



Suosdai! (Hello)

We were sent by the Japan Baptist Convention in March 2015 and have been doing missionary work in Cambodia for 8 years until March 2023.

In April 2023, we received an invitation from CBU (Cambodia Baptist Union) to continue missionary work in Cambodia through the Lord's leading and His Word.

As a CBU missionary

Since there is basically no financial support from CBU, we hope and pray that we will be able to connect with churches in Japan and overseas and with individuals in prayer, so that we can continue our missionary work in the long term .

Our family consists of Kazuyuki, Kaoru, and our oldest son, Kurosu (14 years old). The second son, Eisu (11 years old). They go to “Hope International School”, a mission school in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia, where they receive daily Bible study and Christian discipleship training.



Group photo of CBU office church members
More than half of the attendants are children.

“Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.” Genesis 12:1-2

Temporary return to Japan

From June 3 to August 7, we temporarily returned to Japan for about two months as the children's school were closed for the summer vacation. We visited Baptist churches throughout Japan as well as churches of other denominations on Sundays. We joined in worship services and prayer meetings, and had opportunities to share our testimonies and report on our ministries I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the churches that accepted my visit.



At the reporting event at Shinagawa Baptist Church Group photo with Rev. Yamanaka and participants



The reporting event at Kokura Church

Beginning with a service at Yokohama Joy Baptist Church on Sunday, June 4, we have attended services at various Baptist churches in Japan on Sundays. In addition to testimony and preaching opportunities, we had reporting events at Shinagawa Baptist Church, Kokura Baptist Church, and Tokiwadai Baptist Church. At Fukui Christ Church, we co-hosted a meeting with the Chubu Regional Union to discuss "The possibility of grass-roots mission to East Asia". We were greatly encouraged by the encounters with the people from various churches. It was a great joy for us to share the Lord's blessings that have been caused in Cambodia over the past year.

Meeting with Rev. Ito (WUPM Japan)

About a week before our return to Japan, the Lord prepared an amazing encounter with Rev. Hitoshi Ito of the Japan branch of WUPM (World Unreached People Missions), a missionary organization based in Korea. Before joining WUPM, Rev. Ito had been working in Myanmar for more than 15 years as a missionary from another mission organization. Like us, he has experience of continuing missionary work in Myanmar, after his contract with the organization to which he had belonged for many years ended.



WUPM Japan founder Rev. Ito (right) and his wife Rev. Sojung (left)

Currently, Rev. Ito promotes the importance of overseas missions to Japanese churches, mission schools, and Christian businesses. WUPM values missions to pray and send out as many Japanese as possible as missionaries. Through Dr. Ito God has given us opportunities to report on missions to many churches. Please pray that the prayer for the Cambodia mission will further expand.

<Churches we visited during our stay in Japan>
 Yokohama Joy Baptist Church Shinagawa Baptist Church
 Machida Calvary Fellowship Ankosoft Corporation
 Koriyama Cosmos Street Christ Church
 Tamagawa Christ Church Yamato Calvary Chapel
 Nara Christian Church (Anglican Church of Japan)
 Yokohama Onnuri Christ Church
 Japan Baptist Kokura Christ Church
 Hallelujah International Christian School
 (Affiliated with Jesus Family Church)
 Fukui Christ Church Aron 318 Community Church
 (Okinawa Baptist Convention)
 Hirao Baptist Church Tokiwadai Baptist Church

About CBU (Cambodia Baptist Union)

CBU is a young organization in its 28th year of existence. There are more than 500 churches throughout Cambodia, many of which are "house churches" in private homes. CBU focuses on planting churches in rural areas. Despite the impact of Covid-19, the number of churches is steadily increasing. However, the majority of the budget for CBU projects is covered by outside support. And most of the pastors at CBU are working part time in agriculture and farming for their lives. Pastoral training, church leader training, and supporting the pastors have been issues for many years.



CBU's evangelistic ministry in a rural village



CBU Office Church

There is a hall on the 1st floor and a worship hall on the 2nd floor.

CBU office church

In the CBU office church where we have been serving since our assignment to Cambodia, we offered the first Easter service as a church in April 2022. And computer class and Cambodian language class began in September, and many new blessing events have occurred in the past year, At the baptismal service held this April for the first time in four years, 30 people, mostly children, were baptized. It is also a "children's church," with children making up the majority of worship service attendees.

