

Cambodia

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THE BUILDING OF THE CHURCH

"I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." — Matthew 16:18

THE SONG OF VICTORY

On the evening of April 3, 1957, the familiar strains of "Onward Christian Soldiers" could be heard coming from the open air tabernacle on the Bible School grounds at Ta Khmau. After a year of struggling for complete self-support, the Cambodian National Christian Church gathered together to carry on their first annual conference as a self-governing body. The Rev. Ouich Chan, President of the Church, presided at most of the business sessions with the help of a conference-appointed agenda committee, made up of one ordained pastor, the national Bible School teacher and a layman. Over 200 delegates, representing most of the provinces, attended Conference, each having the privilege to speak to any question but only the pastors and elders casting the final vote. A very important step taken at this Conference was the final reading and acceptance of the Church constitution. This will now be printed and presented to the Cambodian government for their recognition of the Christian Church as an organized group. As this is being done, we would urge friends in America to pray earnestly, for its acceptance will mean much to the furtherance of the Gospel in this land.

The Rev. Paul Gunther of Bangkok was the special speaker at Conference, using the Beatitudes as a ladder to victorious Christian living. The Lord blessed these messages and victory was evident in the

lives of many. We regret that all did not seek the Lord, for several disgruntled workers were not willing to put away past gripes and go on to victory in Christ. Since Conference, three of these have left the ministry to seek secular employment. Pray for Kim Toum, Reth Mang, and Krouch Khuth, that if God has really called them to preach, they will not be happy or successful until they give themselves completely to the work of the Lord.

A very significant observation of the 1957 Conference was the large number of young people attending the conference, taking an active part in both the business and evangelistic sessions. On Saturday night, they portrayed the story of the "Prodigal Son", appealing to the many unbelievers standing around to come to God, the loving Heavenly Father. The young people formed a choir for the final Sunday evening service and sang "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" with all the enthusiasm of an army going to war. As the future church, they look to the Captain of their salvation for victory. Won't you stand with them as they battle against the great

enemy of their souls as well as against the present siege of ultra — nationalism, Buddhism and Communism?

"A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing... And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us, We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us;... God's truth abideth still, His kingdom is forever!"



Youth Conference of 1956. This Year's Conference is meeting as we go to press

THE CHALLENGE OF NEW FRONTIERS

"Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8 b This familiar verse speaks of an ever expanding, ever broadening sphere of missionary endeavor.

In Southeastern Asia there are many areas that are unoccupied, not because the doors are closed, but because no one is entering the open doors. We praise God that He is permitting us, here in Cambodia, to enter two new areas. We have secured housing in two formerly unoccupied provinces and, the Lord willing, the Braleys will soon be situated in Takeo Province, and the Furnisses in Sway Rieng Province, with the added responsibility of Prey Veng Province. Pray for them as they move to their new

areas of service, that God will enable them to quickly master the language and will give them precious souls. We praise God for enabling us to open these new areas, but the eyes of the mission are turned to the other unoccupied areas as well.

There are yet eight provinces in Cambodia without resident missionaries or national workers. Two of these are of particular interest, for they have just become separate provinces because of their newly recognized importance. One of these is the Mnong Tribes area, formerly the eastern part of Kratie Province, for which Rev. & Mrs. C. E. Thompson have a particular burden. They feel the call of God to enter this area, and have already made preliminary trips which disclosed that the tribespeople of that area are friendly and keenly interested in the Gospel mes-

sage. One group went so far as to remark that they would become Christians if they could have a teacher to guide them in the new way. Please pray that God will enable Ed and Ruth to enter this area soon, and that He will give them many souls for their hire.

The other area is a new province that was formerly the western section of Kampot Province. Here, a new seaport is being built by the French, and the American government is building a one hundred and fifty mile highway from the port, across a mountain range, to Phnom Penh. This port, in the Bay of Kompong Som, will be the only seaport along the southern coast of Indo-China and Thailand, and it is predicted that it will soon become a very large center of population, its seaport serving not only all of Cambodia but neighboring nations as well. Already many Cambodians have moved to the area to work on the roads and the port. Among these migrants are a number of Christians. It is of paramount importance that the mission enter that area in the near future.

