

# Cambodia

Volume 8

Number 3



Cambodia

**Introducing the Clavauds...**



**Here  
is their  
testimony  
as  
written by  
Mr. Clavaud**

For years French missionary effort has been directed to Africa. French churches did not show any interest in sending missionaries to Indo-China until 1925. At that time, an attempt was made to enter Viet Nam, but after some months, it proved a failure. A few Christians, nevertheless, kept praying that the Lord would send French missionaries to Indo-China. Their prayers seemed to receive no answer; however, God was working. Indeed, three babies were born almost at the same time in the year 1929: Pierre Medard, who today serves the Lord as pastor of the Saigon French Church; Daniel Bordreuil, missionary at Phan-Thiet (Viet Nam); and myself here in Cambodia. "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord."

My parents did not know Jesus Christ. I came into close contact with Protestant circles when 14 years of age. A year later the Word of God was proved never to return to Him without its being effective. I was 17 when I received a direct and personal call to be a missionary. But, my parents took a position against it. This was the beginning of a testing time for both my call and faith. Satan seemed to be successful for a while - I doubted the truth of my call, and even the love of God. The Lord is faithful, however, and He does not suffer us to be tempted above that which we are able to bear. He finally gave me the victory, and I understood that I could not refuse my call without refusing my Saviour.

At this time I got married. Roselyne, my wife, was 2 years old when she lost her mother and was abandoned by her father. Her grandmother gave her a Catholic education. She was 17 when led by a workmate to a youth meeting in our church. At that time she accepted Him who says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me."

The Lord had shown us very definitely that we must go to Indo-China. How was it possible since there was no French mission in that country? We made application to The Christian and Missionary Alliance. The Lord provided money and visas in a marvelous

way and we were able to go to Nyack Missionary College (Nyack, N. Y.) for a year. In spite of many hardships, we enjoyed our stay in the States.

Upon returning to France, we had no assurance at all of being appointed to Indo-China. First, it was necessary to have a ministry at home, at the same time praying that the Lord might provide money for our passage. There are no Alliance churches in France, so we began to raise prayer interest for Indo-China by holding meetings in various parts of the country. The Lord answered—we were appointed to Cambodia. As we left Marseille last June, we knew that we were not alone, many stood behind us in prayer. In France and in the Netherlands, many friends had given us the assurance that they would be faithful intercessors.

From the very beginning of our travel, it was necessary to revise many previous ideas. For instance, we thought that the passage through the Red Sea would last only a few hours and that we could see the coast all of the time. Actually, it took 3 days to go from Suez to Aden—we did not see the coast! We also had a few false ideas about tropical landscape, imagining a dark and unfriendly forest. What a surprise when we went ashore in Ceylon and made a trip to Kandy. Instead of the dark, unfriendly forest, we saw a wonderful scene; green

rice fields, ponds where lay water buffalo, children playing, nice thatch houses surrounded by banana trees, great tea and hevea plantations. In Cambodia we found about the same scenery, with the addition of the beautiful sugar palm trees, unknown in Ceylon.

Our image of the Cambodian people was that they ate only rice. We were amazed to see so many fruits and vegetables at the market. Some of them we knew; trying others sometimes caused bad experiences. The meat and fish we find delicious.

Living in a typical Cambodian wooden house, that is built on pillars, makes us very happy. Large windows give good ventilation. That is probably the reason why it is easy for us to endure the tropical heat. Nevertheless, at the beginning, we could not sleep. Only after a few weeks were we accustomed to the many noises; the neighbors radio, howling dogs, scampering rats under our bed, frogs croaking as loudly as the lowing of cows.

We like the Cambodian people; always smiling, they seem to be honest and very simple. Our contacts with the neighbors are very good. Olivier and Sylvia, our children, enjoy playing with Cambodian children who live nearby. This gives us an occasion to hold children's meetings every Thursday. This week there were more than sixty children listening to Mr. Ith

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## **HAVE YOU HEARD . . .**

... That the Central Bible School at Ta Khmau plans to accept young women for the Long Term session next year? PRAY that a suitable Cambodian lady may be found to become Dean of Women.

