

A LETTER FROM THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE KINGDOM OF

# CAMBODIA



PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT: TROY ZIEL

## A Month's Work

By Noah Howard

I would like to begin this report by thanking those who made a financial contribution to my trip for their generosity and support; the cost of my trip came out to around \$2,000 and it would not have been possible without the efforts of so many people! I'm especially thankful for the encouragement my parents have offered and their assistance in preparing for what has been the most monumental journey of my life so far.

I also want to thank Jonathan and Marissa for opening their home to me during my visit and being hospitable hosts; I'm sure that keeping a guest for an entire month is not an easy task. I would like to remind the readers of this report that although I did some sightseeing, the primary purpose of my trip here to Cambodia was to supplement my education about evangelism in foreign fields.

*continued on page 3*

## Prayer Needs in Cambodia

Please consider the following in your prayers.  
(B)=Ballard's request; (C)=Chan's request; (E) Edward's request

- ◆ *wisdom for the next step in our work here (B)*
- ◆ *God's care and protection for the churches here (E)*
- ◆ *Mom and brothers be willing to come to church (C)*
- ◆ *Brother's school fees (C)*
- ◆ *Petition for God to help us improve our Khmer (E)*
- ◆ *Help raise support for our third year in Cambodia(E)*

THE FERVENT AND EFFECTIVE PRAYER  
OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILS MUCH.

## July Overview & a Reintroduction by Jonathan Edwards

There have been two jobs that I have had the privilege to partake in where I didn't dread the work week on a Sunday night (and there are plenty of jobs that I did dread!). One was when I taught fourth grade. What an amazing experience and blessing those years were.

The other profession has been preaching in Cambodia. I have never once dreaded the work week. Each day has challenges, there is often great stress, but each work day is a privilege and I am extremely pleased to serve the Lord in this capacity!

During the month of July we found our provincial trips postponed. The church in Steung Trang called for a few weeks off to work out some family affairs. There was much to do in Phnom Penh, and we used the time to help the congregation here.

Noah Howard arrived on July 7th and will be staying through August 4th. His article in this report will describe many of the works he was involved in. We continue to produce Bible studies to help ground new Christians in the faith. We have weekly gatherings of food, fun, and fellowship. Our Sunday worship is given to God in Spirit and Truth. Vanny and Sopeak are great personal workers, continually inviting people and challenging their community.

Marissa and I completed our intermediate Khmer class with our tutor Mr. Socheat. We continue to work on the language as it is quite challenging!

I'd like to take a moment to reintroduce Vanny and Sopeak Chan. As more people in the States read about the Cambodian work, some have missed out on the story of the Chans. These fine Christians have been with us since August 2014.

Vanny and Sopeak come from humble beginnings. We met them in June 2014 when we moved here. Vanny worked at the hotel we stayed at initially. His new wife was three months pregnant with their first child.

They obeyed the gospel in August 2014. Sopeak has the most beautiful singing



*Continued on page 3*

# sowing AND WATERING



## Faith A Sermon by Chan Vanny

*The follow is Vanny's outline from a sermon he gave in the beginning of July. Vanny has a desire to become an evangelist, and one of his many responsibilities in training to speak one Sunday per month at the Phnom Penh church of Christ. While he is new to the faith, Vanny shows great desire, talent, and ability to teach the truth in love*

### Opening Questions:

- What is faith? Why do we have faith in Jesus?

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1.*

If we said that we have faith in Jesus, which mean that we believe in Him. Because we cannot have faith without believe. Let us see the example about the men that have strong faith in Jesus.

In Matthew 9:27-29 talk about two blind men. They came to Jesus asked Him the health their eyes. They have shouted that Jesus the Lord, Son of David Have mercy on us! Why they shout like that? Because they remember the prophecies that have been written. And they remember when other people talk in the synagogues.

The question is, "Why do they come to Jesus?" You will answer that because they believed that Jesus can health them. Do you see their faith now? They ran to Jesus to show that they have faith in Him. If they just sit where they are and not ran to Jesus they might not be health in that time and they cannot see things forever. But because they believe that Jesus that have ran to Him and they got their sight like other people does they can see the light.

Let see what did Jesus replied to them in verse 29 Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you." What a powerful phrase Jesus has said. According to your faith. If we have faith in Jesus we will be saved according to our faith.

There is another example in the same book chapter 28 that talked about a centurion who has come to Jesus to health his servant. When Jesus about to go with him, he asked Jesus not to go just say a words and his servant will be health. Jesus said to the people in that time there is no man have such strong faith like this man even in Israel.

What about us? Do we have faith in Jesus like they have or not? If we believe that Jesus has all the power that He is the Son of God and can save our soul what should we do?

