

John 15... "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener... Remain in me, and I will remain in you... No branch can bear fruit



The Welch's Grapevine



For The Glory of GOD!

Greetings from Lubbock, Texas! *It is good for us to be here (Mark 9:5).*

Dearest Family & Friends,

Update, Fall 2007

Grace and peace to you, beloved of God! We bring you Thanksgiving greetings from Christian Utopia--the Sunset International Bible Institute and the Sunset congregation. With chapel every morning, great classes of rich learning every day, and devoted study every evening and weekend this is a blessed place. So sweet is each day we spend in the word (John 8:30-32), amidst the church (John 13:34-35), and committed to salvation of the lost (John 15:1-8).

We have so much to report. We are now approaching the eight month mark for when, Lord willing, we shall depart these shores to begin our work in Cambodia. As the day approaches and the excitement builds, we're reminded of loved ones we leave here. God bless you for your encouragements and support to us as we face the emotions of the journey ahead.

School is going very well. The first session this year included studies of Leviticus (Sacrificial System), Minor Prophets, Ephesians, Colossians, James, 1 & 2 Peter, Preaching from the Gospels, and Introduction to Missions. Much of what we learned will have direct application for the Cambodian culture.

This, the sixth of eight terms, includes a study of Isaiah, the Distinctive Nature of the Church, Hebrews, Church Growth and Christian Counseling. The preaching lab for this term is Preaching from the Old Testament. It is hard to pick a favorite, but we like Hebrews best. Dennis is also taking an optional Hebrew Language course. It's good to see that learning a different language is possible for the aged--an encouragement for our upcoming study of the Cambodian language, Khmer.

Our small group home Bible study continues to grow. We are excited that a young couple who began at SIBI this past fall has joined us. They are great blessing to us. Lately, we have been focusing on discipleship and discipling others. We're hopeful our group is bearing fruit for the kingdom.

Dennis has now had several opportunities to present the gospel message at a "soup kitchen" in inner-city Lubbock. Homeless folks gather on Lord's Day afternoon for a free meal during which time they also get to hear a portion of God's word. We are planting some seeds and watering some others. Our prayer is that many take root.

In October, we at Keller had our first "Mission Sunday," whereby we purposed to take a special collection to support some new mission efforts. The program included Dennis' first opportunity to preach before the assembly on a Lord's Day morning. We are excited the congregation has taken such an active role in supporting missions. The special contribution doubled the financial goal we had set for ourselves. Thank you Keller! Thank You Lord!!!

Some news of merit comes from Indiana where Dennis' mom and sister live. Mom has been having some significant health struggles requiring she move from the farm to an assisted living facility. Cindy and Joe Riley (sister & brother-in-law) have done a praiseworthy job of keeping up with all that's involved in making this life transition. Please pray for mom (Joyce Welch) and Cindy's family as they all struggle with these challenges.

You remain in our thoughts and prayers always. We miss you and look forward to seeing you again soon. Please continue to pray for our work, that we remain on course with God's will, that we are a blessing to everyone we encounter, and for the efforts of missionaries worldwide. ***Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. (2 Corinthians 13:11 ESV)***

Your servants, Christ's rejoicing slaves,

Dennis & Sharon Welch

and it will be given you... This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit... As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me... I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will

bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing... If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish,