

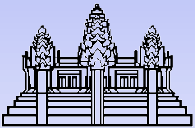


Jason & Leigha Carpenter Missionaries to Cambodia

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Dear Praying Friends,

February 2017

It is exciting to start moving towards the next phase in the ministry that God has called us to here in Cambodia. We are still very much in the preparation stage, but we are moving into the relationship building part of that stage by beginning to take trips out to the province to develop our relationships with the people in the village churches. We will be highlighting a different church with each prayer letter along with prayer requests specific to that church so that you can get to know those churches and pray for them more effectively.

A week ago, Leigha and I took our first trip to the province riding our moto together. The church we visited was in Kampong Speu province about 65 kilometers and 2.5 hours from our home in Phnom Penh. Pastor Gang is the leader at this mission church, in addition to pastoring the church in his home area of Svay Rolom. They worship on Saturday so that Gang can lead the service at his home church on Sunday. They started holding meetings at this location about two years ago after a medical missions outreach. On the day that we visited, about eight women and one man gathered to worship and listen to Gang preach. There was also a separate service for the twenty or more children who came. We enjoyed fellowship with the people at the house where the service was held both before and after the service, which helped lay the foundation of a relationship that we trust will open doors of opportunity for us to be a blessing in ministering to and strengthening this church. I plan to return to Kampong Speu on March 1 with Gang and another one of the Khmer pastors, Vibol, to evangelize, disciple, and help distribute iodine capsules in lieu of our co-worker Dr. Tom Johnson. Goiter has become a serious problem in Cambodia due to the lack of iodine in their diet, so Dr. Tom has been working with the Ministry of Health to try to get these iodine pills to more people, and we are helping with the distribution of the iodine until he gets back on March 15.

The greatest needs of this church are for the husbands of the women who are currently attending to be saved and/or start growing spiritually and coming to church, and for a local man to lead as pastor.

Another special time in ministry came about a month ago when I had the opportunity to preach my first conference for the combined congregations of the Svay Rolom and Phnom Penh churches. The speaker who was originally scheduled for the conference had to cancel at the last minute, which meant that I had to prepare two messages on short notice. Although I normally preach in Khmer, from notes also prepared in Khmer, this time due to the late notice, I used a translator. The people were very attentive and seemed to be encouraged by the message on God's purpose for suffering in our lives.

Our guests, my sister Anna and her friend Hope have been staying busy



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helping teach English twice a week at our co-worker's Bible college. They are also continuing to teach music lessons in the evenings, as well as being a big help around the house.

Leigha finishes at the language school on March 24, and although we will continue to take language lessons with a private tutor, it will signal the end of formal language study and the beginning of a shift towards spending more and more time out in the provinces of Cambodia building relationships and beginning to teach, preach, and disciple in the churches.

Our major prayer request at this time is that God would give us clear direction for our future ministry. We have many ideas, but we desire for God to direct clearly which opportunities we should take. Our field administrator, Pat Delaney, will be visiting at the end of March, which will be a critical time for the direction of our future ministry.

Also please remember to pray for the mission church in Kampong Speu, as well as the salvation of our tuk-tuk driver, Pu Chan.

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support. You are such a great blessing to us, and we feel privileged to be your representatives here in Cambodia.

In Christ,
Jason & Leigha Carpenter