

Cambodia



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TIDINGS FROM HERE AND THERE

There is evidence of spiritual lukewarmness in the national church, both among the Christians and among the pastors and workers. Coupled with this is an unwillingness, on the part of Christians, to support their pastors and churches and, on the part of the pastors, to trust God for their material needs. Pray much for a real spiritual revival in the Cambodian church and also among us, as missionaries, for we feel the need for such a revival in our midst.



Ed and Ruth Thompson's sound truck is proving to be a valuable asset in the spread of the Gospel in the Kratie and Stung Treng areas. Large crowds are quickly attracted by the music and Gospel messages coming over the powerful speakers. The Gospel story is also presented through the medium of colored Bible slides which hold the people's interest and help to fix the message of salvation in their hearts and minds. Pray that the Holy Spirit might convict of sin these who see and hear the message and convince them of their need for Christ in His saving power and love.

The Cambodian Bible School, at Ta Khmau, is scheduled to convene in September. Pray that God will lead the young people of His choice to the school and that they will respond to His leading. Pray for the Taylors and Kru Kong, the national teacher, as they prepare for the six-months' term, that God will give them wisdom and that His Spirit will continue to use them mightily in this important ministry.



We praise God for the sound projection equipment which the Crowell Foundation of Chicago has sent to Cambodia as a gift. This includes a Bell and Howell sound strip projector with two powerful speakers, a 1500 watt generator, and two Moody Bible Institute science films, "God of Creation" and "Dust or Destiny". These films are sound-stripped so that they can be shown with the script in the Cambodian language. The Cambodians have no concept whatsoever of creation or of God and these films will be a powerful asset in presenting not only these truths, but also the truth of salvation through God's Son. Pray for God's blessing upon their use.

« Behold, I bring you Good Tidings of great joy which shall be to All people »

CONVERSION OF A BRICK-MAKER

One of the most outstanding conversions that we have witnessed since coming to Kompong Thom is that of a man and his wife who labor in a nearby brickyard. One day this man, visiting beneath our house, heard the Gospel and it was truly good news to him. Soon afterwards he became sick. He sought help from the usual sorcerers, trying in every way to appease the devil. He and his wife sold and spent all but their essentials, but he remained bed-fast. At this time Choy, the pastor here, and three believers peddled to the brickyard for the first Sunday service there. They returned beaming with joy for both man and wife had prayed, accepting Christ as Saviour. That day the charms were cut from the sick man's body, and a pretty model boat kept for the devil was hacked to pieces. The man's face took on a new look of one who has found peace in Christ, and the following week his wife, who was more hesitant and fearful at first, had the new look on her face as she rejoiced in the Lord. Later she was delivered from the filthy betel nut-chewing habit, and he from chewing-tobacco. The wife, hungry for the Word, came the eight miles to several Sunday services and she told her husband what she heard, thus strengthening them both in the Lord. At present, the husband, though still unable to work, has greatly improved. They both testify that they sincerely love the Lord. Praise His Name! Pray for all such new-born babes in faith.

Joseph E. Doty

A MODERN SAMUEL

"Samuel ministered before the Lord, being a child." (1 Sam. 2:18) Here, in Phnom Penh, lives a ten year old boy named Samuel. Like the boy of old, Samuel truly ministers before the Lord and his life is a real testimony for Christ. Here is a word from him: "Yesterday my school teacher, a strict Buddhist, beat me because I love the Lord Jesus. He wanted me to stop believing, but I told him I wouldn't, no matter how much he beat me, because I know He is the only true God and has saved me from sin. Often the other school children beat me too, but I don't care because I love the Lord Jesus and will not stop believing in Him."

"And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth." (1 Sam. 3:10) Our Cambodian Samuel has many times read these words in his new Bible, a reward for learning verses of Scripture, and his mother tells us that he spends hours with the Word of God. And when there is Scripture to be memorized, Samuel not only learns it but puts it into practice right away. In the home he is very careful not to do or say anything that will hurt the Lord Jesus for he wants to be His servant.

"And Samuel grew and the Lord was with Him..." (1 Sam. 3:19) Now he is ten years old—what the future holds only the Lord knows; but won't you pray

that this child and many more like him will stand firm in their faith?

