



BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

The Church With the Vision and Heart to the Indigenous People

“Laboring for the Lord and the Lost in the Harvest Fields of Ratanakiri, Kingdom of Cambodia”



JANUARY—MARCH 2021

Dear PASTOR WEE and Partner In Missions.

It is with utmost joy and thankfulness that we write this Missions Report to you from Ratanakiri, Cambodia!

We are so thankful for all of our supporting individuals and churches and for your faithful prayers and support during these difficult times. But God is still shining a great beam of light to an unsaved world through your support for the work of Mission here in Ratanakiri. It can only be the divine power of the Lord that is blessing our ministry as we wait for the renewal and release of our **working and church permits**. Jesus told us that we work while it is still day. Until He comes, sunshine or storm, we work. Souls remain to be saved, darkness to be shattered by the glorious light of the Gospel, hope given to a hopelessly lost world. We gird up our loins and **“stand”**. **1 Corinthians 16:13** says **“Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong”**. What follows is a testimony of God’s willingness to stand with us during these difficult times. **He is so good and faithful!**

JANUARY

A new year has begun, we are still hoping and praying for an easy year than the last one! There were tons of challenges in **2020**, but we knew that **all things work together for good to them that love God**. Despite all the difficulties, God’s good plan is still being accomplished. I’m thankful to report that **NO more COVID** cases in Cambodia at this time so, we do our worship services in the church vicinity but consistently following all the health protocols from the government. And have seen spiritual fruit in the ministry here in Ratanakiri. We see some of our members that are consistent in bringing visitors to our church every Sunday. And also those visitors even brought their visitors as well. Please do pray for the salvation of these visitors.

Restrictions are still the same as last year in this country. Though there are no **COVID** cases at this moment, the Cambodian government still decreed strict **COVID-19 constraints**. They closed all the land borders (**Thailand, Vietnam, and Laos**) except for international flights. But every visitor or foreigners should deposit at least US\$2K with certified health insurance within 72 hours to enter the country to be used for their quarantine.

FEBRUARY

My family and I were able to attend a wedding of the daughter of one of our **faithful members and giver, Srey Meas**. Her family owns a big **DEPO** hardware near the Kamsan lake (one of the many lakes here in Ratanakiri). Her family is one of the well-off families here in this province. The husband is a military two-star military general but always praying for the salvation of her whole family. **Please do pray for her family**. I was allowed to share the Word of God, to pray for the couple which some of the family members and their friends, some Christians from other churches, and most especially some of our members were there listening during my preaching. Truly, it’s a blessing on my part and an opportunity to share the precious Word of God to them. I praise the Lord for the trust of her own family to our church and me as the Pastor of Srey Meas.

God allowed me to preach at the engagement ceremony to one of our faithful members, a young lady, **Seang Ei**. She grew up in the church together with her sisters. Her family has been a member of our church for 10 years now and still faithfully supporting all the ministries of our church. **Seang Ei** was once our Sunday school teacher in the church and some villages that we are ministering to. She’s presently working in one of the banks, the **ABA Bank from Canada** but still very supportive of the Lord’s work. Some of our church members, family members, and relatives of both parties, and even their friends came to grace the occasion. The ceremony was in her house.

By the way, in our many previous reports, I said that the Cambodian government was able to control the **Covid-19** situation in this country which many of us were amazed and happy. I even said that Cambodia is one of the safest countries in Southeast Asia to stay during this pandemic. Because of no deaths at all and no new cases as well. But last **February 20**, two Chinese males that are **Covid-19 positive** escape from their quarantine hotel by bribing **two security guards**. From that day, this virus spreads like wildfire in three places in Cambodia; **Phnom Penh, Kandal, and Preah Sihanouk provinces** which the government decided to lock down these high risks places. No schools again, weddings, meetings, and church services for these three places. Since the **February 20** incident, there are already more than **652 cluster cases** with the country’s **first Covid-19 fatality** recently. The loss of **Cambodia’s first Covid-19 patient** culminates after a full-year battle of trying to keep the contagion under control without deaths. So, the government announced to be more precautious at all times and follow all the health protocols.

