

# Cambodia

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**Prasah, Pok Sua, Lim Chheong, Dararith**

# "GOD'S FOUR - HUNDRED"

*By Lavinia McCart*

"One man with God is a majority!" So many times we depend on large numbers and when we hear it said, "There are only four students in the Bible School this year," we begin to wonder what good they can do. God's promise is that he can save by many or by few. So we praise the Lord that He has called out these four very promising young men. They call themselves "God's Four-hundred" and Christians and heathen alike are watching to see what God can do through consecrated men of faith.

PRASAH is the son of former Christian workers in Battambang Province. He is now a second year student. He has an unusual zeal and talent for personal witnessing. When he told his parents he was going on to Bible School, they put him out of the house and told him not to return. He went to a small town called Stung Chas where there was a chapel but no worker. He visited the Christians, encouraging them and had the joy of leading two to the Lord at that time. Since returning to school, God has used

him and our hearts are thrilled to hear him preach, readily quoting Scripture. Recently, he confessed to his English teacher that he hadn't studied his lesson because he wanted to spend as much time as possible on the preparation of his sermons. He said sometimes at night he preaches to the trees because his greatest desire is to be a good preacher.

POK SUA comes from Kampot Province, the son of faithful Christians. Following Youth Conference last year, he felt he wanted to go on to Long Term School. The Lord has helped him to keep up with the other students who have had more formal education. This month, when he suddenly realized his identity card had expired two months hence, he remembered the local government in Kampot had warned him not to forget to renew it on the date it was due. He left the Bible School at TaKhmau and went back to Kampot to meet the officers in charge. Although he had to wait *four days—receiving the answer on the evening* the missionaries were gathered together praying for this need—he praised the Lord that he was able to get a new card without having to pay any fine. He returned to school with real joy in his heart.

DARARITH is a Vietnamese boy with Cambodian citizenship. Though his mother and other relatives have had the witness of the Gospel, none are believers and they have tried to hinder his answering the call of God. *He used this excuse among others*

to justify his waiting a year before going to school. But God kept speaking to his heart and finally he decided that now was the time to trust God. Two weeks after he started school, his adopted brother urged him to have some lumps removed from the glands in his neck. We advised him to wait until Christmas vacation but he decided to have the operation right away. While in the hospital, the Jehovah's Witnesses thoroughly confused him over several theological questions that had bothered him for some time. Upon his release from the hospital, he phoned the school and said he was not coming back but didn't give any reason why. Mr. Graven asked to talk with him and he agreed to meet him that Friday afternoon in the Phnom Penh church. The devil was striving for his soul. He refused to pray. As Mr. Graven asked God to release him from the power of the enemy he powerfully grabbed his arm saying, "Stop praying." He still would not return to school. On Sunday night the other three students led the service in the Phnom Penh church and Dararith was miserable throughout the meeting. Afterwards he ran out of the building saying he didn't want anybody to say anything more to him about school.

Mr. Taylor and Mr. Westergren went after him and brought him to the Mission house. After much prayer and pleading the blood of Christ, the demon

power was cast out and Dararith returned to school the next morning. Since that time, he has had several other hard trials but God is giving him victory day by day. He is talented, zealous and humbly yielded to the Lord.

LIM CHHEONG is of Cambodian-Chinese background coming from Kompong Cham Province. When Lim Chheong was saved at a Daily Vacation Bible School, his father, an idol maker, forbid him to attend church with the threat that he would be put out of his home. But this did not hinder Lim Chheong for the Lord had done something in his heart and he knew he had found the truth. That was about eleven years ago and since then he has been a faithful witness for Christ. He has endured much persecution from fellow students and teachers as well as from all the members of his family. One Youth Conference he brought two younger brothers and both accepted the Lord. Several classmates in high school who ridiculed him for his faith, but who finally could no longer resist the evidence of Christ within, have followed Lim Chheong and found Christ.

