



CAMBODIAN SERVANTS

Words of Life Ministries: *Helping to Equip the Body of Christ in Cambodia and Beyond!*

JULY-AUGUST 2005

How to Transform the World



On May 15, 2005 a remnant gathered around Cambodia while hundreds of thousands gathered in other nations for the world day of prayer for global transformation. At Words of Life/ Antioch Institute we prayed for two hours expecting God to invade our nation. As we prayed. . . we did not expect the clouds to part and the King of Kings come to fix every problem we have in the country in person, but we knew that God has called us (his Church and part of the Body of Christ) to be involved in brining salvation to the people. So that,

one day, everyone will confess Jesus is Lord. This is our ultimate goal, yet the Bible also clearly states that there is not enough people to do the work. Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matthew 9:37,38). What this means to me is that we know that there is going to be a lack of workers, so we need to pray for more workers. Our main task here it to train and equip workers for the field. Out of every thousand we train to go, maybe only 50% actually go, but that is five hundred more workers. The other thing that this means to me is that those who are in the harvest field (all of us here at Words of Life) must work very, very hard. We have to work for the thousands who do not go. When considering the question "How do you transform the world?" my immediate response is "work very, very hard." Pray is necessary, but you can also pray and work at the same time! Prayer should never become an excuse for inactivity, that does not honor the Lord. We work in many ways, through training, church planting, educating leaders, helping sick people with medication, providing livestock to the poor, and even well drilling. Please continue to pray for Cambodia and for more local workers!

Bible Translation Update:



30% Finished on 1st Draft of New Testament Including: Matthew, Mark, Acts

Breaking New Ground

My greatest fear in life is not doing enough for the Lord. Especially since my Dad's death a little more than two years ago I have had a passionate burning to do as much as I possibly can in this life for benefit of the Kingdom of God. Throughout my whole life I have always dreamed big, but it was a couple years ago when I realized that I had already accomplished all of my dreams! I asked the Lord for more. . . And one by one, they too are accomplished.

Along with dreams comes the ability to manage and administer all which is going on. I believe in investing in the lives of others, especially local believers. I have trained thousands of pastors with my team, I have sent three leaders to Singapore to get their Master's degrees, I have a great staff of about twenty people and terrific churches backing us up both financially and spiritually. It is not a one man show by any means. On top of that I have the greatest wife anyone could ever imagine who is able to not only supporting the ministry in prayer, but able to do any aspect of ministry as well. With such a great team, we are able to break new ground.

Only a week before my Dad's death I was talking with Noit telling her that I believed the Lord was releasing us to reach not only Cambodia, but Southeast Asia. As always, my wife's response was. . . If it is the Lord, then we better do it! Over the years I have been invited to many countries to teach and train (and I have personally visited 49 countries). Country by country I have found one thing that especially burdens me which is the lack of quality and accessible training which includes theological, cultural, leadership and church development training. Most countries simply imitate what was done in western Bible Schools a hundred years ago and tend to focus on academic and historical data, rather than practical ministry skills which will help them. There is also an incredible lack of materials. In many cases, leaders are expected to learn English before they can receive training. In many languages, including the Philippines, (which has been a "Christian nation" for nearly 500 years) believers have very few materials available in local languages. While many people have the Bible in their language, they have little else if anything. This is a huge burden to me. How can the church be expected to grow and be a dynamic community transforming church if they don't even have access to basic leadership training? This is something which I feel I can do something about. We have a lot of experience in publishing, translating and leadership training. I feel it is more of a duty than an opportunity.

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William Paul Hyde

February 3, 1944 -
March 4, 2003



The Vision Continues

"**Honor your father** and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12). How do I honor my father, who died a martyr's death? Do I visit his grave (I have several times), by crying tears of loss (I have wept much), by speaking well of him (on all occasions), but what else? I believe that to honor my father I can also continue in his vision. The pastors that he trained and the people who knew him are carrying on in his vision, but often they lack the resources to accomplish what God is leading them to do.

Dad died at his peak, seeing some 600 churches started and had a plan set in place to conduct training in 17 cities across the southern Philippines with thousands of pastors and evangelists in what was coined "Good News Mindanao!" To have thousands come to learn about church planting at a time was really incredible. There is much work to be done, even in the Philippines with most of the people confessing to be "Christian". In the Philippines, upon birth, whether a person ever attend a church or not, they are entered into the local Catholic church membership roles. Statistically the

Philippines are 95% Christian! However, Protestants only number about 10% (out of 87,900,000 people) and most Catholics are not active Christians, especially men.

