Thia was a motorcycle taxi driver, and his questions were sincere. It was clear he was thinking. So many give us a hearing the first time but don't have time for us the second time. But the Spirit of God was clearly at work in this man's heart. He had given thought to his need, did not let the "cares of this world . . . choke the word," and was saved.
- We never could seem to get Savan and her husband to get serious with us and church. She always had a reason not to come. I had lost interest in going to their house; but after a long absence, my wife said, "Let's go." I have learned to trust my wife's judgment. When we did, Savan's husband got saved; and she told us, "Pastor, you stopped coming, but I can still talk to God by myself. I have been encouraging our son to pray whenever we need money for our electric bill."

We call her the Noah's Ark Lady. Before she met us, she had read the story of the flood, and the impression of God's judgment never left her. When we met her, she had great respect for us and the Bible and listened eagerly for more stories. She has not yet grasped the meaning of the Gospel of grace, but we will continue to visit.

GHOSTS AND DREAMS

Although many Cambodians do not believe in a Creator God, they do place great emphasis on spirits. One woman told us her deceased father was hanging around the Buddhist *Wat* (temple), because he had not yet been born into a new body. A motorcycle taxi man related how he used to be a very handsome man in his former life—apparently he was not too satisfied with his present features! Although these stories seem foolish, they are believed here, and it merely reminds us that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood."

Some final prayer requests:

- Wisdom to deal with numerous and awkward financial requests
- God's help in finding a new location for our church
- Discipleship materials in various languages

Sincerely,

Walter, Suni, Joseph, and Jerusha Poole