May we, like the prophet of old, say, "Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you." (1 Sam. 12:23)

Lavinia McCart

CHANGING CAMBODIA

Coming back to Cambodia as a missionary instead of a missionaries' "kid", one has the distinct impression that Cambodia has changed. As we motored up from Saigon, we noticed houses lining the road much of the way. These relocated houses didn't have the usual fruit trees in their yards. Small coconut trees growing near them show they are only a year or two old. This relocation of whole villages aids the peace and economy of Cambodia. In one province alone, 200,000 people have been relocated providing a God-given opportunity to get out the Gospel.

Phnom Penh, formerly a city of 100,000, now has almost half a million people. Construction is booming. Cambodia is soon to have its own port city with a modern highway and railroad connecting it to the Capital city.

Some things have not changed in Cambodia. The heart of man is still desperately wicked and in need of the Saviour. The number of converted is still small. Hearts are open to hear, but closed by tradition to change. "Let me first bury my father or mother" is a common excuse meaning, "We are afraid of our parents. When they die, maybe we will feel free to believe."

The number of true believers is yet small, but the Seed is being sown. Those who sow shall reap. We have this promise, "God giveth the increase."

J. Paul Ellison

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THAT THEY MIGHT BELIEVE

« The entrance of Thy Word giveth Light » Ps. 119: 130

Following is an excerpt from the Annual Report of The British and Foreign Bible Society in Indo-China:

"One of the high-lights of the year was the completion of the Cambodian Bible. This is the 201st language in which the entire Bible has been published and its arrival in Cambodia was celebrated by a thanksgiving service at which missionaries and national workers joined in praising God for giving them this long-awaited Book.

"We asked the chief missionary translator (Rev. A. L. Hammond) to tell us how he felt when, after years of labor, he finally saw the Cambodian Bible in print. He writes:

"The greatest pleasure the Bible translator experiences is when the completed books arrive. The Word of life has been made available in one more language. Another race of people will now have a chance of reading, in their own tongue, the Truth that can set them free from sin.

"During the early years of missionary endeavor there was no one but the missionary and the informer to get ideas across. No missionary had ever tackled the language before. Any source of information in those days was entirely hostile. No books were available for study, so we were forced to attempt a sort of translation work. We started to transcribe, as nearly as possible, the Gospel of John. Day by day the work grew, new words and new idioms were added to our knowledge, and we felt a definite thrill of pleasure as page after page and chapter after chapter were completed. Thus the foundation was laid for more serious work later on. Other Gospels followed and book after book was finished until we had the joy of completing the entire New Testament, and seeing it through the press in 1934.

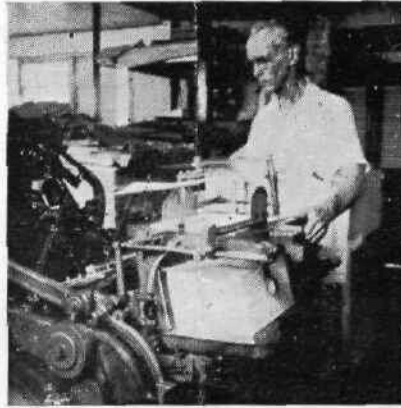
ences to so many of the patriarchs of the Old Testament, the Christians asked where they might find the stories about these men of God. That led to the beginning of the Old Testament translation, and one book after another was translated until all were complete.

"Up to shortly before the war there were no dictionaries worthy of the name. Then the Cambodian government produced the first tome of an official dictionary, setting forth the correct meanings of words in Cambodian and the correct spelling. We had developed a phonetic system of spelling, and we found that the Pali and Sanscrit-loving Cambodians had tacked on all the foreign word endings with silent characters and syllables, so that some-

times the Cambodian word was unrecognizable. This meant that the manuscripts for the newly translated Old Testament and the New Testament printed in 1934 had to be entirely revised. It seemed like a tremendous task after all the former years of labor. However, following the war, this was tackled anew and that fuller pleasure and satisfaction of seeing the whole Bible, beautifully printed and bound by the Bible Society, arrive and being received with joy by the nationals, have just been ours. May God's Spirit illumine every page and every heart as it is read. The complete satisfaction will be the fruitage that is still to be seen as the grace of God makes real the Word in the hearts and lives of believers, and as it brings conviction of sin and salvation through faith in Jesus Christ to multitudes of still unregenerate persons. This is our prayer and hope for the days ahead.'