Still other very important frontiers are those where the non-Cambodian population of Cambodia live. Along the Mekong River and near Kampot live at least one hundred thousand Mohammedans, and there is not one worker for them. Chinese and Vietnamese are scattered everywhere and number in the hundreds of thousands, but there are only two Chinese churches and one Vietnamese church in all of Cambodia.

There is still very much to be done, and these new frontiers are a real challenge to every child of God who has heard the voice of the Lord of the harvest, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that he will send labourers into his harvest."

M. Bliss Steiner

THE POWER OF PERSONAL TESTIMONY



Krut Sompawn

Krut Sompawn, a young man called Pawn for short, went to the market in Skoun a few months ago to buy some fish and look around. While there, he began to converse with an old lady who sells at the market as a sort of side-line, her main business being to bear witness to Christ. A small Cambodian book in her possession, called "A Summary of the Religion of God", interested him.

The witness of this faithful

Christian who is over eighty years of age spoke to his heart. He talked with her for several hours, forgetting everything else. She told him about the preacher's house where he could buy Gospels and Christian literature. On his way home, as he came

to the preacher's home, he felt drawn to it and went in to find only the preacher's wife there. She witnessed to him and sold him several books. At home he read the books through earnestly. His father was perturbed that his son should spend money for something he considered worthless, but the lad was able to soothe him by telling him how cheap the books were as compared with other books. He also explained that he was afraid of sin because sin always outdid all good and merit he did, but Jesus saved from sin, whereas their own great teacher taught only that man would have to save himself by his own bootstraps.

The following Sunday Pawn went to church in Skoun and prayed for salvation. At that time, the Lord gave him real conviction of sin. For three months he had peddled a bike with trailer for hauling people here in Kompong Thom. He wants to go to Youth Conference very much this year, so three weeks ahead of time he sold his bike and trailer for fear that it might be difficult to sell if he waited until Youth Conference. Pray that the Lord will raise up many young people like this, and also call them as laborers for His harvest.

Joseph E. Doty



Buddhist Monks Reciting Prayers

THE BLESSINGS OF THANKSGIVING

Sunday, March 17th, was Thanksgiving Day in Kbal Chhor! From dawn until after dark the village was bustling with activity—the familiar rattling of cooking pans, the contented chatter of believers and their excited youngsters. It was a big feast day, with two hearty meals to prepare and serve. Christian guests came in from neighboring villages as far as 25 miles away. The young girls had on their pretty blouses and each child his one and only, carefully-kept outfit. It was a special day.

But the real purpose and meaning of the day was not feasting or new clothes. During the evening service, as nearly 100 unbelievers looked on, the Christians presented their tithes of rice, of fruits and vegetables. As each measure of grain was carried in and poured out as an offering to the Lord of the harvest, it grew into a small mountain, garnished with stalks of bananas, coconuts, melons, guavas

and eggs. It was especially thrilling to see the new believers from a new outstation bring their first tithe of rice to add to this annual offering. This is indeed a real sign of spiritual growth.

There was sorrow mixed with this year's joy, for, because of an unseasonal drought followed by blight, many of the regular Christian givers were not only without offering, but were without any rice for their own needs. But, praise God, they were all there, "cast down, but not destroyed", or as a modern translation puts it, they were "a bit downcast, but not beaten"! II Cor. 4:9

Mr. Awn, the young Cambodian pastor of this small country church, needs all of our prayers as he seeks to serve the Lord in this newly self-supporting church.

Ed and Ruth Thompson

THE REWARD OF PATIENCE

For two or three years we had been seeking to lead a prominent bilingual Sino-Cambodian, Hiep Ngoun, to Christ. He lives at Prek Koy, south of Kompong Cham on the bank of the Mekong River. His great hinderance seemed to be that he earned his living as a wholesaler of rice wine. Apparently he was fully persuaded of the Truth, but could not see his way clear to give up his business.

