



Cambodian Servants

APRIL - MAY 2005

World Day of Prayer:

This year the day of Pentecost (50 days after Jesus rose from the dead) is on May 15, 2005. All around the world Christians will be gathering for prayer in their local churches to pray for their countries and churches. In Cambodia, in every province, Christians will gather to pray for the presence of God to indwell every nation! Join us in your church!!

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Transforming the Nation

For the year 2005 we believe that God is going to do some miraculous things to bring about a permanent transformation of the nation of Cambodia.

For more than ten years now all the Christians have worked hard with almost complete religious freedom in Cambodia. The church in Cambodia continues to be the fastest growing church in the world. Thousands upon thousands are genuinely accepting Christ each year and lives are being transformed. Though the church is growing, it is incredibly weak. Discipleship is almost non-existent in many churches and though many want to claim large numbers of churches, they are not willing to make the sacrifices necessary to "pastor" them. Literally "pastors" must nurture and care for the new believers. We believe that one of the keys to the strength of the church will be when the church believes in itself and takes responsibility for itself. Too many times churches are simply some foreigner's pet project, rather than really seeking to develop solid local leaders who can hold there own.



Steve, Noit and Paul Hyde

We are believing that in 2005 that the Lord is going to raise up more and more Cambodian leaders who don't seek after personal gain, but rather seek after the Lord. Lately I have been giving a singular message to the Cambodia churches: It is time to pray hard, work hard and worship hard. All Cambodian Christians want to see Cambodia become a Christian nation and believe it is the only answer for the corruption, poverty, insecurity and violence in the land. There are 500,000 new babies born in Cambodia every year. Practically speaking if we want to see Cambodia become a Christian country we will need to win 1.2 million people to Christ every year. Then by the year 2020 Cambodia will be a completely Christian country. Most foreigners tell me it can't be done, but I have yet to hear a Cambodian yield to the challenge! In Cambodia we believe that if it is not done, Cambodia will return to the violence and killing of the past quite rapidly. It is our only hope. The challenge is the VISION 2020 for Cambodia:

100,000 people led to Christ every month!

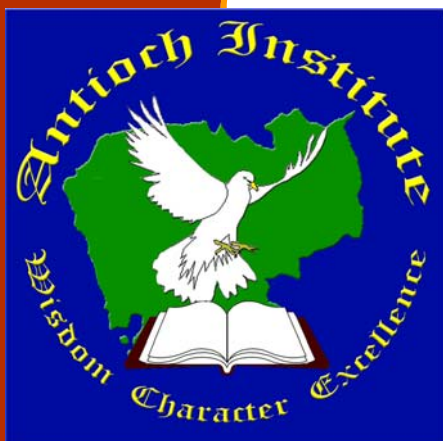
3,287 per day!

137 per hour!

2 per minute!

This year we are praying for transformation of the nation to begin!

Words of Life Ministries: Helping to Equip the Body of Christ in Cambodia



Antioch Institute takes birth in Phnom Penh

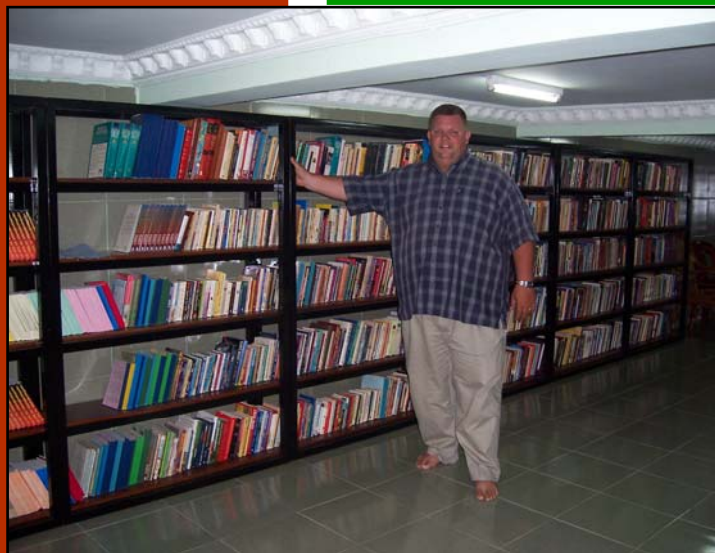
Antioch: "Sending Out"

