



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?

It has been five months since we returned to Cambodia at the beginning of August. Thanks to your prayers and support, we have been blessed both in our ministries and lives so far.

Since the beginning of the new year, Japan has been hit by extreme difficulties: a major earthquake on the Noto Peninsula, a plane crash on the runway of Haneda Airport, and a massive fire in the Kokura Station restaurant district. We continue to pray for the Lord's comfort and help to all those affected.



On December 31, at the CBU Office Church Christmas Service, Children performing the Nativity play

**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 Fruits of the Spirit

On Sunday, November 26, a multi-church children's event was held. A total of about 100 children from 5 churches joined. The theme of the event was "Fruits of the Spirit."

The theme song "Fruits of the Spirit" is a familiar song to the children of the CBU office church, as they always praise it in Sunday school!



Lita preaching to Children with dignity and confidence

It was a really wonderful sight to see 100 children working hard all at once to create the "Fruit of the Spirit" craft. The children's concentration and speed increased dramatically with the addition of a new system whereby the child who finished first was rewarded with candy.

Starting from this event, we sincerely pray that the 9 fruits of the Spirit will grow in the hearts of the children through Jesus.



Children completed "Fruit of the Spirit" craft.

Also, Lita, a youth staff member, served as the preacher for children this time. Just before the performance, she said, "I am very nervous," but she delivered the message of the Word of God with liveliness that exceeded our expectations. It was a moment when we saw the truth that the Holy Spirit was alive and working.



Craft time. Everyone is working hard with scissors

Reunion after a long time

In December 10, when we arrived at the church, Children greeted us as always. Among them were Darnet and her sister, who had not been to church for a long time. This is the girl who showed her face when we visited the village near Killingfield about two months ago, but immediately went inside the house (see the previous issue). She had been taking care of her younger brothers on behalf of her mother. That is why she could not come to the church. We thank the Lord for leading these girls to church again.



Darnet who came to our church for the first time in a long time (The second girl from the right)



Krisner teaching the "Lord's Prayer" praise to the children

During the service on this day, Krisner, Darvid, and Philip gave their testimonies from the joint children's program that took place last week. This is the first time the youth have given their testimonies in this way. I believe they were inspired by attending last week's event and seeing the youth from other churches serving.

Hopefully we can continue to provide opportunities and support the growth of our youth as much as possible.

Growth of the Youth

One of our youth members, Krisner, was very active at the December Sunday School. When a girl who prayed for the first time that day got stuck in her words, he casually supported her, and during the "Lord's Prayer" praise, he stepped forward and actively led the children. He is a great help to us because he sees what is going on around him and acts on his own initiative.



Darvid, Krisner, and Philip testifying with slides at the worship service

Christmas gifts

It was Sunday, December 24. As our car pulled into the street in front of the church, children were already playing in the street, waiting for our arrival. When they noticed our car, they happily ran up to it. This is a common sight these days. When we got out of the car, the children approached us and quickly surrounded us. Then they all shouted in unison

"Neaclou (teacher), close your eyes! "
The next moment we closed our eyes.

"Merry Christmas!"
And with that, little boxes with ribbons on them were placed in our hands one after the other.

"Neaclou (teacher), thank you for everything!"
The children had prepared gifts for us.



Children gave us a surprise Christmas present.

After returning home, I opened each of the small boxes and found that they contained small hairpins, small accessories, small erasers, handmade stars, and even letters.

As I held each gift and read the letters, I couldn't help but wonder how those children had prepared them.

What is certain is that they did not give us gifts from their abundance, but from among the things they found time to make by themselves, collected with great effort, or received from someone else and kept for themselves.

Surrounded by children, we received an overflowing gift. It is the love of Jesus that we felt with the children, and the gifts we received from Jesus through the children. Thank you, children.

Thank you, Jesus.



There were a variety of things in the cute little boxes with ribbons,



The angel appeared to Mary. The youths (right) are in charge of musical instruments

Lita, a youth staff member, was always there to help the children, not only teaching them how to perform, but also encouraging those who had difficulty remembering their lines. Several parents attended the Christmas service for the first time and watched the children perform. Through the play, we are sure that they could feel the joy of Jesus' coming into the world.

