

Bangkok 4, Thailand
March 13, 1975

RECEIVED
FOREIGN DEPARTMENT 5
MAR 20 1975

*cc. To R.N.B. }
N.C. } 3/20/75
A.S. }*

Rev. T. G. Mangham, Jr.
Box C
Nyack, New York 10960

Dear Grady:

Thank you for the following correspondence:

FILE _____

- letter TGM 2/28/75
- Photocopies ltr Vergil Gerber 2/25 to Rev. Reach Yea
- Letter TGM 3/5
- Photocopy ltr W. Conley 3/1/75 to TGM

Also the following cable was received on February 27 saying:

"PLEASE ADVISE LOCATIONS AND PLANS EACH FAMILY OR INDIVIDUAL".

This was followed by another cable:

"UNDERSTAND FROM PASTOR ST PAUL FOLKESTAD BECK DESIRE RETURN PHNOM PENH STOP IF ON VOLUNTARY BASIS AUTHORIZE THEM PROCEED AS CAMA REPRESENTATIVES."

On March 7 a cable was received saying:

"REQUEST PHONE CONTACT EARLIEST POSSIBLE STOP REQUEST KROHS DELAY VISIT PENANG UNTIL AFTER YOU TELEPHONE ME STOP ASSURE ALL OUR CONTINUING PRAYERS".

On March 8 the following cable was received:

"WORD FROM PHNOM PENH AS OF NIGHT MARCH FIVE INDICATES CITY TENABLE STOP PRESIDENT BAILEY AND DOM AGREE VOLUNTEERS FROM MEDICAL TEAM AND MISSIONARY MEN MAY RETURN STOP AWAITING YOUR PHONE CALL".

SITUATION: You probably have more up-to-date news than we regarding the overall situation but I will share what I have learned. As I mentioned over the phone our friend said that the situation had generally deteriorated. When asked whether he thought the rebel forces would try to overrun the airport or the city, he replied that they had the capacity to do both.

Yesterday, the British Embassy ordered all of its citizens out and I understand have moved their ambassador's residence to Saigon. This removed the entire W. V. medical team in that they are all members of the Commonwealth. Presently World Vision has two of their staff now in P.P. Those who came out spoke of the increase of rockets into the city but the appearance of things generally about the same as when we left. The most dangerous area seems to be in the area of the airport as 8 rockets came in during their departure.

We inquired about the state of the church but was sorry that they didn't have any news. They did mention that a rocket landed very close to our guest home but there was no damage. Generally they said that a feeling of hopelessness prevailed over the capitol with the populace reconciled to a change before too long.

BECK AND FOLKESTAD:

Before leaving Phnom Penh Bob and Chuck contacted World Vision about returning and assisting their team until our medical staff returned. Actually our medical team has been cooperating with the W. V. teams right along in ministry in the relief camps. Though Bob and Chuck have had a real desire to return the news has consistently been that the situation is deteriorating. They tried to go in on Saturday, March 8 on the U. S. Embassy plane but there were no seats available. At present they are booked to fly in on Thursday, March 13 which is today. There is still some question in their minds for just yesterday the entire W. V. medical team was evacuated to Singapore by R.A.A.F. Bob and Chuck were counting on working with them so this raises the question as to the advisability of their return now. They are going to inquire some more before making a final decision about leaving.

MISSIONARIES: I would like to give a brief rundown on the plans for the immediate present for the staff.

Dean and Esther Kroh, Mary Lou Rorabaugh and Lynn Walsh: They have gone to Dalat School to give medical examinations to the students. This will probably require around 10 days to 2 weeks.

Dean and Andy have expressed that they feel their primary responsibility is with the hospital. At present the W. V. crew is still preparing the hospital to turn over to us. If there is a stabilizing of the situation Dean and Andy will return the latter part of this month to check the advisability of bringing in the nursing staff. Also the availability of essential supplies. It is felt a more stable situation than what now prevails is necessary for once a hospital is open, evacuation is hardly an option.

Andrew and Beverly Bishop: Will remain in Bangkok doing preparatory work for opening the hospital and possible language study.

