



**Suosdai!  
(Hello)**

Praise be to the name of the Lord. We were sent out by the Japan Baptist Convention in 2015 and served as missionaries in Cambodia for eight years until March 2023. In April 2023, we were invited by the Cambodian Baptist Union (CBU), and we were led to continue our missionary work in Cambodia.

In January 2024, the supporting group “Living Field” was established. Also, in August 2025, we have joined the Korean missionary organization “WUPM.” Guided by the Lord’s Word and direction, we continue our work in the mission field.

**What is new?**

Thank you all for your consistent prayers and support. April marks the Khmer New Year in Cambodia, and it is also the hottest time of the year. During this period, many Phnom Penh residents return to their hometowns in the countryside, so traffic drops significantly and the city becomes quiet. Meanwhile, in the city center, the traditional Khmer New Year water-splashing events can be seen everywhere. Children in front of shops point their water guns at us without hesitation, and water is splashed mercilessly from the backs of cars as well. It is truly a festival celebrating the joy of the New Year. We, too, were showered with water and celebrated the New Year together. Below, we would like to share some of the blessings that took place here, focusing on the months of March and April.



**In a community near the church.  
Children attending Sunday school**



**The students visited the CBU office.  
They helped with the wrapping.**

**CFFJapan Camp  
Joining “Threads of Hope”**

In late March, a team of 15 students aged 16 to 24 from the certified NPO “CFF Japan” visited the CBU office. During their approximately two-hour visit, they joined the “Threads of Hope” ministry and spent time with members Khema, Sreymom, and Sokeng, while experiencing the product wrapping process. We were also able to use a slide presentation to explain the current situation facing women in Cambodia, which forms the background of the “Threads of Hope” initiative.

**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**

We were impressed by how attentively the students listened to our presentation and how enthusiastically they asked questions. At the end, each student picked out their favorite product and supported our ministry through their purchase. Khema and the others looked very happy to see firsthand how much people appreciated their work.

Welcoming the students to the church and having them participate in our mission work made for a meaningful time. We are grateful that “Threads of Hope” was able to reach more people through this opportunity. We would like to express our sincere thanks to the students and the CFF staff members.



**The students listening intently to a presentation on the situation facing women.**

## A place where everyone smiles

In late April, to celebrate Easter, we served hard-boiled eggs to the children at Sunday school. “All of you who believe in Jesus’ resurrection have received new life. These eggs are a symbol of that new life,” we told them, and then we all ate them together. The children, who rarely get the chance to eat hard-boiled eggs, beamed with joy, exclaiming, “Teacher, these are so good! After the worship service, we had a Japanese class. On this day, we practiced singing hymns in Japanese for the Japanese mission team we would welcome the following week. We were deeply moved to see the children joyfully singing hymns in Japanese, working hard to master unfamiliar words like “He Has Risen” in Japanese.



**Japanese Class: Color-Matching Karuta Game Everyone really looks forward to this time.**



**(Right) A prayer led by the children’s leaders (Left) We served hard-boiled eggs to the children**

Next up is game time, which everyone looks forward to. In a karuta-style game using colored cards, the children listen intently for the calls of “red,” “yellow,” and “blue,” reaching out eagerly for the cards. Through play, they naturally pick up new words. Another highlight is the special snacks sent from Japan. For the children, this is one of the joys that they can only find here. Finally, everyone said goodbye with smiles, greeting each other in Japanese, and went home.

May the church be a place where children can smile from the bottom of their hearts. May there always be “small joys” that make the children look forward to coming to church every week. That is our prayer and our hope.

## Nara Life Song Church Cambodia Mission

In early May, a five-member mission team led by Pastor Benedict Caleb from Nara Life Song Church (Tenri City, Nara Prefecture) visited Phnom Penh and carried out mission work for five days. This mission was made possible through connections with Rev. Hitoshi Ito of WUPM and Yokohama Onnuri Christ Church, which had visited last year.

Just like previous mission teams, they joined the “Thread of Hope” ministry, and despite the intense heat, they served the Lord’s mission with sincerity through outdoor evangelism in a community next to the Killing Field, a children’s market at the CBU Church, and evangelism in rural areas.



**An outdoor evangelistic event in the community. Pastor Caleb calling out to the children**

In the Sunday service, they offered the Khmer hymn “Praise the Lord.” This is a hymn often praised at the CBU Office Church, and the team members practiced diligently in advance, carefully memorizing the difficult Khmer pronunciation. Meanwhile, as mentioned in a previous article, the children in the Japanese class had learned the Japanese version of this hymn beforehand. During the service, it was a blessed moment as the team and the children joined together in heart to sing the same hymn in both Khmer and Japanese.



