

Cambodian Servants

March-April 2004

Another Graduation- Approaching 600 Graduates

In January of this year we had another batch graduate from our certificate program. Most of them studied for more than one year to complete the training. 83 students graduated, making the number of graduates since the first graduating class in 2000 to be nearly 600 students. We are continuing to offer more classes and upgrade their degrees to associate degrees. The certificate program consists of 8 modules which is comprised of essential Christian teachings and practical ministry skills. Graduates come from some 17 different denominations and there are many independent groups as well.



At the end of this year we will open our full-time training school in Phnom Penh where students will study daily for three years to receive a Bachelor degree. We are taking applications soon for the new school. So far we have received a lot of positive comments about opening up the new school.

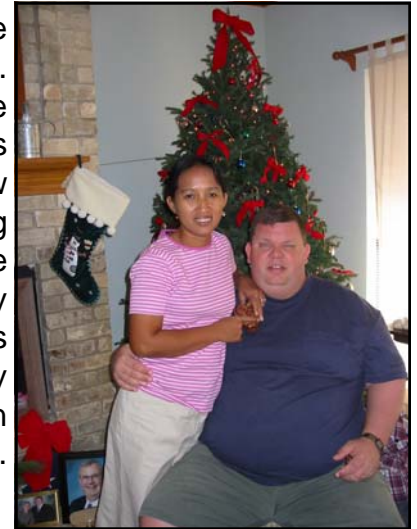
Christian Life Centre- Malaysia Working Toward a Strong Church



Also in January, we had a team of nearly 30 people from Malaysia come and visit. Christian Life Centre has been helping to support our church planters in two main areas in Cambodia. On this week they held a worship conference and also helped to construct a local church. The church is in the southern province of Takeo with Panny leading that group. They worked hard to build the building and raising the floor so that in the rainy season the church will not flood. Panny started her church about one year ago and has one branch church and about 20 adult members who are active. She is a really hard worker.

Christmas in the US

Thanks to our friends at the Church of Glad Tidings Noit and I were able to spend Christmas in the US and had a great time with my Mom. This was the first Christmas without my Dad so it just didn't feel like Christmas. I was hoping for snow, but being in Texas this year it was really warm so we didn't get any snow. Mom said they got some snow later though and it was really beautiful. It has been a hard year adjusting to life without my Dad. Just in the last year and a half the SBC alone has had 8 missionaries killed by Muslims. I don't know about the history of the SBC, but that seems to be extraordinary to have so many martyrs in such a short time. I have found it hard to comprehend and so the only thing I can do is just trust God that is apart of the big picture of his plan for the salvation of the world in a way my finite mind cannot understand. The motivation for me to work hard is very great.



Fun with Paul at the Beach



While Steve was in Singapore, Noit took Paul to the beach one weekend. It was his first ever time to see the beach. He talked about the "big lake" for a long time after that. He hasn't learned the word "ocean" yet, but he now knows that the "big lake" is salty. He spend one whole day at the beach taking turns playing in the sand and swimming in the water. Noit tried to coax him inside for a nap, but he just kept on going. He was having the most fun of his life. After the day was over, he was a very burned little boy, but had a lot of fun. A family in Singapore gave him some toys to play with in the sand, which he enjoyed. One by one, however, the toys disappeared. It was also his first experience of learning to keep on watch on everything all the time at the beach! Noit is going to stay home most of the year to develop a strong bond with Paul. We sure enjoy him being around every day.

Approved as a Ph. D. Candidate!

After spending a month in Singapore doing research and study and presenting my proposal for a Ph.D. dissertation, my topic and preliminary research was approved. I am planning to work as hard as I can so that I can finish in about three years. I have a great mentor who is very helpful as well. My approved topic is "An analysis of the Characteristics of Rapid Church Growth in Cambodia from 1992-2004." As no study has ever been done about the church growth in Cambodia, and it relates directly to my ministry, I am excited about the research and ready to get going. I will be doing some preliminary surveys and continuing with my seminars which I must take before actually writing my dissertation. It is going to be a big challenge to try and continue all the ministry while I am working on extensive research and writing at the same time. I am looking forward to the challenge!