... That at least ten students, now in government and private high schools, say that they feel called to train for the Lord's service? PRAY that these and others will follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

... That Rev. & Mrs. N. B. A. Ens, new appointees to Cambodia, have just received a full term (5 year) visa, and that all seven visa extentions have been granted? Hallelujah!! Continue to PRAY that the phrase NOT RENEWABLE may be removed from two other visas. (See CAMBODIA, vol. 8, no. 1, pg. 14).

... That Miss Barbara McGonigal will leave the States for Cambodia as soon as her visa is approved? PRAY that this will be without undue delay.

... That Rev. & Mrs. M. B. Steiner have returned from furlough? PRAY that during this, their third term, they may experience the blessing of the Lord, that far exceeds their "askings or thinkings".

... That Rev. & Mrs. Henry Holton, and Rev. & Mrs. H. M. Taylor celebrated their 25th wedding anniversaries this year? Praise the Lord for the blessing their lives and ministries have brought to this land.



**Rev. & Mrs. J. P. Ellison, returning for their second term, are stationed at the Central Bible School, Ta Khmau.**

On the banks of the beautiful Bassac River, six miles south of the capital city of Phnom Penh, lies the Ta Khmau Bible School. One month after we arrived back on the field from furlough, Long Term





Bible School opened with an enrollment of six young men—two upperclassmen and four freshmen.

Praise God for these six students, an increase of two over last year! Two of last year's freshmen did not come back. One was asked to remain out of school a year. The other, Mr. Dararith (see pg. 15 for his testimony), asked to stay out for a year to look after his family's business interests. Pray for him that he may have the Lord's perfect will in his life.

We wish you could have heard the testimonies of all the students at the welcoming banquet. The four freshmen gave their testimonies first. They told of victories won, hinderances overcome and of the Lord's provision for them to come and study His Word. Three of the students are here despite definite parental opposition. Then, Prasoer and Lim Chheong, the upperclassmen, gave testimonies of how the Lord had helped them as they served Him. Each had pastored a different circuit of churches during the three month vacation period. They said that they had never realized how difficult it can be to serve the Lord, but gave testimony of the ever sufficient grace and help, and of a renewed determination to be better prepared to serve Him.

After the banquet, Rev. John Ellenberger, an Alliance missionary from New Guinea, showed slides and curios of his work. Earlier in the day, the students

had asked our neighbors to come and see these pictures. We were crowded out with about 400 people. They were standing three and four deep outside the open air auditorium as well as filling up the inside. It was a time of real testimony to those outside of God's redeeming and transforming grace.

Do pray with us that the people of the town of Ta Khmau may be reached with the gospel and that there may be lasting results from all the witnessing done here in the last 12 years. Excluding the Bible School and its staff, of the many living in the town of TaKhmau, only a few are Christians—two families and one widow lady.

Besides witnessing in Ta Khmau, the students have been doing evangelistic and colportage work in the provinces of Prey Veng and Svay Rieng. In these two provinces live nearly one million people, who are our personal responsibility together with the Bible School. There are no resident Christian workers.

The school could easily accommodate 30 students. Pray that there may be continued growth. We are interested in the quality of these students, that they become real men of God. But, when we look at the whitened harvest fields we see that the harvest truly is great and the laborers are few. "Pray YE therefore the Lord of the Harvest that He will thrust forth laborers into his harvest field."

**Rev. & Mrs. C. E. Thompson write:**

Furlough had been a most satisfying interlude, but we were anxious to return to Kratie, re-open the station house, and begin our *third term* of service. Now that those days of scrubbing musty, moldy furniture and floors are over, we have had a little time to look around and note the changes which have come about during our thirteen month absence.

First of all we notice that the church is stronger now than when we went away. Praise the Lord! How well we remember returning five years ago—to receive a warm welcome indeed but to note, with leaden hearts, the impoverished spiritual condition of the church and the large number of believers who had fallen by the way-side. Our welcome this time seemed no less warm or enthusiastic, but our hearts were gladdened when we saw growth instead of regression, signs of stability instead of carelessness.

