



Cambodian Servants

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

March 2006

First Bible Portions Printed

On February 4, 2006 we launched a draft version of the New Khmer Bible Translation which we have been working on diligently for the last year. We initially printed just the book of Mark for the pastors, church leaders and missionaries to give their feedback on. So far 95% of the feed back have been very positive. There has been a little negative reaction, though we expect some. The only real criticism has come from those pastors who prefer to have only one old version of the Bible and do not want any revisions or newer translations. Along with the new translation we are doing a complete concordance and interlinear (Greek-Khmer) parallel Bible. We will also be printing a Khmer-English Bible when the New Testament is finished.

We have been overjoyed with the response and feedback and have encouraged people to use the book of Mark in their personal Bible study so that they can give better feedback to us as well. We will make some corrections/ amendments but so far it seems as if there is only one minor spelling mistake and another minor word change which links to a word found in Matthew that we will modify for consistency. A part from that the church leaders and missionaries have been very supportive and encourage us to work as fast as we can.



The Gospel of Mark, with concordance

Our goal is to be able to release the four gospels and maybe Acts and Romans if we really work hard by the end of the year, with the rest of the New Testament following after that. We have already done a first draft translation from the Greek of the entire New Testament. With extensive reviews and evaluation of every single word in the Bible we will release different books of the Bible as they are completed.

INSIDE:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Family in the Philippines | 2 |
| Paul and Anna | 2 |
| Spiritual Warfare and Baptisms | 2 |
| Free Medicine for the Poor | 3 |
| Karate for Christ and "Big Show" | 3 |
| Children's Homes Slowly Emerging | 3 |
| Something Interesting | 4 |
| Prayer Requests | 4 |
| Bible Printing Need | 4 |
| Contact Information | 4 |

Academic Milestone



Steve with MA in Missiology

In December 2005, I received the Master of Arts in Missiology degree from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. This was a dream of mine to be able to finish my Masters at this school because my Dad also got a Masters at this school. I would like to specially thank Dr. Dan Crawford and Dr. Daniel Sanchez for making the contacts and arrangements necessary so that I could finish. I am still continuing work on my Ph.D, though slowly, through Singapore. Mixing academics and ministry really is tough to do. There are just not enough hours in each day.

Hungry for the Word

For nearly a year and a half we have been unable to buy Bibles in Cambodia. It has been a desperate situation leading some to simply copy the Bible themselves. It has always been puzzling to me that while Cambodia has one of the fastest growing churches in the world, access to Bibles has always been lacking. I think that much of the problem is actually due to the internal politics of the church and immaturity of senior church leaders which has led to a lack of Bibles in Cambodia. For our draft version, which was printed for getting people's feedback, we did an initial printing of 10,000 copies thinking that this would be plenty of copies for good exposure and feedback from leaders. As it turned out 10,000 copies lasted about 10 days. The people are so hungry to have the word of God that they just keep coming and asking for copies. Many churches and believers do not have Bibles so they are using the draft version that we are putting out as their own Bible. It has been very encouraging to see people hungry for the word of God like that. It encourages us in our daily translation work as well.

Family in the Philippines

Over Christmas we all visited the Philippines with Grandma. We spend about ten days going to my old hometown (Manila). It is just as crowded as ever, I heard someone say it is about 18 million people now. We went to the beach (as a typhoon was passing through) which didn't make it all pleasant, but it was fun to be together. I have been teaching Paul how to snorkel over the past couple of years and he has slowly been gaining his confidence to swim around the coral reefs on his own, but this time the waves were too rough to enjoy it very much. The water was also very cold. . . So instead of swimming we played a lot of dominoes and card games. After that we had Christmas back at Grandma's house in Manila and watched fireworks every night. Then we drove up to Baguio city in the north of the Philippines where the US had an R&R base for US servicemen. The base is gone now, along with the servicemen, but the mountains and cold air are still quite nice. Grandma loves being with her grandchildren so that was really the purpose of the trip!



Noit, Anna, Paul and Steve in the Philippines

Over the next year we will be doing more ministry in the Philippines, coming over from Cambodia, so it was good to catch up with some of the missionaries and pastors there as well while I was in the country. I will be going back to the Philippines later this year a couple of times to begin some leadership training in Mindanao where my Dad was killed. Grandma will also come and visit us here in Cambodia every chance she gets too.