He had many times said he would follow Christ and last year at Youth Conference he took another step of faith. This was God's time because he had just passed an examination which placed him among the top eight applicants seeking training in meteorology. He could continue his studies with a salary

and his parents urged him to accept this position. This was a real temptation but after a hard struggle, he refused the honor bestowed upon him, "left all, and followed Christ." His parents and relatives outwardly rebuked him and pleaded with him to change his decision but God gave grace and strength. We believe that some day he will know the joy of seeing his family believe on the Lord Jesus.

"God's Four-hundred" from the provinces, north—south—east—and west, will do exploits for God as we stand behind them in intercessory prayer. God forbid that we should cease to pray for them.

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***A Country Preacher (Con't from page 16)***

town, he was up thrashing the grain that had been harvested the day before. Needless to say, as work neared completion, he was physically exhausted, but all signs of this gave way to joy as he led the first service in the new building on Christmas Eve.

In his New Year's message, Pastor Ang presented a bold step of faith. In admonishing the Christians to tithe, he told them of the plan which he intends to follow. In other years he has given the Lord a tenth of his money. This year his desire is to not only tithe his offerings, but also his rice crop. In this instance again we see his complete consecration.

Our hearts cry out to God for more individuals who will follow the Lord with all of their heart.



**The Rev. R. P. Chavan of India**



# CONSIDER THE WORK OF GOD

*By Miriam Taylor*

Answers to prayer were seen through the ministry of the Rev. R. P. Chavan, President of the India Alliance, in unusual ways. He was God's instrument for this special time, preaching in five provinces. His messages were forceful but simple so all could understand, stressing Christian stewardship and full surrender to God. We saw God work:

**THROUGH SICKNESS**—Kim Chheng, a young man, member of the Young People's Society, and son of the Phnom Penh Guest Home cook, was not well when the services began but he attended five of the meetings, seemingly unmoved. Suddenly he was admitted to the hospital for an emergency operation after which he seemed unusually miserable yet we didn't realize his serious condition. On the 11th day after the operation, we saw he had definitely turned for the worse and might not live through the night. We finally contacted the Doctor and were surprised to learn that Chheng had had a ruptured appendix with peritonitis, not hernia as previously suspected.

That night three doctors gave him one chance in ten to survive. The next morning a second operation was performed with little hope in the natural—BUT GOD! It seemed his life was held by a thread but gradually we saw improvement in answer to prayer. What is the outcome? The doctors, interns, nurses and other patients have heard the story of Jesus for the first time; the young man is changed from a passive, nominal Christian to a happy witnessing child of God; and many have learned how sweet it is to trust in Jesus.

**THROUGH ACCIDENT—** One evening during the meetings, the city decided to distribute pipes for water mains along the street where the church is located. During this commotion my husband was called out of the service to find an army truck had bashed in the rear left fender of our car, parked in front of the church. The unusual working of God is seen because the truck was the responsibility of one of the Christians, a sergeant in the army. We didn't know this, but the next morning he came with the driver to make a settlement, in order to keep the driver from going to jail for forty days.

The following night the wife of the sergeant testified that her husband was now willing to join her in tithing. Whether or not this accident was entirely responsible for this new step we cannot say, yet is it not unusual that the particular truck in this particular

accident should be in the care of one of the very few Christian soldiers in the Cambodian Army! Praise God for working in this home!

**THROUGH HOLY GHOST CONVICTION** — The former pastor of the Phnom Penh church, now in business, has held bitterness in his heart toward the National Chairman and local church committee. For over a year this bitterness had grown to such an extent that his spiritual life was dead. During the meetings God spoke to him, and on two different nights, he wept through to victory on his knees at the altar. Following each of these meetings, he asked forgiveness of those he had wronged. A miracle for only God can help overcome loss of face enough to ask forgiveness. Praise the Lord!

**THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES** — Phala and his wife had been very negligent about attending church and in giving their tithe. Fear had also gripped their hearts because of the existing political conditions. His turn to "dig dirt" with other government employees came during the meetings and we felt disconsolate because we knew he should be present to hear the messages. When we saw both of them at the second meeting of the campaign, we rejoiced and were told that the "dirt digging" cite was close by so that he could attend the services.