At the gift time for children in the end, Only children who had registered in advance were supposed to receive them. However, as we passed out the gifts one by one, to our surprise, there were enough gifts to go to all the children, even those who came for the first time and had not come for a long time. It was a gift that Jesus prepared for all the children.

Thank you, Jesus.

CBU Christmas Service

On December 31, a Christmas service was held at the CBU Office Church. At the service, we presented the Nativity play for the second time since last year.

Since the beginning of December, the children have been practicing the play every week. The children who played the roles of the angels, Joseph and Mary, the shepherds, the sheep, and the wise men worked hard to memorize their lines. After repeated practice, they were able to say their lines loudly and proudly. The youth practiced recorder playing at church and at home, which they could not do last year due to lack of time. They finished it in a short period of time for the play.



Every children received a gift including those who came for the first time, and for the first time in a long time.

Japanese Class Update

On November 1, a total of 12 students joined us for our second Japanese class. We practice conversation in the first half of the class and character practice in the second half. What I realized this time was that it is difficult to work with children and youth together in one class. If the content is adjusted to the children, it is not enough for the youth. From the next class onward, we decided to divide the class into two classes.

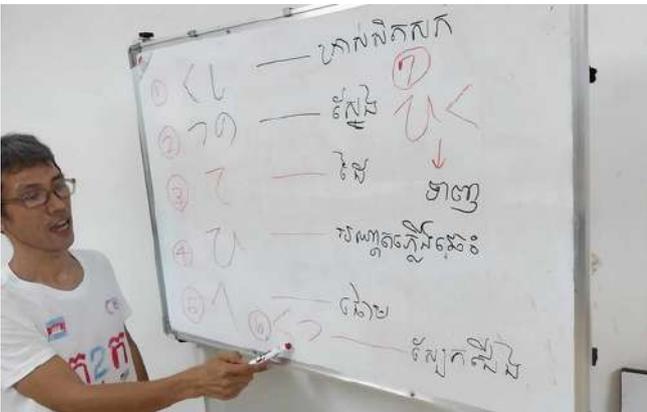


Second Japanese class

Twelve students joined us.

We have been receiving information on materials through Facebook and are trying several of them out. We have just started and are still in the trial and error stage.

As the class progresses, I hope to use Japanese anime and, of course, use the Bible as a subject, because it is not only a place to teach Japanese, but also an opportunity to share the Word of God. We also hope and pray that some of our students will go to Japan in the near future.



We also use Khmer words to explain.

Ministry for supporting women "Thread of Hope"

Thank you for remembering in your prayers "Threads of Hope," ministry for supporting women using macrame art, which was purchased by several churches at the events in November and December. Thank you so much to all who purchased them. We hope that "Thread of Hope" will continue to spread to more people, especially churches.



We read the Word of God and pray before each session.

Sreymom, who joined the ministry in last October, has been improving under Khema's teaching, and is now able to make the designs such as cross, heart, and other pieces of work.

We are currently looking for souvenir shops and cafes that can sell our products so that they can be sold to local people and tourists in Phnom Penh. We would appreciate your continuous prayers.



Khema (left) and Sreymom (center) Discussing how to knit a piece.

School Life of Kurosu and Eisu

Kurosu and Eisu go to "Hope International School" in Phnom Penh. On November 26, a "cross-country" sports event was held.

Kurosu, a 9th grade student, ran 4 km, and Eisu, a 6th grade student, ran 3 km. Each of them placed high and were chosen to represent their school in the inter-school marathon scheduled for a later date.



**Kurosu, a 9th grade student(third from left)
At the point just after the start**



**Eisu, a 6th grade student
At the turnaround point**

The first semester of Hope School ended in mid-December. Since the beginning of the first semester in August, both Kurosu and Eisu have been able to lead fulfilling lives in both academics and sports. We sincerely appreciate everyone's prayers.

<Prayer requests>

1. The Children and youth of the CBU office church grow by the Lord's grace.
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 (15 years old), Eisu (11 years old)**

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(Donations should be transferred to)

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