



# Cambodia

Volume 6

Number 5

# THE CHAIRMAN

*by Lavinia McCart*

Where is the Chairman? This question is asked many times in a day and the answer is usually different every time! He has an office and a secretary but neither see him very much. Why? Well, let's follow him for a morning.

8:00 A. M. Chairman and staff meet for morning devotions. Very seldom is this important part of his day neglected.

8:30 A. M. Daily mail arrives. Letters are read and sorted for answers according to urgency for reply. Urgent or not, many times they must be temporarily put aside. Why? For any of several reasons as follows: —

1. An unexpected visit from the national pastor to talk over some church problem or plan. This usually results in a future appointment being made to meet with the church committee.

2. A call from the Post Office to please come over and pick up the many packages (usually used greet-

ing cards) too heavy and too numerous for the mailman to deliver to the house by bicycle. Even in menial tasks his favorite expression is heard, "Well, praise the Lord!"

3. As long as he's going to the Post Office, he might as well make the purchases that one of the missionaries out on a station has requested. The Chairman is also the business agent for the entire mission staff.

10:00 A. M. This finds the Chairman checking over some accounts with the bookkeeper so as to answer questions for Headquarters. He has a bookkeeper, but since he is the Field Treasurer all final entries must have his approval.

10:30 A. M. The morning is about spent, for offices and stores close shortly and will not reopen for business until 2:30. The translator has worked most of the morning by himself but now the Chairman joins him to begin translating one of the final chapters of "The Voice of the Spirit" by H. L. Turner.

11:50 A. M. The first bell rings announcing dinner in five minutes, but first we have a repair job on hand for his daughter, who pleadingly says, "But Daddy, it's the only purse I have!"

12:00 Noon finds a happy missionary family of ten, instead of the usual two or three, seated around the table—the Chairman, his wife and daughter, and

two missionary families who have had to make a trip to the city for various reasons. One has been troubled with a tooth-ache for weeks and must have the attention of the French dentist. The children's teeth must be checked too, before returning for another

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## MISSIONARY DIRECTORY

*Rev. & Mrs. H. M. Taylor, Chairman*

*Miss Lavinia McCart, Secretary*

*Miss Janet Roland, Bookkeeper*

*Mr. & Mrs. C. M. Westergren, Publication*

*Rev. & Mrs. W. H. Holton, Chinese Work*

*Rev. & Mrs. M. E. Graven, Takhmau Bible School*

**72 PRAH BAT NORODOM, PHNOM PENH**

*Rev. & Mrs. B. D. Dunning*

**MISSION EVANGELIQUE, KAMPOT**

*Rev. & Mrs. D. W. Ellison*

**MISSION EVANGELIQUE, KOMPONG CHAM**

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

**MISSION EVANGELIQUE, KRATIE**

*Rev. & Mrs. D. R. Furniss*

**MISSION EVANGELIQUE, TAKEO**

### ON FURLOUGH

*Rev. & Mrs. L. E. Braley*

*Rev. & Mrs. F. C. Peterson*

*Rev. & Mrs. A. G. Kowles*

*Rev. & Mrs. J. E. Doty*

*Rev. & Mrs. H. K. Sechrist*

*Rev. & Mrs. M. B. Steiner*

*Rev. & Mrs. A. L. Hammond*

*Rev. & Mrs. J. P. Ellison*

semester of school. A Press and Publication committee meeting has been called for 2 P.M., so another missionary comes from his station to help make decisions regarding this important means of spreading the Gospel. Yes, being host to missionaries is also part of the work of the Chairman and his wife, for they have the responsibility of running the Receiving Home.

Needless to say, there are numerous trips to government offices to secure visas, passport extensions, and permissions to print booklets, tracts, and the regularly published Bible Magazine. This only begins to describe the busy days of the Chairman, whose work often lengthens into the evening hours. But never do any of these unending duties take pre-eminence over the occasions to personally witness to individuals coming for spiritual help. These are not, as some would say "interruptions," but are welcomed as timely and God-sent opportunities to carry out his first responsibility here in Cambodia. For our Chairman is foremost a spiritual leader and enjoys nothing more than an opportunity to spread the Gospel, whether by individual contacts or the ministry of the Word on Sundays. We praise the Lord for His constant leading and raise our hearts in thanksgiving and prayer that God will grant our Chairman wisdom, guidance, and strength for these numerous demands each day.

by *Merle E. Graven*

## **A CHALLENGING MINISTRY**

If you visited the United States Embassy auditorium on any Sunday morning at eleven o'clock, you would find, assembled together, a heterogeneous selection of people holding various theological persuasions. Asian and Caucasian, evangelical and liberal, government personnel and others listen to the message of Redemption given without denominational connotations.

In early 1955, two United States government employees requested our mission to inaugurate weekly Sunday morning worship services for the English speaking population of this area. Accordingly, International Church was born and to this ministry we were later appointed, assuming the responsibility in July, 1955.