Several weeks previous to the meetings, a thief had entered their house by night and stolen most of

their possessions. More than this, the wife had been quite ill, unable to walk because of intense pain in the back of her legs. They readily recognized God was speaking to them but seemed slow to obey His voice. However, both Phala and his wife went to the altar on two different occasions, repentant of their coldness and neglect. In her prayer through tears, she confessed that they had been stealing God's money and had failed God in every way. God uses circumstances to bring His children back into fellowship with Himself.

**THROUGH SEEMING INDIFFERENCE**— Some individuals for whom we were most concerned in prayer, outwardly showed little evidence of being touched. Yet underneath God was working. One man in particular, for whom we have asked many of you to pray, seemed unmoved and didn't offer to help seekers at the altar although he would be expected to do this as an officer in the church. The Sunday following the close of the meetings he stood to present a plan for church expansion. He began with words of confession admitting his undermining the self-support program and hindering its development. He also mentioned that he had purposed to never give any of his children for the Lord's work even though he himself would serve God. This encourages us to believe that God will continue to work in his life.

**CONTINUED REVIVAL**— It had been three weeks

since the last meeting, when who should appear at our door but one for whom many have been travelling in prayer! With tears in his eyes, the young man stammered in broken sentences, "I want to see the missionaries— I have come to ask forgiveness— I have done everything I possibly could to hinder God's work—My heart hasn't been happy although I have tried to make people think so— I have committed many sins— I want to ask God to forgive me. The people I work for have given me this whole day to ask forgiveness of those I have wronged, and I want to start with the missionaries — I have lacked love — I have worked against you — I have wronged all the Christians—The devil tempted and I followed —I don't know why..."

This young man was one of the workers of iniquity in connection with the railroading of the election of young people's officers in October 1959. In fact, he was the President who was rejected by the pastor and church elders, the leader of the conspiracy!

— and God is still working. Pray that this work begun will increase to flood-tide proportion throughout Cambodia.

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## **CAMBODIAN THINKING**

*The river port is never deserted;  
As for the mouth it is never silent.*



**Pastor Ang of Takeo**

# A COUNTRY PREACHER

*By Elizabeth Furniss*

In spite of his small stature, stoop shoulders and halting walk, Kru Ang of Takeo has the depth, sincerity and comprehension of a big man. Searching his background, one would find it to be typically Cambodian. The hardened muscles of his arms and shoulders bespeak of the many days spent behind the plow. His fields and house are located about 5 kilometers from town and it is from this setting that God called Pastor Ang to follow Him. Two years ago he graduated from our long term Bible School. Returning to Takeo to shepherd the small flock there, he still continues with his rice farming to support his wife and six children.

During recent months his zeal and enthusiasm have revealed his true character. In May of 1959, when all of the missionaries were at conference in Dalat, he was thrown into jail. While there he was shamefully mistreated and held without charges. After two days, he was finally released. His testimony was that he was not fearful but happy for the opportunity to witness to the other prisoners.

Preaching is but one of the many duties of our pastor. He is always ready to visit the sick and minister to them in any way. When time permits for district work, such as tract distribution, village evangelism, door-to-door witnessing, or the selling of gospel portions, Pastor Ang is anxious to get the Word to his people. More often than not he will suggest a new village or area that has not as yet been visited. One of the highlights of the year for him was a boat trip into the southern part of the province where he preached the Gospel to many.

At times one might be tempted to question—is he a rice farmer first and preacher second, or does he keep his love for souls foremost at all times? This was answered very vividly recently. The chapel here was in need of repair and work was started on the renovation of the building about the first of November. The Christians were all anxious that the job be finished by Christmas. About five o'clock, the afternoon of the day before Christmas, the work and decorations were completed in time for our program that night. Pastor Ang had been helping with the work everyday, all day, even though December is the month for rice harvesting. Each day his wife cut the grain and left it in the field. In the evening, after working hard on the chapel for eight hours, Kru Ang would ride his bike home, take the oxen and go gather in the rice. Next morning, before coming into

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