

# Cambodia

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## STEADY SHEPHERD

by Ruth Thompson

The other day we drove out to the village of Kabal Chuor with some visitors to see Kru On. Only his little girl was in the shabby, bamboo house; so we followed a footpath through the ricefields until we found our friend. The afternoon sun was blazing hot. He and his wife, knee-deep in mud, were planting rice seedlings with such concentration that they did not see us approaching. A wide, "gold-teeth" grin lit up his face when he looked up and saw us. "Oh, excuse me," he said. "I did not know you were coming. I am trying to finish the planting of my 30 small fields so that my family will have enough to eat during the coming year." As he rubbed the mud from his arms and hands and rolled down his trouser legs, he invited us back to his house.

Kru On is the preacher at Kabal Chuor, where ten Christian families live, all extremely poor. As we talked with him, we remembered when he had received his Bible School diploma two years ago. How handsome he had been in his creased, black trousers and bow tie, sparkling white shirt and coat! How enthusiastic he had been to serve the Lord!

And now, here he was, planting rice! But wait, he is serving the Lord, very faithfully and with no subsidy from the mission. He studies carefully his Wednesday night Bible lessons and Sunday sermons, preaching Jesus Christ and His righteousness. We wonder if we would do as well without a concordance or Bible commentary! At first he met resentment because of his high standards, his demand for clean living, his preaching against sin. But now he is accepted by his flock though not yet supported by them. Little by little they are learning to "walk in the light" as they have a steady shepherd to lead them. Kru On is praying that they may soon learn the meaning of

# ONLY ONE CALLED!

by Merle E. Graven

Nestled along the bank of the peaceful Bassac River is the picturesque TaKhmau Bible School. An expansive lawn bordered by beautiful flowers and tropical foliage enhances the dormitories which, last term, accommodated a student body doubtless smaller in number than Elisha's School of the Prophets but manifesting similiar sacrifice and consecration.

Prospects for students, at first, had seemed discouraging. However, at the last moment, the Lord led three new students and all of the senior group to enroll. This meant much sacrifice for the seniors since each had a family to support and no money to complete their studies. The testimony of Ang was typical, "My father-in-law promised me land and a team of oxen if I would not return to school; otherwise, he would give it to another relative. But God has called and I must obey. Here I am."

Outh, on graduation night said, "I didn't think that I would ever receive this diploma. God has wonderfully undertaken and my heart rejoices. Nevertheless, this earthly document is nothing compared to the heavenly reward which I desire above all else."

Though no unpastored church was large enough to adequately support these three graduates, they all said, "They may not call us, but God has. We will go." These servants of Christ are laboring in exceedingly difficult places, exhibiting greater faith and sacrifice than most Christians.

While many Christian young people studying in government schools are usually able to secure desirable employment at a fair salary upon completion of their studies, graduates from the Bible School must support themselves while pioneering for Christ in a country of bigoted Buddhists. This means that the call of God must rest irresistably upon their hearts and a sacrifice and surrender made, exceeding that of most American youth.

We are now approaching another school year with only one student, thus far, definitely registered. The church must have trained leaders. Pray that God's call will be heard and answered by Christian youth of Cambodia. The need is urgent!

## REQUESTS FOR INTERCESSORS

**KRATIE** A seventy-two year old Buddhist religious leader of a large area in this province became very ill recently. The Buddhists priests could give him no help and told him "his time had come". The missionaries were sent for as a last resort. Through the miracle of modern medicine (antibiotics) the old man has completely recovered. Not only the old Buddhist elder but many of his friends are now very open to the message of the Gospel. Pray for this man's conversion.

**FLOATING VILLAGE WORK** Within the next two months a second trip will be made by boat to witness in the floating villages on the Great Lake. Pray for the preparations for this trip, also that those contacted with the Gospel previously will be willing to make decisons for Christ.

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### STEADY SHEPHERD Con't.

tithing, the blessing it can bring to their lives, the freedom it would give him to serve them as well as the surrounding villages more effectively. In the meantime, he takes the elders and young people out every Sunday afternoon with the missionary to witness in the villages.

As we said "good-bye," our eyes were drawn to the ugly scar across his forehead and we remembered something else—how God had saved his life when hit by a rebel bullet a few years ago. Often he has told us, "I had backslidden and was not a good Christian. God saved my life and now I am completely His. I know without a doubt that He is the true and living God. I will always follow Him."



## CAMBODIAN CUSTOM IN REVIEW

Above the rhythmic noise of the press, I heard band music. It sounded like a blarring radio nearby, except that the music grew louder and became clearer. A second impulse led me to think the occasion was another funeral for some high government official, but the music didn't sound like the usual funeral dirge. So I decided to investigate.

All traffic had stopped and a parade was in progress. Personnel of the Cambodian army and navy followed by business men and ladies marched close behind a noisy band corp. Everyone was carrying colorful packages wrapped neatly in cellophane. On they marched with the usual curious crowd watching.

I quickly inquired into the reason for this parade. A Cambodian answered my question. These people were doing merit by means of giving food, robes and other gifts to priests; and while they were doing alms a band broadcasted their whereabouts.

Over against this good Cambodian custom the words of Jesus became strikingly real, "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them . . . when thou doest thine alms, do not sound the trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men . . . when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth . . ." C.W.

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