Recently we called on him again and when we asked if he were ready to receive Christ as his Lord and Savior and be delivered from his evil business, he replied in the affirmative. We explained that a piece of bent iron could not straighten itself, but must be turned over to the blacksmith. No more could he, but if he would give himself over to the Master workman, He would straighten out his entire life and business.

So we knelt together, but just as we began to pray he interrupted, saying, "But I still have a lot of rice wine in my house." We asked him, "Are you willing to let the Lord Jesus deliver you from it?" "Yes", he replied, and we prepared to pray again, but just as we began he interrupted a second time, pointing to two pictures of Buddha on the walls of his house. Again we asked a question, "Are you willing to let the Master workman straighten this out, too?" "Yes", he replied, so we united with him calling upon the Name of the Lord to save and deliver.

Pray much for this influential man, for his wife, aged parents, and four children, that they may all be gloriously saved and become outstanding testimonies to the delivering power of our Almighty God.

David and Muriel Ellison

THE JOY OF RETURN TO THE FOLD

After returning from Dalat, we were happy to resume our children's meetings again. As we looked around at this group of children, we discovered that one was missing. That one had been the most faithful in attendance and had won the attendance prize for last year, at Christmas time. Our hearts were heavy to learn that he hadn't been to church for almost three months. We also learned that his father had forbidden him to come to the services or to associate with his cousin who also attends our meetings. When we heard this, we made a visit to his home that very day. We saw his father, who was not a bit friendly to us. When we asked he told us where we could find his son, and when we began to talk with him he was too ashamed to look us in the face. When we asked him why he hadn't been to any services for so long, he said that he was angry with his cousin. Before we left, he agreed to come to church that Sunday. He has been regular in attendance since then and has a much happier expression on his face again. Praise the Lord for this one little lamb who returned to the fold before he had strayed too far.

Paula Doty



Seven New Missionaries —
Left to right — Don & Beth Furniss; Cliff & Marlene Westgren; Leonard and Bonnie Braley, with Cheryl & Carol below; and Janet Roland.

THE PERIL OF TOMORROW

One day while I was witnessing in a village I had not visited since I was a child I was startled to hear an elderly man call my name. He invited us to his home, and after he had poured us some piping hot tea he began to tell how my father had saved his wife's life by taking her to the hospital almost twenty years ago. As we witnessed to him we saw that he knew the Gospel story well, and he was friendly, but so far as his soul was concerned

he said, "If I want to believe I will believe at some other time". We urged him to repent, stressing the uncertainty of tomorrow. For him tomorrow was too late. A rifle fell over in his house and discharged accidentally. He never knew what had happened, for he died instantly with a severed spinal column.

This man went out into darkness wilfully, having heard the Gospel, but having rejected it. But what of the many millions who have never heard? Shall their blood be on our hands?

J. Paul Ellison

Go forward—cost what it may. We have no armor on our backs.
—Prophecy Monthly

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Pray for leaders in the churches. Several church groups are without pastors because of the self-support program.
- Pray for the Sunday School, that native superintendants and teachers will be raised up with a vision for the need of implanting the Word in the children's hearts.
- Pray for regular Bible School session to open September 12th, that young men and women will hear and respond to the call of God for service.
- Pray that soon something will be done to evangelize the Cham, Malay, and tribes people of Cambodia. (See article by Bliss Steiner)
- Pray for government authorization to begin work among the Mong tribes. (See article by Ed & Ruth Thompson)
- The seven new missionary language students will appreciate your continued prayer interest in their problem of dissolving the language barrier.
- There are no disappointments to those whose wills are buried in the will of God. —Prophecy Monthly
- The greater danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it. —Prophecy Monthly
- The Christian life is not truth on ice, but truth on fire. —Christian Advocate