



## 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.

---

## Return to Cambodia

Thank you always for your prayers, it has already been two months since we returned to Cambodia. During this period, God has been causing many blessings to take place.

Cambodia is currently in the second half of the rainy season, and it is clearly wetter than usual. Not only the afternoon squalls, but there were also days when the rain continued from morning. Clearly, the climate has changed from previous years. Below, we would like to share with you some of the events that took place in the church in August and September.



At the first service after returning to Cambodia  
We shared the blessings in Japan



Children welcomed us at the church

---

## CBU Office Church First time in two months

On Sunday, August 11, we returned to the CBU office church for the first time in two months. As soon as the car arrived at the church, we were greeted wildly by the children. For the past two months, eight youths have been leading Sunday school on our behalf. They prepare songs, Bible stories, coloring during the service, and coloring pencils. They took an active role in the service, even leading the praise during the worship service. Our sincere thanks to the youth.

---

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)



We had a brief meeting with these 8 youth after the service to discuss what kind of activities they want to do in the church in the future. This was the first time we had such a meeting. We found out that in addition to the Japanese classes we have been offering, many of the youth are interested in playing musical instruments such as guitar, keyboard, and cajon (drums). We hope to start a “music class” in the near future.



Meeting with church youth to exchange ideas



We used a picture-story frame for the Bible story

When we opened the wooden door, the children looked at us expectantly and devoured the story with expressions full of curiosity, wondering what kind of story was about to begin. Each picture in the storybook seemed to overflow with warmth, friendliness, and kindness. The children enjoyed the rich world of picture books coming from such pictures. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the church members who donated the frame and books.

## Glued to the picture-story

At the September Sunday School, we used a picture-story show to share a Bible story. The wooden frame for the picture-story show in the photo on the left were donated by a Japanese church this summer. What we have been praying for was finally given to us.

In the past, we have always printed out pictures of Bible stories and told them in a picture-story show style. However, with the wooden frame, the children's reaction is completely different and so is the atmosphere.



The children watched with eagerness

## Let's play music!!



First time playing the recorder. Practice with simple sounds.

The lyrics were translated into Khmer and are currently being practiced by the children in Sunday school. The youth decided to challenge themselves to play that same song on a musical instrument. Everyone was a little hesitant at first, as it was the first time for them to touch the instruments, but they soon got used to it. Everyone seemed to enjoy practicing on their respective instruments.

After the Sunday service on September 1, a new “Music Class” started. The instruments are standard recorder, guitar, pianica, and xylophone. The recorder and pianica were previously donated by a church in Japan. In addition, a church in Japan donated a xylophone this summer. The music we work on together is a praise song that was introduced to us by a church this summer.



They are working hard on the donated xylophone and the pianica.





Youths teaching each other how to play guitar

We hope that in the near future, the children will sing and dance to this song, and the youth will take charge of the music and perform a special worship. On top of that, we hope that these members will become a worship team, leading to a youth-centered worship service. On this day, four different instruments filled the spacious chapel with different tones.

We would like to thank all the churches that donated instruments. Please pray for the youth so that they can enjoy and improve their skills more and more.

## IJCS Mission Trip

Pastor Yorie Ito and Ms. Esther, a member of IJCS (International Japanese Church of Singapore), visited Cambodia for 6 days and 5 nights. They worked energetically every day in Cambodia, which they had not visited for a long time. Rev. Ito told us, "I knew about the situation to some extent through newsletters and reporting meetings, but there are still many things you can't understand unless you actually come here.



Memorial photo with children from CBU office church



Interacting with residents and children in the village

Rev. Ito (right) and Ms. Esther (left)

On Sunday, they participated in the Sunday service of the CBU office church and shared their testimonies and the preaching for the children. In the Japanese class, children who are learning Japanese immediately talked to the both of them, "Konnichiwa!" (Hello) "Hajimemasite!!" (Nice to meet you) They tried to use the Japanese they had learned. During this visit, new ideas such as a short-term weekend mission trip from the IJCS church have been inspired. Thank you so much, Rev. Ito and Ms. Esther, for bringing us many blessings from Singapore.

Ministry for supporting women "Threads of Hope" (macrame art), new design, Angkor Wat, is finally completed. Below is the story of how it was achieved.

After returning to Japan for the summer, we resumed our activities in August. Khema and Sreymom and we talked about the idea of creating macrame art with a Cambodian design, and we decided on "Angkor Wat," the symbol of Cambodia, as the new design. Sreymom immediately drafted the design by hand. However, Angkor Wat has a complicated shape. When we made a prototype, it was difficult to express the outline of the building and the design, so we had to create a new weaving method.

## "Thread of Hope" New design Angkor Wat completed



Khema (right) and Sreymom (left) Working hard to create a new design, Angkor Wat



It was also quite difficult to balance the left and right towers; the three of us continued to go through trial and error.

