11

LIVING FIELD

2025

Aug



At Shasui Waterfall (June 2025, Yamakita-cho, Kanagawa Prefecture)

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, and on Monday, August 4, we returned to Phnom Penh after a two-month stay in Japan. We had the opportunity to meet more churches and individuals than last year and share the mission in Cambodia. Starting with the service at Yokohama JOY Baptist Church on June 8th, we served at CFNJ Bible School (Ishikari City, Hokkaido), Hokusei Gakuen University (Sapporo City), Kokura Christ Church (Kitakyushu City), East Kumamoto Christ Church(Kumamoto City), and so on. All together we served in more than 20 churches and schools. Thank you very much for your prayers.



The children who welcomed us

At the first service after returning to Cambodia



Mission Report Meeting at Tokiwadai Baptist Church (Tokyo,August 3rd)

In July, military clashes occurred near the border between Cambodia and Thailand. As of late August, a ceasefire agreement has been reached between the two countries through international intervention. However, many people in the border areas continue to live as refugees.

In the capital Phnom Penh, Thai-owned supermarkets are seeing fewer customers than usual, with signs of a boycott movement. While this conflict occurred near the border between the two countries, please pray for a swift and peaceful resolution so that residents on both sides can return to their normal lives. Below is an article selected from events during our return home.

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Connecting by Plum Juice (Yokohama JOY Baptist Church)

The Sunday right after our return, we attended worship at Yokohama JOY Baptist Church and held a report meeting in the afternoon. Before worship, during the CS (Church School) Young Children's Class, we introduced Cambodian fruits to the children and had them taste actual Cambodian "knao" (jackfruit) chips.

In response, the children from the Church School's Younger Children's Class made a wonderful attempt: raising funds for Cambodia by selling plum juice.





(Left) The finished plum juice and signboard (Right) Children from the CS selling the juice

Connecting with the World by WUPM

During our stay in Japan, we were led by the Lord to formally join the Korean missionary organization "WUPM" (World Unreached People's Mission).

About two years ago, soon after the Japan Baptist Convention's mission to Cambodia ended, Rev. Hitoshi Ito (former missionary to Myanmar), the director of WUPM Japan, reached out to us. Since then, during our temporary returns to Japan, he introduced us to churches he knew and gave us heartfelt advice based on his own experience regarding mission reports. He has consistently supported us throughout these past two years.



(Left) WUPM Japan Director Rev. Hitoshi Ito in front of the children's cafeteria "Mana" (Ishikari City, Hokkaido)



Introducing Cambodian fruits in the Sunday School Young Children's class

This summer, children from the church school made plum juice with their hearts using plums harvested from a church member's home. They sold it at the church to raise funds for the children in Cambodia. Preparations began in late July, and on the day of the sale, they sold over 100 cups.

After returning to Cambodia, we shared photos of the event with the children at the local CBU office church. Seeing their peers working so hard to sell the juice, the children's eyes lit up, and they watched intently with serious expressions. Through this work, we give thanks to the Lord that hearts were connected across national borders. We sincerely thank the children from the CS children members who served, and all the leaders who supported them.



Missionaries belonging to WUPM
Total of 58 missionaries from 30 families
are serving in 20 countries.

In late July, guided by Rev. Ito, we met online with Dr. Cho Jang-yong, representative of WUPM Korea Headquarters, and Rev. Andrew Seo, leading to our formal affiliation with WUPM. Moving forward, WUPM and WUPM Japan will provide not only prayer support but also take on the spiritual and emotional care. Following the support group "Living Field" we are truly encouraged and excited that WUPM and WUPM Japan have joined in supporting the Cambodia mission. We sincerely thank the Lord for His guidance.

Connecting with Students (Seinan Gakuin School Chapel)

In July, we were blessed with the opportunity to serve at the chapel service for Seinan Gakuin Junior and Senior High School. In a hall nearly filled with students, we had the privilege of introducing Cambodia and our missionary work.

