

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!

Dearest Family & Friends,

Volume 3, Number 4, Summer 2008



Wow, it sure is hard saying all these goodbyes! In the last two months we have said goodbye to classmates, instructors, and staff from SIBI; then the Sunset congregation, especially our Bible class; dear friends from our small group and caving club; and most recently, family and friends across the United States. Let God be glorified! We continue to be richly blessed as we go through this season of change. But first, we pray all is well with you and want to always remember in gratitude the blessing each one of you is to us.



One change we've been encouraged to pursue is more periods of recharging our batteries to endure the course set before us. So in May we made a quick trip to Ruidoso but still managed to spend most of our time doing homework. A few weeks later we completed our final term, crossed the stage at Sunset, graduating the two year program with honors. This completed a major milestone toward our mission of serving both God and man in Cambodia.



To get there, first we must pack. Over the next couple of weeks our lives were consumed by sorting through our remaining belongings to determine what we would be taking to Cambodia. Shipping cost preclude us from taking many items we might otherwise include, especially if it were something available in Phnom Penh. As we sifted through our earthly possessions, we reflected on the memories they held and experienced many emotions. It has truly been a blessing to lighten the load and share with others the items with which God has gifted us.

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,

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A super special blessing we received just before leaving Lubbock was the baptism of our son Michael. This was a spiritual loose end so we are very grateful to the Lord for the peace He has granted us. Michael had come to Lubbock early to help us pack for our move. With the help of many strong backs we loaded up the truck and said goodbye to Lubbock.

Even though we no longer have a house we are never homeless because of the sweet unmerited favor of so many. In the last month our travels have taken us to visit family and friends in Arkansas, Indiana, Michigan, Texas and Washington, usually not staying more than three to four days. We regret we did not get to see everyone we hoped to. Through out these trips we worshipped with many delightful congregations. We were encouraged by the love poured out on us by brethren everywhere. One such church has a special connection with the work in Cambodia. We met with the North Heights Church of Christ in Batesville, Arkansas to all share our vision for the Cambodia Bible Institute. As the school's primary sponsor we all have an informal partnership in leadership training of Cambodia and Christians. We are very grateful for their commitment.

Up coming events include the Global Mission Conference in Arlington, Keller's Vacation Bible School, a trip to California to meet with the brethren in Stockton and then departing for Cambodia on August 25th.

Thank you once again for all the prayers, encouragement and the support you continue to give. We covet your prayers specifically praying for our work as we honor and glorify God. Please pray also for Michael as he strives to walk by faith in the light of our Lord. *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!" Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 NIV*

In His service,

Sharon & Dennis Welch



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