On the island of Mindanao (where my Dad was killed) there are some 40 ethnic groups with approximately 2 million people who are not believers. There are about 3-4 million Muslims on Mindanao from 13 different ethnic minority tribes. There are millions of others who may be on Catholic membership rolls yet never have accepted Christ. The number of non-believers is very great indeed and a great challenge to the church on Mindanao.

Every since my dad's death nearly two and a half years ago I have prayed, "Lord, what can I do to honor my father? How can I help to accomplish the vision you gave to him?" Over the last two years, the Lord had put key people, who I never knew before, into my path in such places as Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, the USA and even Cambodia all with a common thread. . . Leading me to minister to leaders back in the Philippines. Then an invitation from two church leaders came...

Philippines Plan—



Dr. Aungon and Pastor Ben

When the two pastors contacted me they told me of their vision, knowing that it was also the vision of my father. Many ask me, how can you start hundreds or thousands of churches when you are just one person and have limited time and resources? That is easy. . . multiply yourself and use resources very wisely. Obviously, I have not personally gone village to village to start thousands of churches, but I have trained and followed up on some five thousand leaders so far who have! (Traveling constantly) My focus is on

training and supplying the resources for a large number of leaders to get the job done. This will be the plan in the Philippines for now as well. The Philippines is not considered a high priority country as it has had missionaries for a long time, but the work is not yet done. There are still millions upon millions who are lost. My Dad had created a network of some 100 immediate leaders and networked with hundreds more. I will be working with my Dad's partners in ministry there (initially with tribal people) to provide accredited training in church planting and ministry skills. Most tribal people have had little access to formal education, much less, theological and ministry skills training. Our goal is to train about one hundred trainers (initially) representing each of the tribes and provide them training resources to train others in their tribe (and in their language). We will provide a Certificate of Theology and a Diploma of Theology for those who graduate. There are some 40 books which we need to translate into the Cebuano language (a common "market" language for the tribes). Each book cost about \$400-500 to translate and about \$1,500 to print. We will do a few at a time, but plan on doing all the translation work now and then begin teaching in 2006. Please pray that this will be helpful to the churches to do even more church planting and develop mature believers in the churches. We will be utilizing our network of leaders across the world to assist us in training as well, so there will be a lot of travel involved for me and my training staff in Cambodia as well. By providing the training and resources to equip the local believers they can get the job done!



Children in Need of Hope for the Future

Slowly and surely our training center in Kracheh Province (Cambodia) is seeing transformation come to that province. The next phase for the center is for raising up and equipping the second generation believers. These are the children. The people in the region have low education because schools have not been available to them. The vast majority of ethnic people live deep in the jungles. Sometimes a teacher is sent to a village one day a week, which obviously provides little instruction. The people have to work hard simply to survive each day, and by age ten most children cannot study at all as have no more educational options.

Sophat, age 11, and her sister Sophia, age 9, live in one of these jungle villages. Their father and mother came to know Jesus Christ and became leaders of their village church. Sophat and Sophia soon came to know Christ personally as well. Life is not easy for them. In the last dry season they had no water for seven months. There are no water wells in the village for clean water.

The two girls daily helped their parents dig down into the bottom of the dry river bed for muddy water. There was also no food for five months during that season. Only the poisonous mushrooms and fungus on trees grew. The family boiled them for three days to neutralize the poison so they could be eaten. There are no roads to the village. It is difficult walking through the thick jungle in dry season. But in the rainy season, however, a boat is needed to reach the village because of flooding from mountain run off. Sophat has an older sister who volunteered to go to work as a maid in Malaysia. She was only 17 at the time and desperate for money to help the family. She was assigned to a Chinese family who beat her regularly until her face was constantly swollen and unrecognizable. She finally escaped from the house and a taxi driver took her to the Cambodian embassy. She was cared for there for two weeks until she was able to get enough money to go home and another \$1000 for her two years of work there. Because her family is so desperate for money, she is now seeking to return.

Sophat, Sophia, and their sister, are like thousands of other children who have no education, and no hope, but can be helped with just a little investment into their lives.