Ruth Patterson and Barbara Neath: To Vietnam and vacation at Dalat. Afterwards to Cantho for language study and part-time medical work.

Norman and Marie Ens: One immediate responsibility is to help their son David who as you know was suspended from Dalat. Not only do they want to spend time counseling David but also need to have correspondence courses sent out from Canada. They have an additional problem about returning to Phnom Penh now with David being with them. There are a number of very important jobs which Norman can do even in Bangkok which are greatly needed in the Khmer Church. The first being a manual on baptism.

Tom and Sandi Wisley: In the two weeks Tom was in the Khmer Republic he was already knee-deep in the work and thoroughly enjoying it. For his sake I am very sorry that it was so short. Tom will be making a survey trip along the Thai-Khmer border next week checking out the rumors that there are many refugees located there. This could involve him for the future though if it is possible I would like to have Tom back in P.P. With two small children Sandi will probably have to remain in Bangkok.

Jean-Jacques and Maria Piaget: Jean-Jacques will return to P.P. before long though I have asked him to consider visiting Frank Gray in Vientiane for preparation for the radio work first. Maria is anxious to return but said last night she would wait for authorization from New York. In accordance with our phone conversation I told them that permission for her return should come from the A.C.M. in France. I appreciated their excellent spirit.

KHMER MISSION HEADQUARTERS: We have temporarily set up in Bangkok. An account for the Khmer Mission was opened at the Bank of America. On leaving P.P. I got a Cashiers check leaving only about \$400.00 in our P.P. banking account. Even if we do return I

think it is best to keep this Bangkok account until things stabilize in Phnom Penh.

After getting Mission matters squared away I am planning on returning to P.P. to observe the situation and consider our future ministry. I hope this trip can be undertaken next week if transportation is available.

SPIRITUAL RETREAT: The C.M.A. and O. M.F. staff members went to the lovely Rose Gardens for a four day retreat last week. It was a very beautiful and restful resort and did all of us much good both physically and spiritually. David Anderson brought a series of messages of Psalms 23 which were so apropos to our situation. The spirit of love and unity was so real amongst the staff.

BANMETHUOT: After our phone call the missionaries at the guest home met for prayer remembering our colleagues caught in the city of Banmethuot. It is difficult to believe that this place is once again leading our constituency to it's knees before God. Shortly after talking to you F.E.B.C. reported radio contact had been made with them for which we praise God. Each day we are meeting for prayer for their safety and deliverance as well as the Khmer work and trust soon word will be received confirming this.

NUMBER OF BAPTISMS: I appreciated your words to us regarding the small increase in baptisms in 1974 compared to the number of conversions. We took notice of this admonition and praise God that during the two months of January and February there were 213 baptisms. We set a goal of 1000 baptisms for 1975 and as you can see that at this rate the goal will be met. There is a problem within the Khmer Church for only pastors are allowed to perform the rite of baptism and with 9 or 10 pastors and 38 works it is obvious that there's going to be problems. The Lord willing we will keep working on this when we return.

I appreciated Dr. Conley's letter and while in Bangkok have purchased one of the books he suggested. I do not agree however with his statement that the Khmer Church grew 30 per cent in 1974. "Church growth" as he stated is synonymous with the rate of growth in baptisms and if so that figure is accurate. In Merle Graven's Narrative Report in 1973 he said that there were an average of 700 people attending church in P.P. In my survey I found that in 1974 there was an average of 2762 persons attending the churches in P.P. on any given Sunday which is a 300 per cent increase. It is probable that not all of the 2762 persons were believers but it is also probable that not all the Christians were present on any given Sunday. It is difficult to get an accurate idea of growth through the number of those making decisions. Those who "pray" as we term it would be in the thousands and I feel an unrealistic figure. On the other hand baptisms are at the other extreme so for that reason I chose to survey church attendance as a medium between the two extremes. At best I realize that such an effort is sketchy but plan to follow it with other surveys with the hope of getting a more complete picture. In a culture which is not too concerned with statistics it makes information gathering difficult but we will keep at it.

Cordially,



A. Eugene Hall
Board Representative

AEM:ch
c.c. Bordreuil
enclosures