



CAMBODIAN SERVANTS

SUMMER 2006

New Life for a Whole Tribe

One of my greatest dreams was to one day see an entire tribe come to Christ. I hoped it would be the Khmers (the majority people of Cambodia), and still do, but in March of 2006 the Holy Spirit touched the most remote tribe in Cambodia and over a period of two days an entire tribe, the T'moan people, accepted Christ. This was the tribe that two years ago we had found completely isolated in the Cambodian jungle.

Read more on page two about the events leading up to the tribe accepting Jesus as their only Lord and Savior.



One of the T'moan elders being baptized in the "River of God"



Lao finishing off a well

Let the Water Flow!

Last year we were able to purchase a well drilling rig but we experienced a lot of problems with the ground conditions in Cambodia. We got a portable rig because of the need to get the rig into remote areas, however, in most of the remote areas there is a lot of rock in the ground making drilling with a small rig nearly impossible. In May, however, with the help of a couple of friends connected to the Church of Glad Tidings, Gene and Ray, together with our Cambodian workers Lao and Kosal, traveled from village to village drilling wells. Five new wells were dug and others repaired. As the rains have started, we will begin again in November with more drilling when the water table goes back down.



Ray and Gene adding a drill shaft to drill deeper

Inside this issue:

The Holy Spirit Opens Hearts	2
Methodology to Win a Whole People	2
A Testimony of Prayer at Work	3
Paul and Anna	3
Intern/ Apprentice Needed	4
Contact Information	4

Online Updates:

Check out our website to see more regular updates and a more complete view of the ongoing ministries of Words of Life in Cambodia.

www.asiaforjesus.org

The Holy Spirit Opens Hearts



Steve hanging out in the village



A whole family is baptized together

Two years ago we had found the T'moan people and this March we felt the time was right to finally share Christ with them. Upon returning to the tribe, they had just completed a sacrifice as we shared with them about how people's sin had caused them to fall away from the one true God. We shared the gospel every way we could, especially by comparing it to their own tribal legends. They had a flood story, a story about the world ending in fire (judgment of God) and a sacrificial system.

It was definitely a time ordained by God as after sharing the gospel and answering questions for two days all the people of the tribe accepted Christ. There were two different villages of about 500 people that accepted Christ at different times during the week.



Young men beat the gongs in rhythm



Single women dance to the gongs

Methodology to win a whole people



Pin telling the story of the Bible

It cannot be said enough that it is the Holy Spirit who convicts of sin and brings a person to salvation. . . the Words of Life team was only the instrument used in the hands of a powerful and merciful God to lead the T'moan to Christ. There were four of us who have been working over the last two years to get to a point of being able to share Jesus with this tribe who had never even heard of Jesus before we introduced him to them. Their religious practices are organized, but they are based on fear and appeasement of spirits who live in the jungles of Cambodia and involve sacrifice to appease the spirits.

Of the four people in our team, two had no formal education at all. One lives in a different tribal village, the other a former Khmer Rouge commander. The third is a Chinese Cambodian with a higher educational level and myself. Each brought their own value and gifts to the endeavor. My gifts were primarily strategy and finances because of my experience in working with ethnic minorities. I found out, however, that those who had a lower formal educational level were much more effective evangelists. There have been thousands of books written about how to share the gospel effectively with others. Some people swear by mass evangelism as the best method, but to others it's all about personal relationships and spending time with people. Others are passionate about literature such as tracts, pamphlets and the written Word of God. The current trend is oral learning where story telling and oral presentation are promoted as the ultimate method to win people to Christ. There are as many methods as people promoting them and all of them sound like "the" perfect solution.

What was our methodology to lead an entire tribe to Christ? You may wonder. Apart from the inexplicable power and working of the Holy Spirit we used personal relationships developed over two years, we used written tracts, we used media in the form of a gospel film, we used mass evangelism, we used small groups for discussions, and we even used pictures. It was the most diversified presentation focused on one people that I have personally ever been a part of or even heard of. Most of all we were open to the working of the Holy Spirit and flexible as led by him, not depending on one specific methodology we had learned, but using every possible way to reach the people. In the end, I would say the Holy Spirit did it, we just followed!

