

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 5, August 2008

Hello from Phnom Penh, Cambodia! We hope all of you are doing well. We're eternally grateful for your encouragements, support and prayers. Even though things here are happening very quickly, we always remember you in our thoughts and prayers.

Since we last wrote you, the Lord has blessed us with the opportunity to participate in many events such as the Global Mission Conference hosted by Missions Resource Network (www.mrnet.org). This successful gathering brought together many like-minded individuals and groups with the fervent desire to see that the world receives the true gospel message. If we saw you there, howdy again from way over here!



We were delighted to keep Ethan & Autumn (grandson 10 & granddaughter 6) for several days during Keller's Vacation Bible School. What a delight it was to swim and play with these precious children of God during the daytime and then see them have so much fun learning about God's Word each evening. Special thanks to our dear friends who let us stay at their place and use the pool!

Since moving from Lubbock, we have stayed with many different folks. You showed us a special kind of Christian love and service by opening your hearts and homes to us. Your hospitality was overwhelming. We regret we didn't get to stay with more of you who offered.

Most of you know we were "sent out" for the Lord's work here by our home church, Keller, to teach at the Cambodia Bible Institute. We are now also excited to be working with the Central Church of Christ in Stockton, CA. We recently made a trip out there to finish arranging our partnership with them for some existing humanitarian works being orchestrated by village churches near Phnom Penh. Lord willing, our role will be to facilitate the work and discover new ways to expand the efforts. We look forward to the exciting challenges and unknown adventures that will come in the countryside. What a blessing it is to have yet another great congregation helping us serve the Lord here in Cambodia. Thanks Central!



Opening Chapel at Sunset International Bible Institute (SIBI) in Lubbock is a fabulous ceremony for world evangelism. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) is read in several different languages while the corresponding country flag is paraded into the auditorium. For the first time in the history of SIBI, the Cambodian flag, carried by Sharon, was a part of the pageantry while Dennis read the Great Commission in the Cambodian language, Khmae. It

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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was a sweet blessing to stay with friends and visit with so many of you we have come to love deeply.

The Lord granted several sweet blessings to us at Keller before leaving. One was the opportunity to teach the K through 4th graders during Bible Hour. We told them of the poor children of Cambodia we want to help. One precious young lady was so overwhelmed with compassion for them she wants to sell some of her clothes so we can buy clothes for children over here. Wow! Another was getting to tell the congregation in a Sunday morning sermon about the work we hope to do at the school and in the countryside villages. And then there was the send-off celebration. Many tears flowed during the songs, prayers and Scriptures, to the fellowship gathering afterwards. Keller, you sure poured-out your love on us. And the special collection gift for our new home left us nearly speechless. Thank you so much!



All that was left to do was to finish packing those boxes. We went to a lot of trouble to make sure books and other things stayed dry and secure. Although it took us many hours to get the weights correct, complete the inventory lists and finish the packaging, it all paid off in the end. There were several special servants that helped us along the way – thank you very much!

So on August 25th, 2008 we boarded a big jetliner and left the beautiful and familiar shores of the good ole U.S. of A. Nearly three years earlier, this mission had begun to take shape. Many of you helped us in significant ways in the process. You taught and trained. You guided and encouraged. You reached into your pockets and sacrificed. You prayed and you prayed. You laughed and you cried with us. All, in preparation for us to *"go therefore and make disciples..."* Always remember, you go with us in spirit. And so the next phase of the mission now begins...

Longing to walk in His steps,

Dennis & Sharon Welch
Phnom Penh, Cambodia



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