

09

# LIVING FIELD

2025

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## Suosdai! (Hello)

We were sent by the Japan Baptist Convention in March 2015 and did mission work in Cambodia for 8 years until March 2023. In April 2023, we received an invitation from CBU (Cambodia Baptist Union) to continue mission work in Cambodia through the Lord's leading and His Word.

However, there is no financial support from CBU, so we pray that we can connect with churches and individuals in Japan in prayer and continue our mission work with specific support.

## What is new?

Thank you for your prayers and support... In January and February, Cambodia was affected by air pollution and the PM2.5 (air pollutant) levels were high. There were several days when the air was obviously cloudy and the sky in the distance was blurred and difficult to see clearly. On days when the levels were high, outdoor sports activities at schools were cancelled. By late February, the situation had calmed down considerably and normalcy had returned to normal. Below is a report on the events of January and February.



At the end of the service, Pastor Nivath prays for the church members.



Children gathered for Sunday School.  
The leader is wearing a blue shirt.

## Changes in Children's Leaders

Every Sunday, 20 to 30 children, often as many as 40, come together at the church. Among them are children's leaders who serve as group leaders and care for the children of the members. The leaders have become more and more active recently, presenting scripture recitations and special praise during worship services. We started with 7 children leaders, but now we have 15. We thank God that He is raising up each and every child.

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)



However, some of the children who have recently become leaders do not have a good understanding of the role of the leader. The other day, one of the leaders told me that she thought the behavior of some of the leaders was not good. So I gathered the leaders and we discussed it together. Then we found out that there was a dispute among leaders due to some not-so-good words. We were able to confirm together that at such times, it is necessary to remember Jesus' teaching to "love your neighbor" and to show and practice compassion and kindness. I felt that Jesus was present in this discussion and encouraging the child leaders.



**Discussion among children leaders.  
Express their opinions in front of other leaders.**

At first the children became leaders and took on the responsibility of serving because of the reward stamps. These children have been changed by God's love and mercy, and some of them now have more joy in serving God than in receiving stamps.

**"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind...Love your neighbor as yourself," Matthew 22:37-39.**

We believe that God will further grow the faith of our children leaders and all the children who gather at our church.



**Children's leaders praying together**

## Youths of the Church

Our middle to high school youth are willing to serve in the Sunday School ministry. At the "Children's Market" in February, the youth were in charge of all the games such as bingo, target shooting, ring toss, etc. It will not be long before the youth can serve in Sunday School by themselves.



**Special praise at the worship service.  
Instruments are pianica, cajon, and guitar.**

We have been working with these youths on practicing their musical instruments in January and February. Through weekly worship services with special praise and practice after the services, both singers and players of the instruments are definitely getting better than last year. We pray and hope that through music, they will feel the joy of working together and praising God even more.



**A time of fellowship among the youth  
with pizza.**

## Changes in the community

Most of the children come from a village just a short walk from the church. The village is located next to the "Killing Field" the execution site from the Pol Pot regime. During our regular monthly visits to the village, we have noticed changes in the village and the surrounding area.

Simple houses line one side of the village street, and a small, stinking stream runs behind the houses.



**Regular visit to a village. Some of them are  
attending the worship service.**





**Interaction with residents of a newly built housing complex.**

As a church, we hope and pray that we can build more relationships with the village and community.

Also, an AEON Mall was recently built behind the Killing field. This is the third AEON Mall and the largest shopping mall in Cambodia. The area around the mall is expected to be developed further in the future. The Lord is making various changes in the area near the church and from the Killing Field to the AEON Mall.



**Aeon Mall No. 3. A large scale that is hard to find even in Japan.**

## The “Living Field” website launched

In mid-February, the website of our support group “Living Field” completed. Around December of last year, one of our support churches said to us, “It would be nice to have our website” and we discussed ways to create one. While researching various options, we came across “Lampmate,” a website creation service for churches, and asked the representative, Mr. Uesaka, to create a website for us.



**Top page design. The pictures there switches.**

Several members from the support group joined Mr. Uesaka for a series of online meetings to discuss the design and contents of the website. As a result, we have completed a website that is much better than we had imagined and very accessible. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Uesaka and all the members of the support group who cooperated with us.



**Website logo (left) and QR code (right)**

## “Thread of Hope” updates

The following is an update on the ministry for supporting Cambodian women, “Thread of Hope”. So far, our macrame art products, plant hangers, have been purchased mainly by churches and individuals in Japan. We have been praying to sell more of our products in Cambodia, and we were given a new location: a 10-minute walk from the CBU office church is the “Killing Field”. We were given a new location to sell plant hangers at a souvenir shop on the site.



**At the souvenir shop on the "Killing Field" Negotiating with the staff.**





**Displayed in the store**  
**A plant hanger with Angkor Wat design**

We recently headed to the Killing Field with members of the ministry. There are several souvenir shops lined up near the entrance. Many visitors, especially tourists, visit those stores on their way out to buy souvenir items. Church members have built a relationship with the reception staff at the Killing Fields so far. We became acquainted with each other and were able to talk to the souvenir shop on the site. We are thankful that God has led us to expand our selling point this time. The "Thread of Hope" is spreading little by little. We would be grateful if you will pray for the further spread of the thread of hope not only in Japan but also in Cambodia.

## School Life of Kross and Ace

Hope International School, where Kross and Ace attend, held its annual school camp in late February. Each grade, from upper elementary to high school, goes to a different destination for a four-day, three-night camping trip. The Year 10 class, to which Kross belongs, went to Mondulkiri, a province in eastern Cambodia (about 400 km from Phnom Penh, 7 hours by bus), together with the class one grade below. It was a very fulfilling 4 days and 3 nights with various activities such as walking around waterfalls and hiking in the rich nature of Mondulkiri.



**Kross and his classmates walking toward their destination on the red soil of Mondulkiri**



**Early morning worship service at Shalom Valley**

The year 7 class, to which Ace belongs, held a joint camp with two other grades in Kep, a coastal town in southern Cambodia (about 140 km from Phnom Penh, 3 hours by bus). The Christian-run "Shalom Valley" is located here and offers a variety of facilities, including camping and athletic activities on the water. Ace had been looking forward to this camp for about a month and enjoyed various activities with his close classmates.

### <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", for the products to be spread to many people in Japan and Cambodia.
4. All financial needs, such as mission work, livelihood, and children's school fees, will be met.

Kazuyuki Shimada and Kaoru Shimada (CBU missionaries)  
 Kross (16 years old) and Ace (12 years old)

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