Since then, several have knelt at the foot of the Cross in humble contrition of sin. Two letters have been received from a KLM airlines employee, currently Research Director of KLM in Central and South

America, stating that he is continuing to follow the Master whom he found here.

One discouraging factor of such a work is the fluctuation of attendance due to rotation of government personnel. For several months, the congregation will increase at an encouraging rate. Then, suddenly 30 to 40 percent will be transferred to other posts, thereby leaving our ranks greatly depleted.

However, this ministry is not without immeasurable compensations. There is the opportunity to present the Gospel to many who were formerly nourished on liberalism, and also to challenge the Christians in their spiritual life. Recently, an United States Army Colonel inquired as to the procedure of contributing to Alliance Missions upon his return to the States. "For," he said, "I believe in the work that the Alliance is doing."

We will be leaving for furlough within the next year. Pray that God will call some pastor to replace us in this important and challenging ministry!

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### **PRAY FOR**

*The Annual Cambodian Youth Conference  
which will be held August 1-23.*

*Students for Long Term Bible School  
which opens in September.*

# A LAYMEN'S CONFERENCE

*by Ed and Ruth Thompson*

For weeks, perhaps months, we had sensed a coldness and dryness in the Kabal Chuor church. But now we were going to have a Laymen's conference—eight days of study in God's Word and evangelistic services every night. Rev. Augustine Salins, from India, had come as our guest for two days to preach mornings and evenings. Rev. and Mrs. Merle Graven had arrived to direct the conference and to teach along with Kru Kung, the Bible School teacher. The program promised to be varied and instructive. Thirteen Christians decided to attend all the classes, and others agreed to come during their spare time. We had been praying for God's blessing. The first Sunday was a wonderful day and we were off to a good start. But our arch enemy had been busy making his plans too. It didn't take him long to launch his attack!

Early Monday morning, one of the elders and a younger Christian quarrelled violently. By the time



we arrived for classes, the story had spread through the village like wildfire. The Christians were not only distressed but deeply ashamed before their unsaved neighbors. Even though we visited the offenders and plead with them to become reconciled to each other, we weren't very successful. What a terrible atmosphere for welcoming our Indian guest! But how wonderful that he came filled with the Holy Spirit and with a message overflowing with love to Jesus Christ. The tears ran down his cheeks as he gave his testimony and spoke of his devotion to the Saviour. The meeting became hushed. As the altar call was given, the old elder got to his feet, hurried back to the one with whom he had quarrelled so bitterly, took him by the hand and together they went to the



The Kbal Chuor Church

altar. They wept tears of shame, of repentance, and of joy. From then on, the conference progressed on "oiled wheels." Praise the Lord! Not only during the two days when Brother Salins ministered, but all during the classes, the Lord dealt with the Christians. There was much confession of sin, and then the seeking of cleansing and the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Coldness has been replaced by warmth and the "dry bones" have come to life as a result of the Laymen's Conference. Praise God!

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### **COPY OR FILLER—WHICH?**

Have you ever wondered, "What good is the Missionary Directory," and in haste slipped past that page thinking, "It's just filler"?

Wait a minute!

The Missionary Directory is your team rooster. It clearly identifies each member, where he lives and the position he plays. It tells when there are changes in the line-up, and who is on home leave. Also, the directory, used with the aid of an encyclopedia and map, makes available many other important facts and statistics.

It's aim is to raise up team support necessary for victory. When is the last time you checked the team's standing?

## **CAMBODIAN CULTURE IN REVIEW**

The Cambodian language is written in a system of characters that originated in southern India around the sixth century A. D. and was introduced to Cambodia with other aspects of Indian culture.

These characters have both artistic appeal and religious meaning. The Cambodian derives pleasure from being able to write them well. But more than enjoying their beauty, he has a deep respect for the characters themselves. To him they are sacred in origin and possess spiritual power.

Efforts have been made to romanize the Cambodian character, but no uniform system was ever agreed upon. The attempts made in this direction were met with stiff resistance from the religious leaders. They felt that romanization would eventually crush traditional sacred teachings and, consequently, would infringe on the control that the Buddhist clergy hold over their people. As a result, all proposed romanization was abandoned.

The purpose of these attempts of romanization was primarily to make the Cambodian character adaptable for modern typesetting machines, in order to facilitate rapid distribution of information. However, even today, all type is still set by hand.

The characters form an alphabet of 33 consonants, 21 vowels, 12 unmodified sounds, 8 accent and special marks and 10 numerals. Cambodian is read from left to right the same as English. It differs in that: characters are placed above or below, as well as following each other, there is no space between words, and punctuation is denoted by space rather than by punctuation marks.

With their roots deep in ancient Indian culture and present religious feeling, the Cambodian characters combine to form one of the neatest, most beautiful written alphabets of the world. Here they are for your observation and appreciation.

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អុំ អំ អាំ អះ ក ត្រ ឌ ឝ ឞ ឡ ប ឃ ឃ្ល ង ឆ ជ ឈ ញ ណ

០ ១ ២ ៣ ៤ ៥ ៦ ៧ ៨ ៩ ០