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Running Up The Light

A yearly flood in Cambodia covers thousands of square miles, an area with a large population. In Battambang Province at least thirty thousand people live in this inundated forest area, and the flood covers parts of four other provinces as well. In this one province there are more than forty fishing villages, with many of the houses floating on bamboo rafts, and those in shallower water perched on high stilts, giving them a spidery appearance at low water time.

Throughout this vast area, accessible only by boat, the Gospel had never been preached. With a vision for pioneering there, Ed Thompson and I brought his motor boat "The Good News" to Battambang for several weeks of witnessing among these people. The trip from Ta Khmau, in the heavily laden launch, was marked by visits to a number of large towns where we witnessed and sold books. In the 75 mile run across the great green lake, the Lord helped us to make good speed and we arrived safely on the other side just as a storm broke in fury on this lake whose storms raise waves to almost legendary proportions. Going up the Battambang river we passed through water, dyed by tannic acid from submerged trees to the color of black tea. We saw a contrasting white pelican startled into flight; floating airplants and tree-tops hindered progress. Finally we entered a stronger silt-laden current and, just before midnight, we saw the lights of Battambang where a Gospel band, including two Christians, a Cambodian student pastor and the local Chinese pastor, boarded the launch.



The Gospel Band Visits "Fish Cheese Port"

Now we began the main part of our project—that of taking the Gospel to the floating villages. First we went to "Broken Cutlass" where the village chief, who had heard the Gospel in Battambang, was very friendly and was glad to receive a gift of literature. With a little boat, which he lent us, and a rented canoe, we canvassed the village with Christian literature. Books, often whole sets, were sold in every home. Some were bought with borrowed money. We sold books at the Buddhist temple, and gave a set to the chief priest who urged us to show our colored slides at the temple that night. After the pictures a young man came to me, asking to buy the "Eat the Pigs' Food Book", and I was about to reply that we had no such book, when I suddenly realized what he wanted and handed him a Gospel of Luke opened at the story of the Prodigal Son.

Later we visited other villages, including "Old Forest", "Skinny Alligator", "Enchanted Tablet", and "Fish Cheese Port". In each place we were received gladly and had many opportunities to lift up the Light of the world for all to see. We spent two days in "Fish Cheese Port", a village of over five thousand people. There we moored the launch to a newly made wharf at the public school. That night, as we were eating, little boats filled with people came from every direction, converging on the little wharf from whence could be clearly heard the Gospel message from records prepared and donated by Gospel Recordings, Inc. That night we showed pictures depicting God, our Creator, our Master, and our Saviour, a new message for these people who had never heard before, and one which interested them greatly.

After the pictures Ed slowly and carefully ran a bright light up the flagpole. It seemed to symbolize our purpose on the trip, that of running up the true Light, our Lord Jesus Christ. Our heart prayer was that as this light brightened every corner of the village, even so darkened hearts might be enlightened through faith in Christ. "The people which sat in darkness saw a great Light, and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death, Light hath sprung up."

Pray that God may enable us to return to these villages periodically in order that these people may all have a chance to hear about Christ and know Him as their Saviour. There is an urgent need for a mission boat to take the Gospel to these lake people, who cannot be reached otherwise. If you want a part in this ministry, you may send your gifts designated "For Gospel Boat, Cambodia", a project approved by the New York Foreign Department. Send them c/o the C. & M. A., 260 West 44th Street, New York 36, New York. Paul Ellison

ALWAYS BLESSINGS AND PROBLEMS

A young man has been trying for two years to get back his wife who has left him to live with her parents. Can I help? There is trouble among brethren in another place, and one of the faithful has stayed away from church for over two months, but a late Saturday night persuasive talk with the man, and the Lord changes his mind. He rejoins the Christians in worship on Sunday morning. A Christian widow is away working for a well-to-do family, but Sunday morning at seven o'clock, she is at the service, having taken off from work and walking over two miles to be present at church. At another place, only a handful are present because of dissension in the church. One elder has held a grudge and stayed away for more than three months. The Lord help him. At another place a Christian has hacked out new farm land from the forest. This family has borne faithful witness for Christ. As a result, the noon hour service at their place was attended by five unbelievers, and two women prayed for salvation. Praise the Lord! At the next place, a Christian of long standing was suffering with sick legs. Possibly a sick heart is the source of his trouble. A woman there wanted me to check on a young lady to see if she might be eligible to be the wife of a Christian relative of hers. These are some of the problems and blessings I encountered in one week-end of visitation of churches under my present responsibility. It would be quite different if there were at least one national pastor to minister to these groups mentioned. Do pray that the Lord will raise up God-called pastors and lay-workers in Cambodia.