"After the completion of the Cambodian Bible, a beautifully bound special copy was prepared in London and sent out for presentation to King Norodom Sihanouk and, upon its arrival here, an audience with His Majesty was requested. The purpose of the visit was, of course, known to the King's private secretary and, after a brief conversation with him, he called a page to bring a beautifully engraved silver tray on which to place the Bible, in readiness for presentation to His Majesty. In a few minutes, we (Rev. Curwen Smith of the Bible Society, and Rev. D. W. Ellison) were ushered into the audience chamber and the precious Book was soon placed in the hands of the King with the wish that it might indeed become a lamp unto his feet, and a light unto his path."

His Majesty showed genuine interest, asking who had translated the Bible into his language, how long



New Press in Operation



"By this time a Christian Church was well established and, after reading the New Testament refer-

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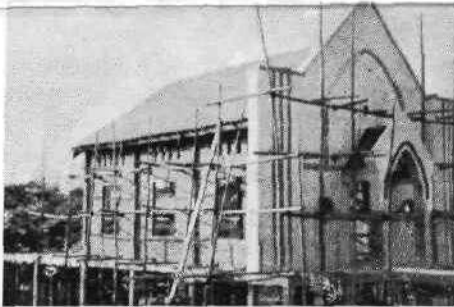
it had taken, where it had been printed and bound. It was very evident that he was impressed with this gift and he expressed great pleasure and sincere thanks to the Bible Society for sending him this precious volume."

Rev. D. W. Ellison writes, "Earnest prayer is requested for this open-minded, progressive monarch who has done so much for his nation, bringing it to full sovereign independence after 91 years of French tutelage. At present the entire nation is quiet and the doors are wide open for the preaching of the Gospel. Now is the propitious moment to bring Christ to this entire nation where the Alliance is the ONLY missionary society working among 4,500,000 people.

Since the preparation of this article, King Sihanouk, feeling that he can better serve his country otherwise, has given the reins of government to his father, King Norodom Suramarit. The Cambodian people have confidence that both he and his father, the king, have their interests very close to their hearts. We hope that soon King Norodom Suramarit may also receive a copy of the Holy Bible."

A CHURCH IN KOMPONG CHAM

Our hearts are filled with praise to the Lord for we have seen the first church in Kompong Cham Province being built. We sincerely thank everyone



who has contributed to this work in prayer and gifts. By the end of June the building was completed sufficiently to hold services in it. We hope to finish it as additional funds are made available by the gifts of those who may be interested.

Services are held regularly in three other places, but this will be the only Christian Protestant Church building in the whole province which has a population of 350,000. The Catholics have had a church here for many years.

The Gospel is going forth these days as never before. Many are hearing the Word and buying Scriptures. Some laugh and make fun, while others "like" the Good News; but, so far, only a scattered few have had enough courage to break away from custom and heathenism.

Pray with us for many souls in Kompong Cham "while it is yet day, (for) the night cometh when no man can work".
Mrs. Harold Sechrist

CAMBODIA ON THE AIR

The preparation and recording of Gospel programs to broadcast over the Far East Broadcasting Station in Manila has been a great joy and we love the work. Three years ago, when the mission purchased a recorder to start this work, we had no trained talent. There were many trying circumstances as we began to build up programs with Bible School students. Then young Christians from Phnom Penh agreed to train with us for musical numbers and we were much encouraged. These two groups are continually improving in singing and in instrumental numbers as well.



The Radio Group at Work

One lone recorder, worked to the limit, was finally in the repair shop more often than in use. Our hearts were greatly burdened for our desire to get regular programs to Manila was being constantly frustrated. Finally, the recorder quit altogether and we had to stop. Wondering what to do, we looked to the Lord to undertake. The Manila station suggested a Magnecord for master recordings. We needed two others for editing and dubbing, for it is almost impossible to have speakers and singers available simultaneously. We realized that this was His work and He would enable us to carry it out for the advancement of His Kingdom here.

Then one day the Lord answered prayer in a most remarkable way. A close friend wrote that his church was sending us their Magnecord (console type) as a personal gift. Other friends were sending us a Pentron. Just what we needed! These two machines are hard at work. Pray that they will hold up well under the strain of constant use in a tropical climate.

Today we received word from Manila that we will be on the air every day, including Sunday, from 1:00-1:15 p.m. Pray for the Radio Work!

Miriam Taylor

I saw that there was an ocean of darkness and death, But an INFINITE OCEAN of LIGHT and LOVE which flowed over the ocean of darkness. In that also I saw the INFINITE LOVE of GOD.
—George Fox

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