Antioch Institute was a name chosen for a purpose and chosen according to the vision the Lord has given us. Antioch was Paul's sending church. It was a missionary church which not only launched missionaries but supported them and stood behind them. We believe that God is going to use Cambodian missionaries in opening up the nations of Vietnam and Laos which are on our borders and still under the yoke of communism. Antioch Institute is not an ordinary school, it is a commando training camp!!

I remember my college days as consisting of a lot of camping, cheap movies and all you can eat buffet's with a couple of classes stuck in between. Antioch Institute is a school which only takes full-time ministers in for training and then makes them study all night long and attend 4-5 hours of classes every night, six days a week. On their day off they have to preach and plant churches! We are preparing these church leaders for even more effective and front-line ministries in the future.

Classes started in November with our first 27 students. Since we have begun others have heard of the school and have signed up for next year as well. We are expanding our office and classroom space as quickly as possible to keep up with the growth of the school and other ministries.

Antioch Institute Library



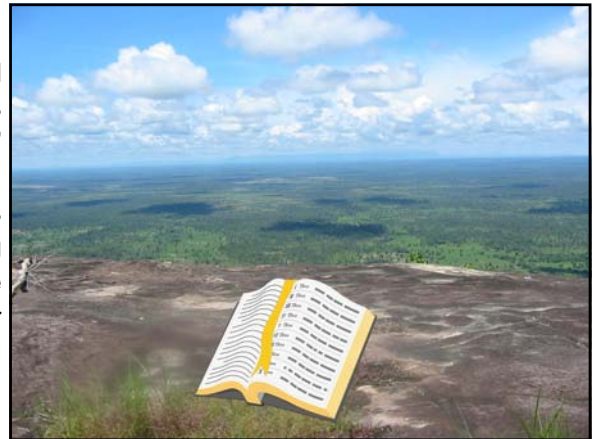
Current Antioch Institute Library

There is no doubt that I am a bookworm. I collect a lot of books, but also enjoy reading. I believe that books are very valuable to education and helping people to enlarge their thinking. I even like books that I disagree with, but I don't hesitate to destroy books if I think they might lead people astray. Pictured here is the first installment of books for the Antioch Institute. They came from many friends, churches and my own gathering, but most of them came from the book collection ministry of First Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas. They have been so kind in letting me get books to take to Cambodia. Right now we have about 3,000 books in the library, but hope to build to over 10,000 books as soon as possible. My own personal library along with my Dad's library which I brought over from the Philippines is another 2,500 books plus we have access to thousands of e-books through our Bible software. Part of our education is teaching all the Cambodian students how to utilize and make use of book resources for expanding their thinking.

If anyone has access to theological books or can donate any Christian books please let me know and I can let you know how to get them to us in Cambodia.

New Khmer Bible

In 1953 the first Khmer Bible was published. It was based on English and one faithful missionary spent thirty years of his life (and lost his eyesight) translating the Bible. In 1998 a Bible which was started in 1973 was finally finished utilizing a "Good News Bible" style. Thus began the Bible wars!! It is the old NIV-KJV fight right in Cambodia. The fight has not only cost lives spiritually, but it has caused many people to overlook the need for revisions and making the Bible available to the people in Cambodia. For some reason, we have not even been able to buy Bibles in Cambodia since November last year. Most churches in Cambodia only have 1 or 2 bibles and don't even know where to get any more.