Joseph Doty

OTHER SHEEP I HAVE

Several interesting incidents have come to our attention recently, and I shall tell you about two of them. One is the salvation of an eighty year old lady, and the other of a young man of eighteen.

The old lady found the Lord just a few weeks ago. Two Bible School students were holding services in a home. When she, passing by, heard the singing, she went in. Her heart was touched by the message, so new to her, and she asked to become a Christian. The worker talked with her for quite a while, and she understood and asked to enter the Jesus Way immediately, but he urged her to wait awhile. Then she told this story. "Several years ago I was very ill and became unconscious. They thought I was dead, so they bought white cloth and were wrapping me in it, getting me ready for the coffin and cremation, but someone, helping with the cloth, noticed that my feet were warm. Soon I regained consciousness and got well. I was almost burned alive, taken for dead. Now I am old and want to be free from sin,

and be a child of the Lord Jesus. I don't have much longer to live. I want to know I am safe in the Lord Jesus." They prayed with her, and she prayed, and the peace of God entered her heart, and now she has joy unspeakable. Up to that Sunday she had never heard the message of salvation through the Lord Jesus, but God had His eye on her. "Other sheep I have".

Now I want you to meet a young man whose name means "Forever".

For two years he had come to Youth Conference, held at Ta Khmau Bible School. I had him both years in one of my classes. He was timid and unhappy, his face so sad. He did well in all of his classes. This year he gave up a good job and came again, his third time. Now do you wish to hear his testimony?

"I am the son of a former pastor, but had never been saved. Yes, I attended family devotions, but how I hated the Bible and God. I tore up a Bible and New Testament that I received as rewards. Words cannot show you how I hated those Bibles. I came this year, the third time, but I knew I wasn't saved. I did good work, but was really unhappy. Then, the last Sunday afternoon, after listening to a heart-stirring message by a missionary (I had been under conviction all week, and was so unhappy) I went forward and wept my way to God, and was gloriously saved. Now His love fills my heart, and I love Him and want to serve Him. My parents gave me permission to come to long term Bible School this year. I had no money to get to Phnom Penh, but got a free ride; then God sent in my support. Now I am here, studying hard to please the Lord, and am happy indeed, and am forever His".

He is an excellent student, and his face beams with inner peace and joy. He didn't like his name, but the other day he told me that he likes it now for, he says, "Now I am forever His, God's child; I have a place forever in Heaven with Him; I have joy and peace forever in my heart for Christ reigns within." Praise God for this other sheep. Pray for the other millions here without Jesus.

Esther Hammond



**The New
Recording
Studio
during
Installation**

**Kru Yea and
Harry Taylor**

A LESSON IN SELF-DENIAL

Inside a leaf and mud hut in the little village of "The Dog Has Pups" lives a bony, straight, elderly man called Ta Chan Et. He is a poor farmer who grows rice, has a small vegetable garden, a few pigs and chickens, and two cows. His house is undistinguishable from the others nearby except that it is a little poorer, houses only five instead of the usual eleven or twelve children, and that, search where you may, you will find no spirit house with its offerings of flowers and food. This is a home unique, distinguished from others, because here Christ is honored and worshiped.

Ta Chan Et, the leading elder of the local Christians, is much respected and perhaps a little feared. He has walked close with God and has been a true living epistle depicting what a Christian should be. He is quick to visit the sick, pray with them, anoint with oil, and to trust with them until God answers prayer. He comforts the bereaved, buries the dead, and each week gathers the Christians together for prayer and worship.

This man has, however, one feature (or rather lack of one) which I am sure you would quickly notice. He has no teeth and for years has been eating only soft foods and speaking lispingly. When the missionary suggested that he could purchase himself a very nice set of dentures for two or three hundred riels, he replied rather wistfully, but emphatically, that he never had that much extra.