Paul and Anna

Paul lost two teeth, Anna grew her first six teeth. . . Anna's baby teeth are crooked on the bottom and Paul's teeth are too big for the space in his mouth causing them to be crooked as well. Instead of joy about the kids teeth I immediately think to future dental work which will have to be done! The thought of braces in the future already concern me for Paul. Life has been full of excitement for our two little angels, though we get much less sleep now.

Paul is also a favorite at weddings. Everyone thinks he is the most handsome boy (especially his parents) and for weddings he is often asked to be a ring bearer or leading processions. Since he does not have one shy bone in his body he loves the attention it brings him. Just this year alone we have had to follow our son to some 5 or 6 weddings because he was the special ring bearer and we were just "guests". Paul is not always a perfect little boy though. He did get in trouble at school one time when we were gone. He convinced the babysitter that the official school uniform was his superman costume (complete with flowing red cape). . . So he wore it to school. (The babysitter is not real bright!) 😊 Again he loved the attention of being the only kid in school in a superman costume while everyone else was wearing their blue shirts and kaki pants which is the school uniform. The teachers thought it was so funny they didn't even scold him or send him home. He later said soon he is going to go to school dressed as batman!

Anna is as cute as ever and starting to walk. Actually it is more like crashing into furniture around the house. Her mommy and daddy are so anxious to talk to her, but so far she just laughs, smiles and googles. . . Though she can respond by doing some "tricks" like blowing kisses and waving bye-bye! She is starting to walk and is become apparent that she also does not have a shy bone in her body either. She will go to anyone and usually gets her way. . . For now! Every moment is a joy with our two cute kids.



Paul at one of many weddings
(Now 6 years old: Birthday December 15)

Happy Anna opening a present at Christmas
(Anna will be 1 year old on June 10)



Spiritual Warfare and Baptisms

There is so much going on it is hard for me to even find the time to write about everything. One great event that we had was a seminar series on deliverance and spiritual warfare which took us all over the country with our great friends at the Church of Glad Tidings. Pastor Dave, Jess, Graham and Drew gave it their all as I took them to three different provinces to train leaders. In ten days they were able to teach a few hundred leaders the basics of deliverance for their own lives as well as for their congregations. We did seminars in the Northwest, Central and Northeastern sections of Cambodia. At the end of the Northeastern seminar the church leaders asked us to baptize the younger leaders. As was typical, some of those baptized had already started new churches and led dozens of people to Christ. . . Even before they were baptized themselves! More than twenty people from a dozen churches were baptized on that day.

During the conference we faced a lot of spiritual attacks, one of the most severe being a motorcycle accident with one of our church planters who received a serious head injury after a cow lunged into the road unexpectedly. He (Mengkia) was unconscious for three days. After two months of treatment and recovery he is doing good now. He is a lot funnier that he previously was. Maybe we could all use a head injury now and then! 🙏



Believers baptized at the end of one conference in Kracheh

Free Medicine for the Poor

Each year a team of doctors, nurses and church leaders come out to Cambodia to help us in areas where we are church planting by treating the sick. They were part of Ron Hogue's Nation Training Institute. This was a very exciting year for the medical ministry in Kracheh. As usual, the government didn't want medical people to come into Cambodia because then the sick can get free medicine rather than having to buy it from their doctors. We get local permits rather than going through the higher government officials for the medical work so we try our best to avoid the corrupt government officials. This year we treated nearly 2000 people in four days. Everything was treated from nervousness and headaches to surgically removing tumors the size of grapefruits in the hotel room! 🤖

I recently read an article talking about different kinds of Christians. It mentioned that some Christians are Matthew 25 Christians while others are Matthew 28 Christians. It made me think that we should not be exclusively either one, but should be both. Matthew 25:13-46 speaks of physical assistance such as feeding the hungry, visiting those in prison, and clothing the poor. Matthew 28 speaks of sharing the gospel and making disciples in the whole world. I believe it is when Matthew 25 works in tandem with Matthew 28 that there is great success. In this time we were also able to treat and speak freely in a large Muslim village where more than 400 were treated in one day. An incredible thing happened before we went to the Muslim village. There was an earthquake the moment they gave us permission to come to their village. (Cambodia has never had an earthquake on record!)



**Dr. Sharma the great doctor at work. . .
Anywhere. . . Anytime!**

Karate for Christ and "Big Show"

The Apostle Paul used a variety of methods to reach people, including speeches, miracles, persuasion, teaching, literature and many more. He wrote in 1 Corinthians 9:22-23 describing his strategy by saying, "To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings." This January, after nearly a year of planning we had the great opportunity to share the gospel using Karate! Karate, hundreds of years ago, was originally intended as a means of warfare and self-defense and now is used mightily to share about Jesus. In just three days we were able to share the gospel with more than 5,000 people. Tad and Scott put on a great show while the rest of us supported. Andrew Rankin from Freedom Church in Oklahoma did a great job of teaching leaders. We traveled around to schools, prisons and military bases sharing the gospel with hundreds at each place. It was an awesome.