There, we learned that a Cambodia study program is scheduled for this December at Seinan Gakuin High School. About 20 students will be working near Siem Reap, famous for Angkor Wat. This chapel presentation became an excellent opportunity to heighten the interest of the students participating in that study tour. In addition, We had the opportunity to present at Fukuoka Jogakuin Junior High School's chapel as well. We thank the Lord for leading us to these opportunities to serve.



Chapel Service at Seinan Gakuin Junior High. Over 1,000 students gathered in the main hall.



Mission Trip in November 2024 Open-Air mission event in a village near the Killing Field

Connecting by Mission Trips (Yokohama Onnuri Christ Church)

In July, we attended the Sunday worship service at Yokohama Onnuri Christian Church and were given the opportunity to share a sermon and missionary report. We served during both the morning Japanese service and the afternoon Korean service.

Last October, a team of six from Yokohama Onnuri Church came to Cambodia and joined our mission work. This September, a team of seven will come again to serve with us. We are deeply grateful that the Lord is raising up these mission teams and connecting them with Cambodia. To continue hosting mission teams, we plan to post information on our website and other platforms. Please keep us in your prayers.

Connecting by Paper Airplanes (Yamagata Christ Church)

On July 27th, we attended worship at Yamagata Christ Church and held a reporting session in the afternoon. During that time, one of the children taught us how to fold a paper airplane. It flew so well that we recorded the folding method and promptly introduced it to the children at Sunday School on August 10th, our first worship service after returning from Cambodia.



Paper airplane contest with paper airplanes taught in Yamagata



On July 27th, at Yamagata Christ Church Cambodia Mission Report Meeting

Watching the video, the children finished making their paper airplanes and were all thrilled. After that, unexpectedly, we held an paper airplane contest. Of course, the plane that flew the farthest won. The first-place plane seemed to fly all the way outside the church building. It was as if it symbolized the gospel reaching to the ends of the earth.

We hope and pray that events connecting Japanese children and Cambodian children like this will continue to increase in the future.

Connecting with a School in Cambodia (Aoba Christ Church)

Following last summer, we had a chance to share a mission report at Aoba Christ Church again this year. Currently, we have been given a new vision. It involves collecting donations of stationery from children and their families in the neighborhood surrounding Aoba Christ Church, and delivering these to Ogura Elementary School near the CBU Office Church.

Through these donations, may Aoba Christian Church and the community connect with Cambodia, and may God's blessings spread. We also pray this work will become a model of church-based support for Cambodia missions, encouraging more churches to join in.



Ogura Elementary School. Near the Killing Field School building constructed with Japanese support



The macramé plant hanger displayed in the churchs

Connecting by "Thread of Hope" (Macramé Art)

This year, churches across Japan once again purchased products from "Thread of Hope" (Ministry for supporting Cambodian Women). For this summer, Khema and Sreymom prepared around 200 plant hangers. All the prepared pieces, including new "Angkor Wat" design, sold out completely. We sincerely thank everyone who supported us through their purchases.

Currently, following the Angkor Wat design, we are developing plant hangers featuring other Cambodian motifs, as well as new macramé bags.

Prayer for the "Living Field"

This summer, one bible verse was given in Japan:

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

(Isaiah 43:19)

Once a desolate land of murder, the Killing Field (execution sites under the Pol Pot regime) and surrounding areas are now witnessing new things happening one after another through God's blessing. Our hope is that not only individuals, but also more churches will join the mission in Cambodia. We earnestly pray that you will join us in this mission through prayer support, subscribing to our newsletter, and financial support.



At the first Sunday school after returning to Cambodia, children joyfully singing praises

<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. May all the finicial needs be met, with new churches be raised up to join the mission in Cambodia.

Kazuyuki and Kaoru Shimada (CBU missionaries) Kross (16 years old) and Ace (13 years old)

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