

10

LIVING FIELD

2025

May



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 all for your continued prayers and support. April is the hottest month in Cambodia as we celebrate the Khmer New Year. It is very hot every day, and the need to use air conditioners naturally increases. The dry season, which lasted for about six months, has come to an end, and the rainy season, with its afternoon squalls, has arrived. In the evenings after the concentrated squalls, the intense heat eases a bit and a brief coolness arrives. Below is a report of events mainly in March and April.



Stamps on leader cards filled up,
Children who received prizes as a reward



Group picture with completed crafts in hand

On Mother's Day, with all our hearts

In Cambodia, "Mother's Day" is called "Mother's Gratitude Day. It is deeply rooted in their culture to value and cherish their parents' kindness with gratitude. on May 11, Mother's Day, children in the Sunday school worked on handmade gifts: a flower made of paper with four heart-shaped petals, each petal with the words "Thank you, Mother" and "I love you."

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)

"This is my mother's favorite color"

"Look! how well it turned out"

"My mon will be very happy"

The children naturally expressed their feelings for their mothers. For the children who could not use the scissors properly, the older brother of the youth group helped them by staying close to them. This display of help also showed how much they cared about each other.



For children who cannot use scissors yet the youth provided support.



Children using scissors and concentrating on their work

The recited scripture for the day was "Honor your father and mother" (Exodus 20:12). As the children spoke this verse, they seemed to formulate a "thank you" to their mothers in their hearts.

Even without words, there is a feeling that can be conveyed. We hope that the gratitude expressed in the flowers made by their small hands will reach the heart of each mother.

Change in Children leaders (Darnet)

She, Darnette, first came to church about two and a half years ago. Soon after that, however, she stopped coming to church. She has five siblings, three younger sisters and a younger brother. On Sundays, she had to take care of her younger siblings in place of her mother who was at work. We once visited her home after she had not been to church for a while. When we called her name, she opened the door and showed us her face, but soon went inside the house.



Taking her siblings to church (Darnet, second from right)

We are grateful to God for the fact that He has been with her every step of the way since the first time she came to know Jesus at church.

The other day, Darnet's "leader card" was filled with stamps. Her group was honored during the worship service. Through God's love and mercy, children leaders are being changed daily like Darnet. We are very thankful to God.



Visiting Darnet's home.

She immediately went inside the house.

About a year later, she started coming to church again, this time with her younger brother and sisters. Holding her little sister on her lap, she sang praise songs and spent time listening to the Word of God while keeping an eye on her brother and sisters. Now she is one of the children leaders. Her face, which had been dark, has brightened up.



Darnet (right), now a children leader. Her expression is getting brighter.

Children working hard on memorizing scripture

In Sunday School, we have a memory verse time as a study of the Word of God. We prepare several Scripture cards about the size of a child's palm. We also have a time to present the verses during the worship service. Recently, one after another, children come up on stage and recite scripture during the service. Some of them memorized five or six verses by themselves.



Heart-shaped scripture cards (John 3:16)



Children presenting memorized verses

Currently, the children are working on the recitation of the scripture from John 3:16.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. We hope and pray that the faith of our children will be further nurtured by memorizing as many verses of the Word of God in their hearts as possible.



Discussing bag design
Khema and (center) Sreymom (right)

We started trial production in January and made several prototypes. After repeated trial and error, we have completed the product image. There are two types of bags: a crossbody bag and a shoulder bag. In April, the new “macrame bag” was displayed in a cafe run by Christian. Please pray that many people will be able to take them in their hands and that the network of support will further expand.

New product development for “Thread of Hope”

So far, many people have purchased “Thread of Hope” product, macrame plant hangers. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to those who have supported us. In addition, one customer said to us last year, “Plant hangers are nice, but I want practical macramé products as well. In response, we consulted with Khema and Sreymom and decided to add a new series of macramé bags to our lineup.



Macrame shoulder bag completed
Now on sale at Christian's café



Instagram video list and QR (right)

“Thread of Hope” Instagram Opened

In April, we opened an Instagram for Ito of Hope. We mainly use short videos to show the beauty of our macrame products, as well as the background behind their creation. Although we have just started, the number of people who view our videos is gradually increasing. We sincerely hope and pray that even more people will know the beauty of macrame through Instagram, and that “Thread of Hope” will spread, especially in Japan.

School Life of Kross and Ace

Kross and Ace attend Hope International School in Phnom Penh. Kross is in the first grade of high school and Ace is in the first grade of junior high school.

In late March, Kross participated as one of the Hope School representatives in an international sports tournament attended by mission schools from Southeast Asian countries. Students compete in three sports: basketball, soccer, and volleyball. It was his first visit to Taiwan, and he and his teammates had a very productive time despite the hard schedule of playing a different sport every day.



Memorial picture in front of the school

Temporary return to Japan

From June 6 to August 4, we will temporarily return to Japan for about two months, following last year. We will visit churches and mission schools mainly on Sundays to share blessings in Cambodia. The purpose is to expand the network of prayer and support. We already have a schedule of visiting churches on Sundays during our stay, but we would love to meet you if we can have an opportunity to report the mission at weekday events. We would appreciate it if you could contact us by e-mail.

<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 (13 years old)

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(Donations should be transferred to)

Rakuten Bank, Noel Branch (Branch No. 246)

Account No. 1081064 Kazuyuki Shimada



High school students who joined in the competition as representatives of Hope School
(Bottom row, leftmost is Kross)

In mid-March, Ace joined the graduation ceremony of a Japanese supplementary school. A supplementary school is a school where students who normally attend an international school can learn Japanese and culture, and classes are held once a week, on Saturdays only.

Kross already graduated from the elementary school four years ago. And now Ace graduated from the same school. It was a very emotional time for both Ace and us as parents, because he finished the school where he had studied for over eight years since kindergarten. We are truly grateful to God blessed his study up to this point.



Mission reporting last summer (Nagoya Baptist Church)
We will share the blessings of mission this year as well.