**Both the team and the congregation offered the same hymn in Khmer and Japanese.**



**At Ogura Elementary School, we planted flowers in the flower beds of the new school building.**

After finishing our work, we were able to share the Gospel with the children on the school grounds. Following simple English hymns, the team members used gestures to clearly and effectively share the essence of the Gospel—God’s love, our sin, Jesus’ death on the cross, and His resurrection—with the children. We are already seeing real fruit from this day, as several of the children who heard the Gospel have already begun attending Sunday school the following week.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to the team members who answered the Lord’s call and dedicated their precious time and resources to the mission in Cambodia, and to the Lord who guided us through it all.

This mission also marked our first opportunity to serve at Ogura Elementary School. Nearly 2,000 students attend the school, and many of the children attending our church are students there. This time, we took on the task of planting flowers in the flowerbed in front of the new school building.

Actually, during our last visit, the flowerbed had very few plants and looked rather bare. So, we proposed to the principal that we donate flowers and plant them, and he gladly accepted our offer. As we worked, students, parents, and even the principal joined in actively, allowing us to share the joy of making the school more beautiful.



**Sharing the Gospel with children. They are expressing God’s love through a heart gesture.**

## APBF Youth Mission

Early May, Rev. Dr. Vee Tetseo (Pastor of Elon 318 Community Church, Okinawa Baptist Convention), General Secretary of the APBF (Asia-Pacific Baptist Federation), visited the CBU office. The Youths of the APBF has raised the vision of “sending 2 million youth mission teams for short-term missions to the Unreached-Unengaged People’s Group by 2040.” Cambodia was chosen as the first destination for this #APBY2Mil mission.

A meeting was held at the CBU office with Pastor Nivath, President of CBU and missionaries serving in Cambodia to prepare for the first short-term mission trip scheduled for this November. Lively discussions took place regarding preparations for both the sending and receiving sides, and we, as the CBU team, were also invited to join this mission. We give thanks for the Lord’s guidance.



**(Left) We were delighted to see Rev. Vee again. (Right) We continued our discussion over lunch.**

## Kurosu and Eisu's School Life

Kurosu and Eisu attend Hope International School in Phnom Penh. As part of his 11th-grade curriculum, Kurosu is participating in a volunteer project. Working in pairs with a classmate, they are handling marketing and sales promotion activities for “Threads of Hope.”

Specifically, their work includes creating an Instagram account for sales, sending direct mail to potential retailers, and producing promotional videos featuring interviews with the makers. We believe these activities will provide them with invaluable, unique experiences. Please pray that their participation in “Threads of Hope” will be a blessing to their learning.



**At the CBU Office Church  
Kurosu (right) interviewing Khema (left)**

Meanwhile, in Eisu's eighth-grade class, there was an interesting exercise during the “Health and Well-being” class. The exercise involved having every classmate write down that student's strengths and positive qualities. Eisu also had to write down the strengths of each of his classmates. We believe that learning how his classmates perceive him, particularly in terms of his strengths, was a valuable opportunity for Eisu to deepen his self-understanding.

Hope School will hold its closing ceremony on June 4. Kurosu and Eisu have been able to continue their school lives safe and sound, and their tuition needs have been met. We sincerely thank you for your prayers and support.



**After school, Eisu reviews  
what he learned in class.**

## The Blessing of Sharing the Lord's Mission

Starting early next month, from June 5 to August 4, we will be returning to Japan temporarily, as we did last year, to give mission reports at churches across the country. We sincerely thank the Lord for giving me this opportunity once again this summer to share the blessings of His mission in Cambodia.

This time, in addition to the Kanto region, we plan to visit South Korea, Fukui, Kitakyushu, and Okinawa. We would be grateful if you would pray that, through our ministry and encounters in each of these places, new supporters will be raised up and the network of prayer will grow. We are truly looking forward to meeting all of you across the country.



**We are always grateful for your prayers and support.  
We look forward to seeing you all in Japan.**

<Prayer requests>

1. May the network of prayer grow and new supporters be raised up through our temporary return to Japan.
2. For the mission work in the field be blessed and continue to bear fruit in the Lord.
3. For the children and youth of the CBU office church to grow further by the grace of the Lord.
4. May a foundation be laid for sharing the Gospel in the Ogura Elementary School.
5. May the new products from the “Thread of Hope” reach many people.

Kazuyuki and Kaoru Shimada (WUPM missionaries) Kross (17 years old) and Ace (14 years old)

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