Despite the Covid-19 new cases, the **Ministry of Cults and Religion** told us to continue having our services with 20

PRAISES

- Partners in the ministry that always pray, encourage and support us
- Blessings, protection and good health of my family and church members
- New supporting churches
- Group of visitors every Sunday (Khmer and Tribal young people)
- Renewal of our church and working permits
- Friday Online Bible Study Cambodia-Qatar
- Online Preaching to Lighthouse BC in Auckland, New Zealand
- New Katchok tribe homeboy
- Janeth’s birthday celebration
- Attended the wedding of Srey Meas daughter and shared God’s Word to the couple
- Shared God’s Word to Seang Ei’s engagement ceremony
- Having services despite of the pandemic

PRAYER REQUEST

- Growth and maturity of our members
- Power and effectiveness in preaching the Word of God in their own language
- Faithfulness in attendance of our people and for the Lord to raise up Godly men
- That we will be empowered and equipped to do more what He calls us to do
- Yearly house rent
- Right focus and faithfulness of our staff
- Train more nationals for the Lord’s work
- More churches committed to support the ministry here in Ratanakiri
- Need of (\$5,000) to put up gates and steel bars for the church fence
- Jared’s homeschooling needs both Khmer and English
- Start a new tribal work in Andoung Meas
- New pick-up truck
- Visa and working permit needs (\$1,060 for two persons)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

JANUARY— \$S99.99

FEBRUARY — \$S99.99

MARCH— \$S99.99

or less than 20 people and continue to strictly implement the Health Ministry's measures for self-protection and the protection of our loved ones and the society as a whole during this period of hardship. The **Religious Affairs** told us to do social distancing of about **1.5 meters** from each other. We praise the Lord for all the cooperation of our members and visitors during and after services.

MARCH

COVID-19 UPDATE

The **Covid-19** situation in Cambodia has reached a critical point, as cases surge with **two more deaths** and **265 infections** reported over the weekend. On **March 28** alone, the Ministry of Health recorded **86 Covid-19** cases linked to the February 20 community outbreak, which has seen cases rise to **1,708** in just over a month. Among **the 86 cases are 11 Cambodian children** as young as **18 months old**. So, the **Prime Minister** issued a statement not to have meetings and gatherings that include church services or else there would be fines for breaking the law. So, I encouraged our members to listen online or would visit them for Bible studies on any days that they're comfortable with. Most of the members don't have smartphones, especially older people. Despite the strict restrictions, it did not stop us from serving and worshipping our Almighty God by having services in my own house with my family, our nine staff plus a Filipina teacher, and one tribal young man. **Praise the Lord!**

The **February 20** outbreak has been the country's third and longest instance of community transmission Cambodia has faced since the pandemic began. **Right now, Cambodia** had recorded a total of **5,233 Covid-19 cases** with **1,154 receiving ongoing treatment** and **39 confirmed deaths**. **Please do pray for us here particularly the Kingdom of Cambodia!**

FAMILY

We're all doing fine by the grace of God. **Janeth** continuous to teach and training our tribal Homegirls/staff in our house. **Jared** is learning English with my wife every evening and Khmer language with one of our tribal **Brao staff** in the afternoon. I praise the Lord that he's making progress and very patient in reading and writing both in **English and Khmer language**. We're so amazed that Jared write his name in Khmer and even read the Khmer alphabets as well. He can speak **English, Khmer, and Tagalog**, at the same time with our staff and with the people around him. He's a very, very active boy especially in helping all our church staff and some of our household chores.

MINISTRY

We cannot do much during this time of restrictions, yet we continue to be faithful and focus on the calling and the work God entrusted to my family. We do our errands by visiting our members and non-members every week to minister and encourage them. Some of them are living in the village for about an hour or an hour and a half by a motorcycle. We even hand out to some people Gospel tracts, and most of them read it after receiving those colorful tracts. Praying that they would truly understand it and let God do the rest. Also, we visited some of our village outreaches to be a blessing to our children and their families.

Please do pray for one of our faithful staff, **Kheng Vung Vuthy (Dee)**, who is presently studying in our **Bethany Baptist Bible College** and our **LD Woosley Christian College** taking **BS in Education**. Were trusting and praying that he will remain faithful in serving the Lord despite the ongoing pandemic globally. Hopeful for his return to Cambodia on the 1st week of July to help us in our existing ministry while studying online. And pray that he will always follow God's will for his life especially as he continues his training with me and someday to assume the work that your missionary started in Phum Thmey village. So, I can start another work focusing on one tribal village and probably stay with the villagers to know them more to reach and minister to them smoothly. We're praying earnestly to start and establish Independent Baptist churches in 5-7 different tribal villages here in Ratanakiri. May you help us pray on these matters that God would be glorified and lifted in all our plans.

Our family is doing well and the Lord has blessed us with good health and protection. We are thankful for all of your prayers and faithful support! We are constantly amazed at the way God takes care of us through your generosity. We pray that the fruit here will abound to your account!

Together In The Harvest,

Kit, Janeth & Jared