

BRINGING THE *Light* BEHIND THE DOORS OF DARKNESS

The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. MATTHEW 4:16

July 2015 Update

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings to you from Phnom Penh, Cambodia! It's been awhile since I have mentioned this in an update, but I wanted to take just a moment to thank those of you who continue to pray for my brother, Pastor Joe, his dear wife, and the rest of the family. It's been 21 months since he's been hospitalized. I have had the chance to FaceTime my brother a few times over the past few weeks. It has been nice to see how much more responsive he is today. While my brother has made much progress (miraculous to say the least) the past 21 months, he still needs a miracle! His wife Mary and the rest of the family, as well as the church family, are very grateful for your prayers, your words of encouragement, and acts of kindness during this trial.

Please continue to pray for Pastor Joe, Mary, and the rest of the family!

I recently read an article about the drought here in Cambodia. While those of us in the big city, who are a bit better off (the average Cambodian makes less than \$1.50 per day), haven't really felt the effects of it—other than the extreme heat—those in the outer provinces and various villages throughout the country have definitely been effected. While reading the article and seeing a few pictures I was reminded once again, not only of a literal drought that the country is temporarily going through, but the spiritual drought that this entire country is experiencing, and has been experiencing for hundreds of years. Like the young boy seeking water, but finding only polluted water, the people of this country—if we don't bring them the water of the Word—they will have to settle for the muddied waters of Buddhism, atheism, or paganism. These dear people so desperately need Jesus!



Please pray that God will continue to send men and women to countries like Cambodia in the 1040 Window that are experiencing a spiritual drought!

In nearly every update of mine, over the past few months, I have something to say about Steung Meanchey. It is one of, if not the most impoverished areas in Phnom Penh. Every Tuesday anywhere from 6-8 of us go soul winning in Steung Meanchey. Every week is another story, another heartbreak, and another opportunity to have my heart broken over the things that break the heart of God. Both the physical and spiritual poverty in Steung Meanchey are a heavy blow to my American sensibilities.



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Whether it's Yay Som, who has cancer, writhing in pain in her shack while we share the Gospel and pray for her, or Thy (while we are all sitting in the squalor they call home) saying to us, **"One of these days, I would like to bring my children to America so they can have a better life,"** or looking upon the unsanitary, disease-ridden condition that these dear people have to live in 24/7, it never ceases to crush my heart. Just about every Tuesday in Steung Meanchey, Vannak, my niece Susanna, and I have the opportunity to share the gospel with 3-5 people and "re-share" the gospel with a handful of others. It normally takes a while for them to grasp, understand, and receive the truth of the gospel. Just a couple of days ago, Vannak and I had the chance to share the gospel with a young mother named Sokcheatha. She stood there smiling, holding her baby, and listened very attentively. After sharing with her, we left her with two different tracts, a small booklet called, "Do You Know God," and the promise to return again.

Please pray for Som, Thy, and Sokcheatha to turn from their idols to trust the living Christ!

As we have mentioned previously, Sokchea was saved a little over a month ago. She is growing much, but she has many obstacles that need to be overcome in her life. We are doing our best with God's help to be a blessing to her. Praise the Lord! Her younger brother Chanta was saved nearly two weeks ago. Wanita, as we have mentioned in previous blog updates, is from Nigeria. We just started discipling her this past week.

Please pray for Sokchea, Chanta's, and Wanita's spiritual growth!

This past Sunday, as is often the case, it was a blessing to see that every person—both young and old alike—who was called on to share with the congregation a verse that they had memorized recently, was able to do so. It is a blessing to be a part of a ministry where scripture memorization and meditation is emphasized. One of the real joys was to hear Sokchea, who has only been saved a little over a month quote John 3:16. That's what you call a good start to your Christian life.

Please pray that we will continue to emphasize the importance of scripture memorization and meditation in the lives of God's people!

Lastly, in recent days we took up a special offering to purchase two new tuk-tuks. The two that the church has right now are about ready to "give up the ghost." We are so thankful for the faithful sacrifices of our people to help towards this needed purchase. Just a couple months ago, we also took up a special offering for the folks in Nepal. Many of our people sacrificed.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING TO DEFRAY THE COST OF THE TUK-TUKS, PLEASE LET US KNOW!

My wife and I, along with Joy and Susanna are thankful for your prayers and for your support that enables us to labor here in this part of the world!

Johnny, Denise, Joy and Sue

