



Cambodia

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INDIAN EVANGELIST

visits

CAMBODIAN CHURCHES

David W. Ellison

Early last year, Rev. Choy, a Korean Evangelist, held Evangelistic campaigns in Cambodia and God gave refreshing "mercy drops" of blessing. This year during January and February, Rev. Augustine Salins, of South India, came and God graciously gave us "showers of blessing". For fifteen days, this Spirit-filled servant of God poured out his heart every night and twice on Sundays in the new Evangelistic Center in Phnom Penh with encouraging results. *Many Christians met the Lord in a deeper experience and a number of backsliders confessed their sins publicly and privately. Each night the church was well filled with a most attentive audience, many of whom were unsaved. Praise the Lord for 85 who came to the altar seeking salvation. Many of these were fine young students from the high schools and colleges of the city. Among the converts were also*

a saffron robed buddhist priest and a high government official. Another cause for encouragement was that frequently someone who had come to the altar would return bringing friends to the Saviour also.

From Phnom Penh, Mr. Salins visited Battambang, Kampot, Kompong Cham, and Kratie. In each of these cities, God did a real work of grace, melting the hearts of His people in deep contrition. A typical example of this took place at Kratie, where a brother, after coming to the altar, got up, went back to another with whom he had quarrelled, brought him to the altar and there made things right in the presence of all. At Kompong Cham, the campaign coincided with the Red Chinese Exposition as well as their New Year. The exposition was within



Pastor Hok, Evangelist Salins, Field Chairman Taylor

half a block of the church. This assured us of a large but floating congregation every night. At the close of every service, groups of young people could be seen inside the church. In the center of each group was a Christian answering questions and preaching the Gospel until ten or eleven o'clock at night.

This we believe is the Day of Salvation for Cambodia. Evil influences vie for the hearts and minds of the millions of this nation as never before; nevertheless there are many unmistakable evidences that God is working in a new way, especially among the students. The coming of Mr. Salins has been most timely and we thank God with all our hearts for this beloved man of God.

Won't you join with us in believing prayer that we may witness this year a great awakening and ingathering of precious souls in Cambodia?

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Building

KAMPOT'S FIRST CHURCH

Bernard D. Dunning

The Christians in the city of Kampot commemorated the birth of Christ by worshipping in their new church. They have prayed many years for this building.

Rev. and Mrs. Bliss Steiner were the missionaries who first saw the desires of the Christians realized. By the time they were ready to leave for furlough, *the land had been bought, plans for the building had been submitted and approval granted, and nearly all the lumber necessary to build the church had been purchased.* All this was of great encouragement to the believers.

After our arrival in Kampot, we immediately began to prepare for the construction of the church. As the building progressed, we noticed that the interest also increased. This continued until its completion.

Twice during the period of construction, the work was stopped for lack of funds. This proved to be a time of meeting God rather than a time of discouragement. As the children of God prayed, God sent in the needed funds.

The Christians set Christmas as a deadline for the church to be finished because they wanted to have the services held in the new building. As the time

sped by, we began to wonder if the deadline could be met. Material for the floor was hard to find as there was a great demand for lumber. One week before Christmas, the floor and partition had not been started. The believers prayed that God would help them locate the lumber necessary and also help them complete it on time. God answered their prayers and on Saturday evening, December 20, with the aid of electric lights supplied by a portable generator, we were able to finish laying the floor. Sunday morning service was a precious time as we gathered in the nearly finished building to worship the Lord.

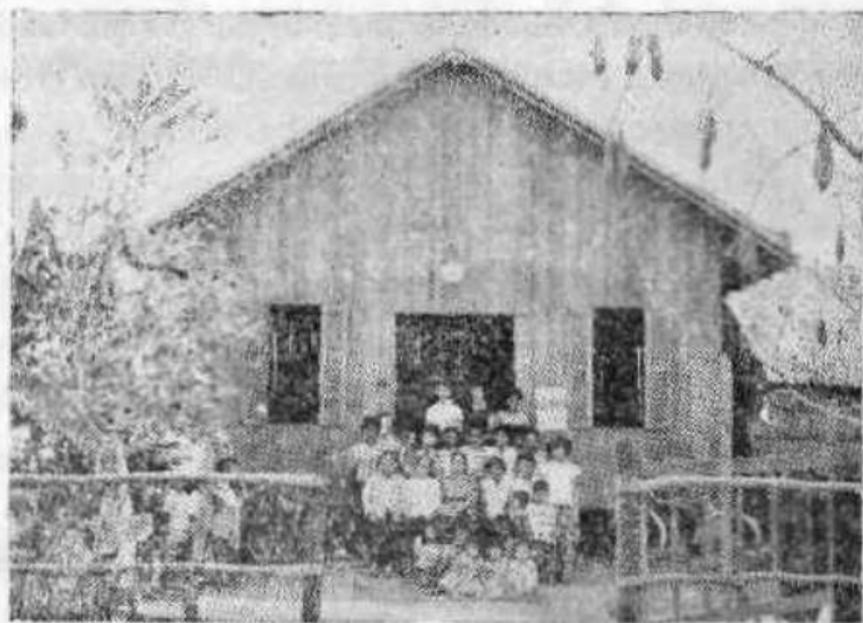
Three days before Christmas the partition and the decorations were not yet finished. The Christians spent every spare minute of their time at the church helping to finish the work before the Christmas Eve service. The decorations were all made by the young people. Two hours before the service began, the partition and the decorations were finished.

Yes, Christmas 1958 was a wonderful occasion in Kampot. In each service as we thought of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we saw the love and power of our living Lord manifest, in answer to prayer, for a building in which to worship Him.

Since the beginning of the New Year, we have held Sunday evening services with young and old crowding into the church. Pray with us that this building will be a light house directing the lost to Christ.



The Christians of Kampot . . .



. . . and their new church.

CAMBODIAN CULTURE IN REVIEW

Almost every Cambodian male dons monastic attire at some time in his life, either by choice or by necessity, some permanently, some temporarily.

After entering the pagoda community, his daily activities are in principle determined and regulated by the Buddhist ten commandments. For instance, the third commandment is the vow of chastity. Besides remaining unmarried and distant from women, all stylishness must be abandoned: his head, eyebrows, and beard are shaved, and for clothes, he wears merely a striking, bright, yellow robe.

A monk's everyday life is routinized and monotonous. He rises about five in the morning for prayer and meditation, then leaves the pagoda to seek food from the laity, usually from steady "customers." The acquired meal must be finished before high noon, though he may drink water later. Several hours of the morning are also spent in classes or lectures, while in the afternoon he rests and studies privately. The evening hours are usually spent in meditating. The schedule varies according to location and rank.

The Buddhist monk is omnipresent in Cambodian life, teaching moral laws, performing religious rites, and giving medical services. Yellow robes now clothe about 100,000 of Cambodia's 5,000,000 people. c.w.