Sophat and her mother

Investing for the Long-Term in Lives!

Simple one-room houses on stilts are needed at the Words of Life Training Center to provide a home for children isolated and without hope for a future. Each small home will be 16 feet by 20 feet. Each home will house 10 children, between the ages of seven and seventeen, with a Christian house-mother, or Christian couple, so that the children can have a home environment, and not an institutional setting. The upper floor will be the sleeping area for the entire "family". Below will be a simple bathroom, and shaded area for play, study, and other activities. The cost for one house on stilts (similar to the one pictured to the side) is about \$2,500-4,000 for the main structure.

In the county of Cambodia only 2% of the population have graduated from high school. For ethnic minorities the percentage is far less than that. By investing in the lives of these children now, their future will be much brighter and they will be able to have a chance at another life other than survival farming and selling themselves as foreign labor in countries where they have no rights.

Investing in the lives of children throughout Kracheh province, is investing in the next generation of church leaders. Church planting will continue from the center until the goal of one church in every village of the province is accomplished. As the road

connects Cambodia to Vietnam, Laos and China (both are Communist countries who persecute Christians) the Lord could raise them up as evangelists to those countries and maybe use them to open closed doors.

When we decided to start this project to help the children, it was out of a sense of duty to mankind and a burden for a lost world. Christian children should have hope for a bright future. Without Christ, they never would be able to leave the jungle life. Only after the decision was made did we sit down and begin to calculate the costs that this project would incur. The cost for maintaining and caring for 10 children in a home will be approximately \$400 a month. This includes their school fees, food, materials and medications for a month.

There is also need for play ground equipment. Cambodian children have never seen a play ground that we take for granted at schools and parks in America and other developed countries. It is the desire of Steve and Noit that a beautiful play ground be developed at the center for these impoverished yet deserving children to have a place for fun!

The expense to help the life of Children from the jungles of Cambodia is an investment of long lasting value.



Future Church Leaders!



A simple Cambodian house



Pete (For security reasons, cannot show his face or give his real name)

Vietnam: Opening Doors

Vietnam is a country with a similar past to Cambodia. The population of Vietnam is 83,600,000. Most Americans only think of Vietnam in terms of the Vietnam War (*Interestingly it is called the American War in Vietnam!*). Vietnam is a country which still remains proud of its communist control and background. While other Communist countries have either collapsed, or surrendered their communist ideals for the sake of financial gain, Vietnam refuses to budge. Vietnam has a shared border with Cambodia of approximately 700 kilometers (500 miles). Most of the border is porous and villagers on either side wander back and forth.

There are many similarities between the two countries. Both Vietnam and Cambodia have gone through terrible war. In the Vietnam war some 3 million Vietnamese were killed. In Cambodia, some 3 million were killed in genocide. Both were French colonies and under the French the countries of Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos were all unified into one country called "Indochina". There are still some 3 to 4 million Cambodians who live in Vietnam who are mostly unreached with the gospel. The differences between the two countries are vast though as both language and culture seem to be opposites to each other causing much political and racial tension.

As for the church, in some areas they are allowed to worship freely, while in other areas (most places) they are not allowed to worship (yet they do) as they are ignored by authorities. Most people worship in "underground" churches. This term though can be confusing. First, they do not meet "in the ground" they meet in buildings.

Second, often they do meet in "church buildings" with signs and even crosses on the roof for all to see (but they are not licensed by the government to do so). Other times people do meet secretly. One of the reasons that most churches are illegal is that the denominations they are associated with are considered to be associated with the Americans (most came into Vietnam during the war). Many are also politically active against the communist government.



Upon traveling across the region, one thing I notice is that in most countries, not much effort is given in developing quality training materials. In most countries they simply copy what is used in the west (usually because the printing was financially backed from the west!) with little regard to what is effective or even needed. Eventually, we will offer training for key teachers in Vietnam so that they are able to training their own people effectively. Over the next year we will fund translation of relevant materials and production of new original materials. We will also fund Pete to see that his vision for Vietnam is accomplished.

Current Ministry Needs:

Ministry Funds for Pete: \$200 per month

Rental of Small Office: \$100 per month

Translation Staff: \$200 per month (2 staff)

Total (\$500 per month)

***When Printing begins in 2006 we will need approximately \$15,000 for printing 20 training books.*

Contact Information



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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) 671-3160

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