Looking out over Cambodia from a mountain

This is a terrible shame. We have the fastest growing Church in the world right in Cambodia and we can't buy Bibles!?! One group fed up with the lack of Bibles simply copied and printed the existing Bible themselves (though I don't condone the breach of copyright I understand why they did it.) The biggest problem is that since 1953 the Khmer language has changed drastically. Cambodia has had four major revolutions since that time which caused upheaval in the entire political and social fabric of Cambodia. Only 2% of people graduate from High School in Cambodia, yet the language used in the Bibles are typical of the Master level translators who worked on them. What we believe Cambodia really needs is an easy to read Bible in the common "rice farmer" language. The new Bible will not be a literary marvel, but it will make the Word of God available to all those who have not gone through formal education. It also will be the largest collaboration of denominations and church leaders that have ever produced a Bible in Cambodia. The Bible will be translated entirely from the original Greek and Hebrew which will be a first for Cambodia as well. (The other two Bibles were translated from English and French and only some original language involvement.) The Bible translation is being sponsored by the Asia Bible Society (based in Japan).

Steve is the project director and doing some translation too, but more coordination of all the elements involved which includes coordinating Greek and Hebrew scholars, computer technical consultants, linguists, translators, review boards, denominational and church leaders along with running the ministry of Words of Life and teaching at Antioch Institute at the same time. We hope that the New Testament can be finished in two to three years and the Old Testament two years after that. Later this year the new Khmer translation will be used as a base for other tribal languages to have their Bibles as well.

Casting out Demons, Starting Churches

The Cambodian religious system can barely be described as Buddhism. It is really an animistic country which lives in fear of spirits and relies on superstitious activities. At birth, babies are dedicated to spirits which are to "protect" them for life. They wear fetishes and charms which cannot be removed. They go through magic rituals for nearly everything in life. This is all to tell you that demon possession and evil spirits are common obstacles to our work here. In January we had Jess Parker, Graham Powell and Dave Bryan from the Church of Glad Tidings come and teach on deliverance from evil spirits. Many people were freed from their life-long bond to the occult. Many of our young Christians were brought in for this conference. As a result, some of those who were freed were so excited they went home with a passion to see their neighbors and friends have the same freedom in Christ. **Within two weeks 3 new churches were born!** We didn't even have time to tell them how to start a church! Now we will teach them how to be church leaders.

The church is growing so fast, the people can start churches before we tell them how to do it!

Contact Information



Words of Life Ministries

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Phnom Penh, 3
Cambodia

Phone: (855) 23-224121

E-mail: steve@asiaforjesus.com

For those who have previously sent donations through Immanuel Baptist Church, they will continue, but in the future donations should be routed through the Church of Glad Tidings.

For donations to Words of Life Ministries/ Antioch Institute in the United States please contact:

Church of Glad Tidings

P.O. Box 1630

Yuba City, California 95992

USA

(530) 671-4160

info@churchofgladtidings.com

www.churchofgladtidings.com

Any checks sent to the church should be made out to the Church of Glad Tidings, but clearly marked for "Words of Life Ministries".

Any special instructions or specific donation information should be clearly marked.

For specific donation information please contact Steve Hyde as sending donations from different countries could require different procedures. steve@asiaforjesus.com



Cows for Cambodia

About two to three years ago we began thinking about practical ways that we could help the people without giving handouts that quickly fade away. What we came up with one day over a hamburger was "Cows for Cambodia". Cambodians

are all farmers and their livelihood is in their animals. Cows are used for plowing and a way of storing up wealth. Each year rice farmers who don't have cows have to rent cows to plow their fields. The price of plowing is 50% of the harvest. This means that before they even beginning working they are only going to receive a subsistence level of rice for the year. By providing cows to poor and faithful farmers we empower them not only to make a living, but store up some wealth for future needs.

What we do is this: Words of Life owns the initial cows, but we loan them to poor people for a year at a time. Cows have babies every year (almost without fail) and so the new born calf goes to the poor family for taking care of the cows (they are very easy to care for, and they eat anything!). Within a couple of years their cow can be used for plowing or sold for a few hundred dollars, or continue breeding them as per the need. This way they build wealth, have a better harvest and oh. . . lots of nitrogen rich fertilizer for free!

For only \$200 per cow we are able to bless another poor family and give them hope for a better year of farming.

An strong ox costs about \$500 which can be used for plowing fields and pulling carts.