Work Horse Breaks Down — Complete Overhaul in Progress



Over the last year the mechanic kept telling me that the sound of my engine was getting worse and was smoking more so the timing belt needed to be changed. He told me that I would need about two weeks for the complete overhaul of the engine. My pickup is a 1997 Toyota and in Cambodia this is quite old already as the conditions of the roads is so bad, many vehicles are completely scrapped after about 7-10 years. When the Malaysian team was here I was making daily trips to a southern province where the team was working. On the third day coming back, the oil line ruptured on the pickup and the oil all sprayed out. As soon as I realized it I shut

down the engine and looked for a tow back to town. The line had ruptured three times before, so I knew exactly what happened and how to fix it. Within a few minutes we found a flat bed truck who was willing to tow us into town. After towing us directly to the mechanic they replaced the ruptured hose and started it up, but the sound was not good! One of the four pistons had seized up. It became a forced overhaul! Since I was going to have to overhaul the engine I decided to weld all the broken parts and rusted body parts and then to re-paint the entire vehicle. It took 2 months of work and I received a total bill of only: \$800.00. I think that is about how much I paid for a broken seal one time in the US!



Antioch Institute Received Permit in 2 weeks!

In January, we received word from one of our friends in the police department who works in the religion department that the Ministry of Religion was issuing permits very quickly and cheaper than it normally does because of a need for cash flow to pay the staff workers. In Cambodia when you get a good tip you act on it. We had not intended to seek a permit for our school until the following year and wanted to continue to use our old permit (which is not a school permit, but a ministry permit). Getting the information we decided to go for it and issued a plan for three bachelor degrees including all the documentation on the paperwork. They didn't like the name "Antioch Institute" because it doesn't sound "religious" and they wanted us to be identified as strictly a Christian school. Our plan however, is to offer "Christian" training, but in a way where it can be accepted by secular schools and societies as well. We also want to be training Cambodian missionaries to go into other countries where the gospel is restricted. A degree called "Bachelor of Theology" or "Bachelor of Divinity" could be death sentences. This being so, our degrees are tied to cultural studies and anthropology (the study of people) which is all tied into ministry skills. The government approved everything very quickly and without any problems. Some government officials expressed interest in studying in the school as well. The beginning of the school term begins in November.



Steve, Paul and Noit at our house in mid-March.

Words of Life Ministries

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Prayer Points:

- Pray for that we can find more staff to help with the enormous task of translating materials.
- Pray for the time necessary to help training ministries in the Philippines, Nepal and Vietnam.
- Pray that Paul can pick up English quickly and be able to use both languages easily.
- Pray for the opening of the Antioch Institute in November.
- Pray for the churches started in Kracheh recently and also for Panny's church in Takeo.
- Pray for our efforts to send evangelists into all the unreached tribes in Cambodia.
- Pray that someone can volunteer to help us with administration and monthly reporting.

Contact Information and Sending Donations

Supporting Antioch Institute:

The support for the Antioch Institute will all go through Words of Life Ministries and will not be a separate entity as far as the budget. Antioch Institute is a project of Words of Life Ministries. Some of the current start-up needs of the school include:

- Provide a **Academic Scholarship in Your Name** (or someone else) for students in the Bachelor Program (\$450).
- Provide for a full month of training in Words of Life (\$1,200). \$1,200 trains, houses, and feeds 200 students per month in our regional training schools!
- Help to print our school curriculum. We have nearly 100 books which we need to get printed for our school. The total cost of printing is about \$20,000 but any little bit helps. It costs approximately \$1,000 to print 1000 copies of a book which we use in training.
- The lack of Bibles continues to be a huge problem. You can supply Bibles to a whole church! (\$300) Bibles cost \$6.00 each and the average church size is 50 people.
- Donate Christian books to our school library. Part of the accreditation process involves having an extensive library. We need approximately 5,000 more books!
- We also need about 50 tables for the classrooms and 100 chairs which will cost us about \$3,000.

Sending Donations from the USA:

Send Checks **Clearly Marked FOR Words of Life Ministries**, but made out to *Immanuel Baptist Church*.

Immanuel Baptist Church

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For Transferring funds (*Electronic Funds Transfer*) directly into the Words of Life account in Cambodia, contact Steve Hyde Directly. (For Singapore, Malaysia and other countries.)