



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.

What's new?

Three months have already passed since we returned to Cambodia in August, and now Cambodia is nearing the end of the rainy season, but there are still many rainy days. It can be dry and sunny in the morning and then suddenly squalls arrive in the afternoon, so you can never be too careful.

At the CBU office church where we serve, new people are joining, including children, youth, and adults, and new ministries started one after another. We really thank the Lord for His guidance. The following is a report of events that took place at the church in September and October.



Recent CBU Office Church, Sunday Worship Service
New people, including children, youth and adults are coming to join the worship.

**For you, Lord, have delivered me from death, my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before the Lord in the land of the living.**

Psalm 116:8-9(NIV)

Sunday School

We sing the "Lord's Prayer" in each worship service through praise. It is a very beautiful praise on a traditional Cambodian melody. The children had heard it every week, but they had not yet learned the words. So we practiced it in Sunday school to help them remember "The Lord's Prayer".

There are some difficult Khmer words in the lyrics, but the children were able to memorize it after practicing over and over again with the support of the youth staff. At the service, the children united their voices and sang the "Lord's Prayer" for the first time through praise. Since then, the children have been able to sing the "Lord's Prayer" at every service.



Children freely draw their favorite pictures on the cover of the file



Children singing a praise of "The Lord's Prayer" at the worship service

During the worship service, most of the children do coloring during the sermon. After the service, their coloring sheets were sometimes thrown away in the doorway. So, we decided to prepare a file and bind the completed coloring sheets. Since most of the children could not write, we asked them to freely draw pictures in the file so that we could identify them as their own.

At first, the children were at a loss to imagine what to draw. As we encouraged them one by one, their drawings soon began to shine. Some of the children proudly showed us the cover of their completed files.

Next year, the file will be filled with colorful pictures of Bible characters and stories. It will truly be a "Bible picture book" created by the children themselves.

PC beginner class completion ceremony

It has been a year since the PC class began, and we celebrated the completion of the beginning class at the October service; all three youth who took the final exam a week ago passed it. Other two youths, Zacariyah and Zakarip, served as teachers. Thanks to their efforts, the three youths became proficient in Word, Excel, and even PowerPoint.



**PC beginner class completion ceremony
The two on the left are Zacariyah and Zakarip**



**A scene from the PC class
Youths eagerly learning under the instruction
of the two teachers.**

I really thank both teachers from the bottom of my heart. And the youth who continued to learn for a year also did a great job.

In Cambodia, PCs and home internet are not so available for ordinary families, especially in poor areas such as near the church. However, the youth wanted to learn PC for their future, and we give our heartfelt thanks to God for guiding us through the whole process of meeting an NGO that conducts PC ministry, purchasing a PC, and starting the class, all the way to today,

Let's study Japanese!

In October, Japanese language classes began. The class started in response to a growing desire among the church youth to learn Japanese. In addition to the church youth, the students are children of Sunday school members. One of the youth, David, was watching the children and told us, "Those four are well-behaved and seem interested in Japanese, so why don't you invite them to the class?" They are child leaders who lead prayers and are active in the class. When we invited them to the class, they responded they wanted to. So the first class had a total of 10 students, 6 youth and 4 children.



**The first Japanese class.
Six youth and four children participated.**

In the class they learned basic greetings such as "Hello" and "Thank you," followed by hiragana practice. We are learning simple hiragana with one stroke. During the class, Khema, a church member, jumps in and helps us by supporting us with the Khmer words. The class has become more lively and cheerful after Khema joined.

The first Japanese class was really creative and "Cambodian-like," although there were some unexpected things and happenings. I really thank God for everything.



**Church member Khema (right) joins us
in the middle of the class. She helps us using
Khmer language.**

Visit to a village Near the "Killing Field"

We regularly visit a village near the "Killing Field" (a Pol Pot-era execution site). We can walk there from the church. Many of the church children live here. On this particular day, we visited the home of a girl who had not been to church for some time. Her hair was shaggier than before, and her expression looked very tired. She takes care of her little sisters in place of her mother who works during the day. That is why she can't come to church very often. When I said to her, "Come to church again," she nodded and pulled her face away.



