



**HEART *for* CAMBODIA**  
SHINING THE LIGHT OF JESUS

July 2018

Dear Friends,

The churches in Cambodia are going strong and we thought you might enjoy an update. A team of 10 traveled to Cambodia in January and Chiv and Emara stayed on for another month. We were able to visit all of the congregations and we held a Christmas celebration along with some quality training time for the churches' leaders. Emara's testimony was recorded while we were at Angkor Wat and we hope you will view the video at [www.firstchurch.net/emara](http://www.firstchurch.net/emara).

Each congregation is unique and God is doing some special things in Cambodia. Here is a little about each congregation:

#### **O-Khmom**

The church at O-Khmom currently serves as "home base" for many of the 8 churches. Leader Ban Ho has completed a course of study at a Phnom Penh seminary and helps shepherd the other leaders. The past 2 years O-Khmom has hosted a Christmas celebration attended by several of the other churches. The people gather under rented wedding tents and spend 2 days enjoying meals together, hosting training for church leaders, and celebrating Christmas with children's pageants, music and candlelight.

A grove of 800 mango trees was planted in 2015 in fields behind the O-Khmom church. The trees are spaced so that other crops can be grown between rows until the trees are mature. The plan is to rent trees to individuals in the church for maintenance and crop selling when they are ready to yield crops, expected later in 2018 or 2019. The trees are looking good.

#### **Kun Domrey**

This sweet congregation is thriving and blossoming into a loving and caring community. Plans are underway to expand their small building because they pack the house! The leader of this church passed away last year and Chiv feared for their future. At his death, he charged his family to continue following Jesus and family members have stepped up. They have a strong children's leader and great participation among the little ones.

#### **Svay Cheat**

The congregation at Svay Cheat is struggling, with a great spiritual battle going on in the village. The church was located between two Buddhist temples and they blasted music and noise from loud-speakers constantly. Political conflict in the village was hindering the effectiveness of the church, so it was decided to sell the building. Pray for these believers that they will remain strong in the Lord and may be able to relocate at a later time and resume meeting together.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dr. Richard Dunagin

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### **Prey Tom**

The church at Prey Tom has engaged leaders who are actively discipling the members. Church leaders and members took our team by motorcycle to make sure we could reach all the churches. Many of the leaders not only attended the training at O-Khmom, but also followed the team to several churches to worship with us.

### **Knarosey**

The Knarosey congregation is sincere and enthusiastic in worship. They are eager to reach their community with the gospel and creative in their efforts to do so, recently allowing our team to work with them to build a bridge making the church more easily accessible to the people in the village. Ninety-five children attended our gathering and it was a joy to see Sharon and Emara teaching them at the base of the very mountains where Emara once fled Cambodia.

### **Banang**

Chiv visited the village of Banang and reached out to the people. He was joined by Dina Dim, who had attended school with Ban Ho. The two men began visiting with villagers and soon some were coming to worship services; others were sending their children. The first service held 15 attendees and now the congregation is 55 people strong, including many children and youth.

### **Chomlongromangler**

Chomlongromangler has natural beauty and cultivated gardens at the leader's house next door. Church members have lovingly decorated the church inside with colorful fabrics and children's art. Many youth are involved and 8 youth were baptized recently in a nearby river. Cambodia has a very young population and the many children truly hold the keys to Cambodia's future. Chomlongromangler has a children's leader trained with Child Evangelism Fellowship and a very active group of children and youth.

### **Russie Ros**

Fifty-three believers were baptized after a well was dug in the village of Russie Ros and Chiv brought the gospel message. The new church worshiped in a dry rice field and Chiv spoke about Jesus' words from Matthew 7, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you..." The wind began to whip and the rain came before the service of worship ended. Tuy Pheap had followed Jesus for decades and had prayed for other believers to come to the area and he is now leading this strong, strategically-located congregation.

None of this would be possible without your prayers and support. We thank God for you.

Blessings,

Dave Roelke  
Chairman  
Heart for Cambodia Board of Directors

**P.S. Please note our new address: 2701 Summertree Dr., Carrollton, TX 75006**



### Christmas Celebration at O-Khmom

The church is to the left behind the trees. The house to the right is where the pastor and his family live. Tents were set up in between and food was cooked over fires for the 200+ guests who came to celebrate Christmas and for leader training (you can see the smoke of the cooking fires). Changes to note since the beginning of our ministry are the graded road and the power lines. Heavy rains will prevent the road improvement from being permanent, but much of Cambodia's infrastructure is improving.



### Building a Bridge at Knarosey

Our 2018 team is pictured on the left standing on a bridge we were able to help construct. The picture on the right shows the true laborers in the effort! It was a joy to work side-by-side as they worked to improve their reach in their community. They are truly becoming disciples making disciples.

Below: 8 youth from Chomlongromangler were baptized. Trucks took a shortcut through the river near our site. There are always surprises!