In such a situation, God clearly showed us how to knit the difficult parts, and we were able to successfully knit the towers. After about two weeks of trial and error, we were able to express the shape of Angkor Wat in macrame knitting. We thank God for His help and direction. The IJCS church that recently visited Cambodia soon purchased the product. Also, the Cambodian Baptist Theological Seminary purchased them as memorial gifts for their graduation ceremony held in September.



**(Left) Drawing created by Sreymom. (Right) After completion, we displayed it on the wall.**

We hope and pray that as many people as possible will be able to purchase the Angkor Wat design “Threads of Hope” in the future. We have also received requests for more colors in our macramé products and for macramé that can be used not only for decoration but also for bags and other practical purposes. We have started trial production of these products. We hope you will remember that in your prayers.



**Holding the newly designed product, wrapped and ready to sell. Khema (left) and Sreymom (center)**

## Visiting Ogura Elementary School

In late September, we visited Ogura Elementary School, a public elementary school in Cambodia. Many of our church children attend this elementary school, which is located right next to the "Killing Field". Through the children, we had known about this elementary school for quite some time. However, we did not know that it had a Japanese name, “Ogura,” until recently. According to a church member, it must have been named so because a man named “Ogura” helped establish this school.



**Main entrance of Ogura Elementary School. About 100m from the “Killing Field”.**



**Children of Sunday School members found us near the school. They ran up to us.**

There are many public schools in Phnom Penh that were built with Japanese financial support. Usually, the Japanese and Cambodian flags are painted side by side on the school buildings of such schools. However, I had never heard of a school with a Japanese name until now. Ever since we learned about “Ogura Elementary School,” we have always wanted to visit this school once. Recently, a church member, Khema, contacted the principal and we were finally able to visit.





**View of the Ogura Elementary School building**

We asked the principal why the school was named “Ogura”. He told us that he did not know the details because it was the previous principal's time, but that it was out of gratitude because Mr. Ogura really gave a lot of support to the school. Unfortunately, Mr. Ogura had already passed away, and the principal did not know any further details.

We believe that God has a mission plan for this elementary school right next to the "Killing field". Please remember us in your prayers.



**Photo with the principal (center) and vice principal (left)**



**Children singing Malaysian praise**

In Sunday School, they taught the children Malaysian praise. They also shared their testimonies in the worship service, and in the Japanese class, they taught Japanese to the children through games. All the children seemed to be having a lot of fun.

During Sunday school, one of the members asked the children the following question: “What are you proud of about Cambodia?” The children answered, “Angkor Wat! . We were deeply moved to know that Angkor Wat is also an important part of their national pride for the children of Cambodia. We sincerely thank the CFF team for visiting the church this time and bringing blessings to the children.

## CFF Japan Visiting CBU Office Church

A team of five from the “Caring for the Future Foundation” (CFF) Japan attended the CBU office church service. CFF is an NGO with offices in Japan, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Myanmar. They organize work camps and study tours for children in difficult circumstances. We heard that many young people from Japan have participated in the camps and tours. This time, in preparation for holding a work camp in Cambodia, the team visited Phnom Penh and our church.



**In the Japanese class, they had fellowship with the children through games**



**Kross in the Volleyball Club  
Group photo with teammates after the game  
(Front row, first right is Kross)**

The Hope School has sports activities for both the middle school and high school divisions. Instead of playing one sport all year round, they play volleyball, basketball, and soccer every three months; during August and September, Kross played volleyball and Ace played in the basketball club. Each of them have had the opportunity to play in more practice games and friendly matches than last year.

Soccer is the sport that both Kross and Ace like and excel at the most, but they are also discovering the importance of teamwork and the joy of improving in volleyball and basketball. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts for your prayers that the Lord have guided them in both their studies and sporting activities.

## School Life of Kross and Ace

Kross and Ace attend Hope International School in Phnom Penh, which started a new term in August, with Kross moving up to the first year of high school and Ace moving up to the first year of junior high school.

Last year, Kross began a two-year course of study in an international curriculum. With an increase in elective courses, he is busier in studies than last school year. Ace, on the other hand, has undergone various changes, such as a new study of Spanish starting this year, and homework seems to have increased. Kross will be preparing for the final exam of the course next May. Please remember them in your prayers.



**In a basketball team game  
Ace goes towards the opposing team player**

<Prayer requests>

1. For the children and youth of the CBU office church to grow further by the grace of the Lord.
2. For the community near Killingfield and the church area will be transformed by the gospel.
3. For "Thread of Hope" new design "Angkor Wat" to be blessed and be spread to many people.
4. For building relationships with the teachers and children of Ogura Elementary School.
5. All financial needs, such as mission work, livelihood, and children's school fees, will be met.

Kazuyuki Shimada and Kaoru Shimada (CBU missionaries),  
Kross (15 years old) and Ace (12 years old)

(Contact) E-mail address

dekakurosu3927@gmail.com

Cell phone: 050-5435-4350 (can be called from Japan)

(Donations should be transferred to)

Rakuten Bank, Noel Branch (Branch No. 246)

Account No. 1081064 Kazuyuki Shimada