She opened the door and showed herself. But immediately went inside the house.



Regular visits to the village Sunday school children welcome us

I am sure that by going out into the community on a regular basis, rather than just calling out, "Come to church," you will discover what you can do to help the people and their children. As we go out to the village, have conversations with the people, and serve them as needed, something could change. I have hope that her situation will change as well.

Therefore, we will continue our visits to this village. To know what we should deliver together with the gospel. We believe that this will lead to God's mission for "Living Field".

Ministry for supporting women "Thread of Hope"

"Threads of Hope" is the name of a ministry for supporting women using macrame art. We are thankful that during our stay in Japan from June to August, the products of "Threads of Hope" reached many people. Just before our return to Cambodia in August, God led us to meet a mission school, and we received our first order for our products. In September, the ordered products were completed, and the "Thread of Hope" was once again on its way to Japan. A floral arrangement workshop was held using them.



"Thread of Hope" work (macrame art) used in a flower arrangement class



**At the CBU Pastors' Meeting
Khema introduces "Threads of Hope" and
gives her testimony.**

In October, at CBU pastors' meeting, Khema gave a powerful testimony about her family's financial struggles, her encounter with "Thread of Hope," and the hope she has been given through her work. God also sent us a new student that day. She is a relative of Khema's, Sreymom. Khema taught her basic knitting methods, and Khema received the grace to teach her student for the first time. There are many challenges. But more than that, there is a certain hope. The "thread of hope" is spreading.

The participants took the "Thread of Hope" and arranged it to create a very beautiful work of art. May God's hope flow through the "Thread of Hope" to all the instructors and participants. In November, products from "Thread of Hope" will be displayed at a church event in Japan. We have received hope from the Lord that the "Thread of Hope" knitted by Khema and other women will spread from Cambodia to Japan and then to the rest of the world.



**Our first student, Sreymom.
Khema teaches her basic knitting methods.**



**The main street in front of Hope School.
The traffic is heavy in the mornings and there
is no traffic light, so it is quite nerve-wracking.**

School Life of Kurosu and Eisu

Kurosu and Eisu attend Hope International School in Phnom Penh. With the support of everyone's prayers, they are working hard both in academics and sports. We have gotten used to going to school by bicycle. However, it is currently the rainy season in Cambodia, and squalls often occur when it is time to go home. In such cases, we take shelter from the rain, Cambodian style, and wait until the squalls become quiet before returning home.

Hope School offers after-school club activities. That include football, volleyball, and basketball. Each sport does not have year-round activities, but rotates over a period of about two months. In August and September, Kurosu played volleyball for the high school club, earning the receiver position and joined competitive matches against other schools. From October, Kurosu will join in basketball, and Eisu will join in football. They are both looking forward to playing in a tournament between schools.



Eisu (second from left) chatting with teammates during a break at the football club.

The vision "Living Field."

In October, the Lord gave us His word.

For you, Lord, have delivered me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling, that I may walk before the Lord in the land of the living. Psalm 116:8-9(NIV)

The "living field" is a vision from the Lord. It is the "land of the living" in the scripture. It is the land of those who are thankful for the life the Lord has given and live that life with joy to the fullest every day. I pray that we will keep walking before the Lord and share the hope in the Lord with the people living in that village.



May the village near the Killing Field, and the entire community be changed into the "living field".

<Prayer requests>

1. The missionary work (Sunday school, etc.) through the CBU office church will be blessed.
2. The community near Killingfield and neighboring areas will be transformed by the gospel.
3. "Thread of Hope" will be blessed and support for Khema and other women be expanded.
4. The needs for our ministry, living, and school fees for Kurosu and Eisu be met.

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

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