A Testimony of Prayer at Work



Pin and Ang baptizing villagers

Most believers pray every day, though few probably fast or spend long hours in prayer. Some of you may have heard of Praying John Hyde, he was a missionary to India and a great man of prayer. My mom is another Praying Hyde. She enjoys praying for hours a day. Honestly, I never have prayed for hours on a regular basis. On occasion I will pray for hours on end, or even go to an isolated place for days on end to seek the Lord, but not regularly as my schedule is too busy. God has given some people the gift of intercessory prayer. I often tell people that I need intercessors praying for me, but I am too restless to sit in one place and pray, I need to keep moving. My habit is to pray as I go out and do ministry. That is what I do. I think that we need both kinds of people. People out there doing the work of ministry and people interceding for the work of the Lord.

When we went out to reach the T'moan people, I told very few people that we were going, but I selected a few people that I knew would pray seriously for us. One of those was my Mom and the other was Pastor Dave Bryan who got the church members and intercessors of the Church of Glad Tidings on a three day fast praying for us. When previous trips had been treacherous and

even disastrous with serious injuries, this trip was different. As people were in constant prayer for us we faced no difficulties at all on our journey.

Previous journeys to the villages took four days, but this time it only took two days. There was a cool breeze the whole time and none of us were injured or had any motorcycle accidents of which previous times there were dozens of wipe outs.

The clearest example that I have ever witnessed of the power of prayer was when one by one, hundreds of villagers prayed to receive Christ. Satan had been bound in the spiritual realm and could do nothing to us. The village chief told us after he had accepted Christ that he would never offer sacrifices to spirits again. It was a genuine repentance and conversion.

They still need prayer though because now they are starting the Christian life and will face much spiritual opposition as well as opposition from other tribes who are steeped in their ancient traditions of sacrificing to spirits.

On Going Prayer Requests:

- **Funding for two more children's homes** (\$5,000 each)
- **Antioch Institute Dormitory** (\$80,000)
- **Bible Translation Work** (NT completed in Draft Version)
- **Evangelism and Church Planting** to reach all ethnic minorities in Kracheh province
- **Steve's Ph.D.** work (it's going too slowly!)

Paul and Anna Update

Paul has finished Kindergarten and is eager to start first grade. We still have not been successful in finding a Chinese or Arabic teacher for him. He is fluent in Khmer and English. He is begging us to go to summer school again. . . I wonder how many more years that will last?

Anna has a 7th tooth and has the longest hair of any one year old I have ever seen and is clearly the cutest baby on earth! She is walking and running and nearly ready to bust out in speaking. Right now she is just speaking in tongues.

Birthdays: Anna (June 10) 1 year old
Paul (December 15) now 6½
Noit (August 15) and Steve (October 26)



Paul and Anna with their 7 German Shepherd Puppies

Gumballs for Cambodia

My college suite-mate Bryan Furr came up with a really great idea for raising funds without passing a hat at his Methodist church in Texas. He bought a gumball machine and set it up in their youth center letting people know that the profits would be going to Words of Life Ministries in Cambodia. Over the year he would buy gumballs by the hundreds, or large packs of candy from Sam's or Cost-co, and just keep the machine filled. Over the year nearly \$100 was raised just off of all the quarters people put into the machine to get some candy.



It did not raise huge amounts of cash, but it didn't require much effort either and the gumball machine doesn't use electricity, so there was no electric bill to pay. I thought that was one of the neatest things I have heard of so far of simple ways to make a difference in Cambodia.

What can \$100 do in Cambodia?

- \$100 can provide food for a week at the children's home for nearly twenty people.
- \$100 can provide for two trips to the T'moan people to help disciple them.
- \$100 can repair a water well.
- \$100 can buy 13 full Bibles.
- \$100 can purchase 4000 full color gospel tracts.

Printing Press

I rarely mention anything twice in my newsletters, but I really believe that there is a printing press out there somewhere that God has destined for Cambodia!

I received several enquiries about possible sources for printing presses from Germany and the United States, but we still do not have a press.

We are within six months of an initial printing and a year from printing the entire New Testament and so I am anxiously awaiting to see what God is going to do to get us the Printing Press we need so that we can print Bibles in Cambodia. The need for Bibles is so huge that when we printed a draft version of the book of Mark we went through 20,000 copies in less than a month and churches are using that single book for their congregations because so few full Bibles are available.

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.



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