If we say that we are faithful and have faith in Jesus we should do what He told us to do. Which is mean that after we heard the gospel of Jesus and we believe we have to get baptize for the remission of our sin. But there are many preachers said that you just have faith in Jesus and pray to invite Him to come into your life then you will be saved. Because they believed that Baptism is an action of work; and salvation is come by Grace through faith. (Ephesians 2:8)

You believe that Jesus can save your soul is great. But if you said you believe in Him and not obey what He said, how can you say that you have faith in Him? Let see what the Bible talk about the people that just believe and not obey in James 2:19: *You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!*

And in James 2:14: *What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him?*

1. After you believe and obey the gospel you have to get baptize.
2. Continue living in a new life that God wants us to live in righteousness ( Colossians 3:12-17)
3. Spread the gospel to other people so that their spirit can be saved too.
4. Eat the food of spirit constantly. ( Read the bible)

This lesson is to encourage all of us; that faith alone is not enough. We have to show that we have faith. Through our living and our Obedience to the Bible is the way we show our faith . May God bless you all.

**E** Jonathan & Marissa  
EDWARDS  
ifollowchrist@gmail.com  
m.edwards518@gmail.com  
preacherswife518.blogspot.com  
jonathan.marissa {skype name}  
972-428-8552 {free from US}

**B** Bradley & Brandi  
BALLARD  
bradball01@gmail.com  
ballardbabe@gmail.com  
sipofbrandi.blogspot.com  
bradleyandbrandi {skypename}

**DC** Coordinating  
CHURCH  
Lonnie Shirey@(469) 865-6941  
Mark Lewis @(940) 365-5841  
Wesley Cockrum@(817)879-8275  
Steve Shelton@(817) 994-8686



*A Month at Work...continued from page 1*

I aimed to commit 7-8 hours per day to Biblical study and work in that area. My studies focused on three aspects: personal development, resource development and relationship development.

The first category, personal development, centers on cultivating personal Christian growth. In addition to normal Bible study, I read three books relating to foreign evangelism: *Guidelines for World Evangelism*, *Worlds Apart: A Handbook on World Views* and *The Lotus and the Cross*.

*Guidelines* proposes suggestions “for Christians involved in supporting outreach from the home base and for the men engaged in evangelism on the field” (p. 7); I found it helpful in detailing the biblical imperative for foreign evangelistic work, stressing the importance of methodical preparation and examining the effectiveness of various missionary techniques.

My next assignment offered general overviews of “the seven basic mutually exclusive world views” (p. 19): Theism, Atheism, Pantheism, Panentheism, Deism, Finite Godism and Polytheism. This book gave important insight into how different individuals perceive reality, which is vital to understanding how to spread the gospel all nations. Christians see the world in the light of Theism (an infinite God exists beyond and in the universe), while Theravada Buddhists look through the glasses of Pantheism (God is the universe and the universe is God).

My final task was to read *The Lotus and the Cross*, in which the author imagines a conversation between Jesus and the Buddha that compares and contrasts the tenants of Christianity and Buddhism. In addition to these books, I spent time learning from recorded Gospel sermons covering a variety of subjects, ranging from genealogies to Premillennialism.

Resource development fixates on preparing sermons and Bible study material for presentation. On two of the four Sundays I was present for in Cambodia, I reworked and presented sermons

for the Lord’s Day service and led Bible studies covering Romans chapters two and three on Sunday afternoon. I was also charged with leading a midweek Bible study over Acts chapter 8.



Relationship development involves building personal relationships with both fellow Christians and non-Christians in the community. Due to a variety of circumstances, I did not get a chance to participate in a Bible study with a non-Christian, but I did have several opportunities to spend time with fellow Christians.

The Chan family usually came over to the house about twice a week to fellowship with us over a meal and play games; I also had a chance to join them for dinner a couple of times. Although our trip to the provinces was cut short by a broken car engine, I was still able to meet two other Christians - Ming Sing Tai and her daughter, Maria. During the month, I also had many opportunities to build a stronger relationship with the Edwards family and encourage them.

I can confidently and wholeheartedly say that this month spent in Cambodia has transformed me into a better Christian than I was before. I have been encouraged to challenge myself and stand up for my faith in a country where Christianity is the minority and considered strange to other people. I’m grateful to God for the opportunity to go on this trip and pray that many more will follow it.

*Reintroduction...continued from page 1*

voice. I love to hear her sing gospel songs to her baby in Khmer. She has helped us learn to sing some songs that we do not know the melody to!

Vanny has a desire to preach. Currently he serves as our translator, interpreter and “everything” man. I need to take a moment to complement Vanny’s growth. He has really come a long way in his understanding and ability to rightly divide the Word. Permit me to give an example:

He recently called a man who is de-



nominal. He encouraged this man to be baptized for the remission of sins (this man has stated that he has been baptized, but we learned later that it was a “baptism of discipleship”). Vanny said that people who say they are a Christian but don’t obey the gospel will believe they are saved for 10-20 year, but when they die the Lord will ask why they did not obey him. Vanny then encouraged him to read Acts 9 to learn about the conversion of Saul/Paul. There was a time when Vanny did not see the need for baptism. His growth across the year is wonderful to see and be a part of.