No money for teeth! Yet a number of times he has given a litter of pigs worth two hundred riels to the district pastor. No teeth money! but a regular tithe to the Lord. No teeth money! yet many a load of kindling to help cook the pastor's rice. No money for teeth! yet always money to help a needy Christian. Last year he scraped together enough money to send three children to youth conference, and to buy a suit of clothes for a destitute widow. The children must go to youth conference, for that is essential if they are to become strong Christians — but still, no money for teeth!

I believe that sometime the Lord will honor this man's way of life and allow him to finally get those teeth. But, should he never be so blessed financially, I am sure that no smile will ever be more beautiful to the Lord than that of this faithful, toothless country servant. Christ said that we should deny ourselves and follow him. Many are too full of their own desires to want to sacrifice and put the Lord's things first. We praise God for Ta Chan Et and others like him who have been redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb, and who, through sacrifice and service, are trying to walk closely in His steps.

Eunice Ellison

HOPES FOR A CHINESE CHURCH IN PHNOM PENH

When their church building in Phnom Penh burned to the ground, in 1954, the Chinese Christians hoped that soon it would be possible to erect another building of their own for worship and evangelization. Alas! The building program was hindered and opposed for nearly two and a half years, then the government rejected a request to erect another structure at the former location because of a rezoning project.

Amidst the discouragements prayer was continued and effort expended and finally a piece of land in a good location was located. A company was formed to make it possible to buy the land legally. In July the contract was formally completed. Building operations we hope will soon begin and it is hoped that a meeting place will be available by next summer. It has taken nearly one million Cambodian riels to buy the land and at least a million and a half more will be needed to erect a suitable building. One half million riels of this amount is *hand already, for the people have given generously and sacrificially, some denying themselves most nobly.* Folks have contributed gold rings, earrings, bracelets, gold crosses, etc.

We want to leave a monument in this land for the praise and glory of the Lord, that such a "House of the Lord" might emit strong influences reaching out to the Chinese throughout Cambodia, where there are perhaps close to half a million Chinese souls. Such a Chinese church, centrally located, can do much in reaching out to these who still sit in spiritual darkness. Prospects look brighter, and we take courage for the days ahead. Would you not like to share in this project? Your gifts and prayers will be greatly appreciated. Please pray that our desires shall be fulfilled, and that a greater harvest of souls shall be gathered for the Lord from among the Chinese in this benighted land. A. G. Kowles

WHERE ARE WE?

Where are we? This is a question oft repeated among Christians in America as well as men of the world.

Are we advancing spiritually or are we losing ground? The intelligent answer is not easily given.

We are happy to give this witness from personal experience. We have never had a furlough in which we made more friends who were genuinely interested in missions and who pledged to stand behind Cambodia for the cause of Christ.

The eternal issues of these sobering days must call us to new and nobler consecration and devotion to the burden of our Saviour, MISSIONS.

Harry Taylor

4 PRAYER REMINDER

In August Bonnie Braley, one of our new missionaries, was stricken with polio, and returned, almost completely paralyzed, with Len and their two daughters, to the States. Len writes that she is making unusual progress, types for finger exercise, and has attended church in a wheel chair, although she cannot yet use her lower limbs. They are trusting God for complete recovery from the paralyzing effects of this illness. Their going has, in the natural, been a great loss to our field, yet we know that "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose", and although we don't understand it, yet we know that he is working out His purpose even in this. Let us pray, with the Braleys, for complete recovery for Bonnie, and their speedy return to Cambodia, if God will.

Our New Chairman, Rev. Harry Taylor, Mrs. Taylor, & Judy

WELCOME BACK

We are happy to welcome Mr. & Mrs. H. M. Taylor, and Judy, and Mr. & Mrs. B. D. Dunning and Darell back to the field from their recent furloughs. Harry comes as our new chairman and they are living at the receiving home in Phnom Penh. May God pour out His rich blessings upon these couples and use them in mighty ways to the salvation of souls and the building of His Church here in Cambodia.

The Cambodian Gospel Press wishes to thank those who gave generously to the Cambodian Tract Fund. We now have a good stock but trust the donors will not forget to pray as these tracts are distributed.