Sunday School

We have been leading a Sunday School with children and youth at our church. On August 13th, the first Sunday after our return to Cambodia from Japan, as soon as our car arrived at the church, the children ran out of the church and welcomed us with great joy. During the two months we were away, Lita, one of the youth member mainly took the lead instead of us. The following week, on the 20th, we held a birthday party for children born in August, and nearly 30 children attended. Please continue to pray for the children so that they can continue to grow in Christ.



First Sunday after returning to Cambodia
Children welcomed us



Khema knitting a plant hanger.

During our stay in Japan from June to July, we introduced Kema's works at various churches we visited, and many people purchased them. All of the "Threads of Hope" pieces that we prepared before returning to Japan were sold out. Thank you very much to everyone who purchased them.

Currently, we have received offers from several churches to sell our products at their church events. We would appreciate your prayers that the products of "Threads of Hope" will continue to spread to Japan and Cambodia, and that they will lead to further support for women.

Ministry for women "Threads of Hope"

Since our assignment to Cambodia, we have been praying for women who are suffering from poverty. One of them is Khema, a church member and she is from family of six, used to work in a sewing factory. However, she became unable to work due to a chronic illness and weakness in her body, and she had been struggling with the feeling of being a burden to the family finances. The Lord answered our prayers and showed us a hand-knitting handicraft called "macrame art". Since January of this year, Missionary Kaoru has been teaching Ms. Kema once a week.



Missionary Kaoru introduce the work of
"Threads of Hope" in a church in Japan

School Life of Kurosu and Eisu

Kurosu and Eisu have been attending Hope International School in Phnom Penh since 2015. The school was started about 20 years ago by missionaries through prayer for the discipleship training of their children. The school runs from preschool to high school and has about 300 students in total.

Soon after returning to Cambodia, a new school year started. Kurosu is in grade 8, and Eisu is in grade 6. Kurosu started studying the international curriculum "IGCSE" this semester. This is a two-year course curriculum that prepares students for college and gives them freedom in their major subjects.



Road to school. Some under construction, some dirt roads. Traffic is heavy in the morning.



Riding a bicycle to school. For safety, I (Yuki) ride alongside Eisu.

Thankfully, Kurosu has been blessed with good teachers, and he is studying more vigorously than last school year.

On the other hand, Eisu has moved up to the 6th grade, where he now has a different teacher for each subject and moves from one classroom to another. He also has his own computer and works on his classes and homework with the PC every day. At first, it was difficult for him to move from one classroom to another, but he soon got used to it and is enjoying school life in his new grade.

From the second week of the new school year, we started to go to school by bicycle to save on gasoline costs. For the time being, I (Yuki) am going to school together with Eisu. Please pray that we will be protected from accidents on our way to and from school.

From Killing Field To Living Field

The children who started coming to church last year live in a poor village nearby. It has a different atmosphere from the surrounding area, with unpaved roads, simple tin houses, and the sewage stream running behind them. The "Killing Field" are located just a short walk from this village. As I mentioned, this was an execution site during the Pol Pot regime. Many people and children were killed at the Killing Fields.



Visiting the village regularly. Children coming to the church greet us.



**Children in the village.
They join the Sunday school.**

The vision given to us by the Lord is the "Living Field. If the Killing Field is the "land of murder," the Living Field is the "land of life" where God's life grows in abundance. The vision given to us is none other than the hope that this poor settlement and neighborhood will be transformed into the "Living Field" by the Lord's blessing and grace. As a sign of this, we believe that the Lord has first led many children from this poor village to the church. As the closest and only church near the Killing Field, we pray and hope to serve the God's mission in this community.

Many Cambodians have a very real belief in the existence of evil spirits and souls. Therefore, the area near the Killing Field is a place that locals want to stay as far away from as possible, where the spirits of evil spirits that once drove many people to their deaths, and the spirits of those who have passed away, wander about. Despite its closeness to our church, we have always rarely set foot in the area. However, since last year, we have been able to visit this village as children have been led to the church from this community.



Please remember the children and residents of the village in your prayers.

<Prayer Requests>

1. Please pray that the missionary work through the CBU office churches will be blessed.
2. The Gospel will spread to the communities near the Killing Field and that the residents be saved.
3. The ministry for women "Thread of Hope" will led and help women in need.
4. The needs of our ministries, our livelihood, and the school fees of our two children (Kurosu and Eisu) will be met.

**Kazuyuki Shimada, Kaoru Shimada (CBU missionaries),
Kurosu (14 years old), Eisu (11 years old)**

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