Something unexpected happened which was funny. Ever since I started growing out a goatee, I have gotten a nick name in Cambodia. Everywhere I go people call me "Big Show". It comes from the name of a Professional Wrestler in Smackdown who they say I look like. (In reality he is a 7 foot tall truck driver or something). Anyway, as the two most popular TV shows in Cambodia are professional wrestling and Karaoke songs, seeing "Big Show" in person was a huge hit. Just for the fun of it I would rile up the crowd and break some boards over my head to get the crowd worked up. I was an instant hit! They never knew that I wasn't the real "Big Show". Whatever it takes!! Just so long as they hear the gospel.



"Big Show" working up the Crowd



Karate Demonstration

Children's Homes Slowly Emerging

The children in the Kracheh children's home have had a wonderful first year. The local school really applauds the development of the students and in every grade (from First to Third) the kids at our children's home are the top of the class. The school has opened its doors to allow as many children as we want to take to the school as we want. The children are still living in our main training center building while the two dorms are being constructed. We still lack money for the dorms, but we hope that a construction team from Dallas combined with a team from the Church of Glad Tidings can really develop the area including finishing the buildings, putting in sidewalks, building a canteen-kitchen and putting in concrete floors. We are also looking forward to putting in a playground soon.

We have big dreams and are so happy with the results and so many people expressing interest in helping the kids. We are even looking forward to some people visiting who are interested in live here to help the children more. Before we can even finish the existing building projects, we are actually already planning to build two more children's homes as in July we are expecting many more children to come into the home. The administration of the home is the most difficult challenge, but we have had great support from the local churches and leaders in working with the children. Please continue to pray for the resources and building of this strategic center. It is a great investment in the future of Cambodia.



The first boys dorm taking shape



Prayer Requests

Bible Translation

- Pray for the speedy completion of the New Testament.
- Pray for good and constructive feedback on the draft versions of the individual books from church leaders and missionaries.

Children's Home

- Pray for funding to complete the building of the boys and girls homes.
- Pray for construction of a Kitchen and Playground.

Church Planting

- Pray for strategies and resources (material and human) to reach the eight unreached ethnic minorities in Kracheh province.

Well Drilling

- Pray for qualified drillers who can take on the well drilling projects.

Personal

- (Rarely do I put personal requests, but pray for our family as we balance family life with ministry. . . We desire that our children grow up serving the Lord and being involved in our ministries so this adds a lot of extra responsibilities and pressures of time to family life.)

Something Interesting



Among the thousands of ancient temples and millions of carvings there is in one temple which was built in 1186 (some 800 years ago) which has a carving of what clearly is a dinosaur (Stegosaurus). In this same temple there are other animal carvings such as horses and rhinoceroses. There has never been dinosaur bones found in Cambodia and probably never will with more than 300 inches of rain a year. Even skeletal remains from US pilots who crashed in Cambodia more than 30 years ago only amount to not much more than a small tooth or bone fragment. Bones do not last long in this climate. By carving a picture of a dinosaur they must have known what it looked like? How? They knew what a rhinoceros and horse looked like (and they still live in Cambodia today). . . They must have seen dinosaurs too. So are they 150 million years old or 800 years old? Isn't that interesting?

Bible Printing Need

Under Communism the Cambodian government did not allow printed material to enter the country for fear of propoganda and any subversive materials getting to the people. Though Cambodia is a free country now, this law remains and especially when the majority religions are wanting to put pressure on Christians to stop their growth, the Bible has not been allowed into the country (It has been previously been printed in Korea). However, we can freely print in the country. The solution to getting the Bible in Cambodia is to get a printing press which can print on thin Bible Paper into the country along with the paper so that we can print here.

If you know of anyone or have any contact who can help us to get a printing press or know about the printing equipment which we need so that we can print the Bible in Cambodia please contact us.

NEEDED:

- Web offset Printing Press needed for Cambodia to print the Bible.
- Thin Bible Paper and good binding of Bibles.



Contact Information

Steve Hyde

Words of Life Ministries

Mail: P.O. Box 2581

Phnom Penh, 3

Cambodia

Phone: (855) 23-224121

E-mail: steve@asiaforjesus.com



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".