Certainly much of this can be attributed to the fact that the church now has an aggressive self-supported national pastor, who carried on faithfully and fruitfully during our absence. His hard work has gained him the respect of the Christians and his messages show thoughtful preparation with a depth beyond his years. How we praise the Lord for these signs. Certainly, there are other signs—nationalism, materialism— which could lead anyone to despair,

But, as we believe God, and work together, the Lord of the harvest will surely give us the fruit we so earnestly desire.

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*Con't from page 6*

Chhun, a Cambodian Christian, telling them the story of Jesus. We are anxious to know the language in order that our witnessing may be more effective. Already we can say a few simple sentences, such as asking for directions and purchasing items at the market.

Cambodia gives us great concern. The church is poor and there are millions who have not yet heard of the Gospel. Our missionaries are overworked. Pray that the Lord may send many laborers to this vineyard. "How shall they hear without a preacher?"

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## *Cambodia*

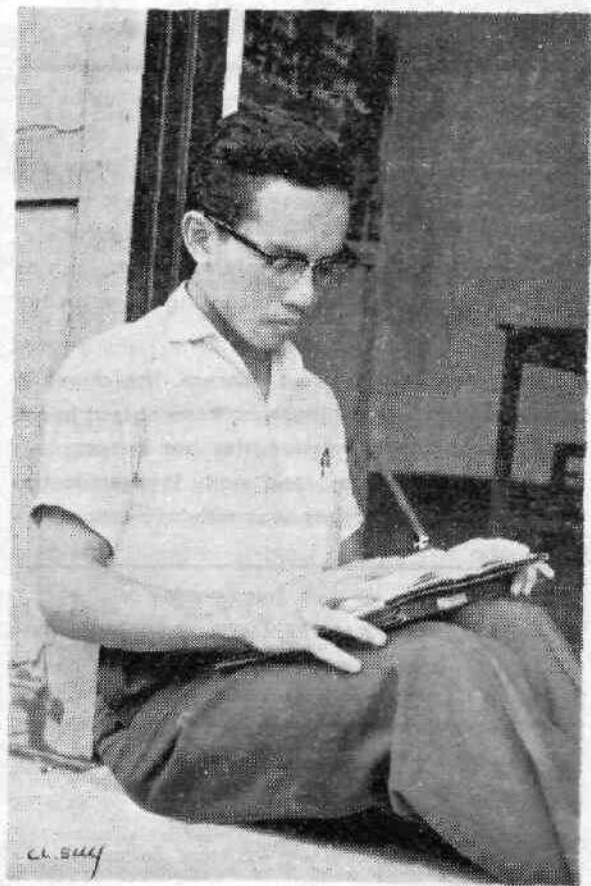
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*Rev. D. R. Furniss, Editor*

*Mrs. M. B. Steiner, Assistant Editor*



**Mr. Dararith**

**As an assignment for  
English Class during Youth Conference  
Mr. Dararith wrote this testimony**

I am so happy that the Lord has given me the opportunity to extend my personal testimony to you through this magazine.

I was born in a Christian family, but I was not different from those who were unbelievers.

Just several years ago, I received Jesus Christ as my Saviour personally, and I knew that He saved me. I have many things for which I praise Him. He has given me victory over death for even now He is preparing a place for me. This is not because of anything I have done or that I can do, but by the immeasurable grace of our great and loving God.

The Lord has spoken to me and I have answered His call. I know that I shall never be sorry to choose the Lord's way, but the devil has been trying to hinder me.

Please mention me and please pray for our churches. Cambodia needs a lot of the Lord's workers and I have been praying that the Lord will use me as an evangelist. We are just a handful of Christians in Cambodia, but I believe that the Lord is still on His throne and He is able.

Probably, I shall never meet you here on earth, but we shall fellowship together with Jesus by and by.



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**COVER — Royal Crematory of the late Cambodian King**