Vanny and Sopeak continue to be a breath of fresh air. They are so valuable to the Phnom Penh church. As we have stated in previous months, instead of trying to squeeze blood from a turnip, we should focus on those who WANT to study. Vanny craves it. He hungers and thirsts for righteousness. I am very impressed with his growth.

# Calling all “young” people

by Jonathan Edwards

We are wrapping up the summer months of 2015 and that means many young people are heading back to high school and college. Summer time offers students the opportunity to work, travel, and enjoy leisure with friends. Why not do all three in Cambodia in the summer of 2016?

This summer Austin Wilson (age 24) of Denton Co., TX and Noah Howard (age 18) of the 21st Street, OKC congregations came to visit. I am grateful for their time here for numerous reasons; among which is that I could use them as guinea pigs for different ways I wanted to work with them (and you!).

Allow me to give a general overview of what is waiting for you in Cambodia. If you were to come for a month long visit, expect the following “rough schedule”:

- Two weeks of work as I work
- One week of provincial Bible Studies

- One week of being acquainted with the history, culture, and sights of Cambodia.

(This schedule doesn’t always work out accordingly. Ask Austin if he got to spend a lot of time enjoying the sites. Or ask Noah about the time we were on the way to Kampong Thom province and the car broke down! Like I said, it’s a “rough schedule.”)

You will be tasked to read books and write reports on them. Young men will be tasked to preach and lead Bible studies. Young women will be tasked to shadow Marissa and work with her, the children, and the Khmer community that Marissa interacts with.

At first this may not sound rewarding. It may sound like hard work! That’s because it is hard work! However, the reward and value gained from this experience is great indeed.

You will stretch and grow: You will try new foods. You will speak a new language (a few phrases at least). You will forge new friendships. You will be challenged.

You will also worship God in spirit and truth, seeing that God’s ways are the same wherever the saints assemble. You will study the Bible with us and people here in Phnom Penh and the provinces.

Hopefully, you will come to the conclusion that your life is about serving God. Perhaps that means that you will set goals to someday serve the church in a foreign evangelistic capacity. If that means as an evangelist (or wife), or as an elder or leader who helps coordinate. We need more men and women to take the gospel to all the world!

I certainly hope that you would consider this opportunity for summer 2016. We have a room waiting for you. Consider what Isaiah said when the Lord asked who would go and share His message with others:

*“Here I am, send me.” (Isaiah 6:8)*

## EVERY DAY LIFE FOR AN AMERICAN FAMILY

### Brain Building

by Marissa Edwards

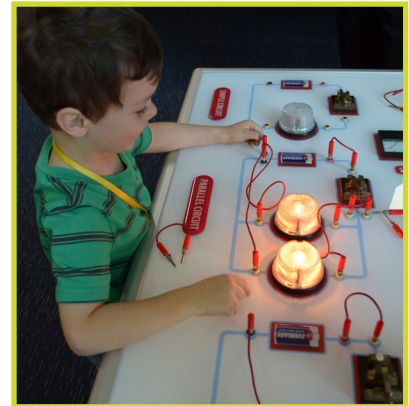
Educating your children is one of the most important things you will do as a parent. There are many methods and philosophies that vary widely and often times are passionately promoted by individuals. Early on, before we had any children, Jonathan and I decided that homeschooling would be the path for our family. Now, having three little kids with three hungry minds running around, I could not be happier to watch their discovery and absorption of the world around them first-hand at home.



Private school is the first and commonly “the only” choice for ex-pats and their children. With education in Cambodia having no standards and little funding, there is a community of foreigners who want a top of the line facility and certified teachers using an international curriculum... and they are willing to pay for it. About \$3,000 - \$5,000 per child for each term of primary school. Ouch. Learning this made me all the more thankful that we had already committed to homeschool instead of being forced into it.



Our first few sessions of Pre-K were bumpy and sloppy but with a little extra research and some very generous and extremely helpful boxes that arrived from the States, classes began to take shape. Gabriel is a clever little guy and before we were able to complete



the Pr-K curriculum he had mastered the alphabet, numbers

1-100 and began using level one reader books. I may be prejudice but I am one proud mommy and teacher! Evangeline has been very curious and watches intently as Gabe and I do school. Without any direct teaching she was able to recite the alphabet within the first two months of starting Gabe’s classes. Penelope on the other hand has honed her skills of distraction and interruption but has developed a love for books just like her brother and sister.

Supplies might not be easy to find here or I may just have to make it up as I go and some lessons may be hard work but I love teaching my kids. Listening to Gabe read a book to his sisters is the sweetest reward that I could ever imagine.