

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!



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

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.



Dearest Family & Friends,

Volume 3, Number 8, November 2008



Ahh Thanksgiving – we can almost smell the pumpkin pie from here. Happy turkey-day greetings from Phnom Penh! The holidays are upon us and we find ourselves separated from so many we love. We pray all of you are doing well – and to be sure, we do pray for all of you. Every one of us has so much for which to be thankful to the LORD!

It has been an event-filled month since our last newsletter. This month's includes the following thanksgivings:

- New physical life
- New spiritual life
- New joined life
- Loss of life
- Works of life
- Holidays in life
- Adventure of life
- Travel of life
- Help!

**New Physical Life:** The Cambodia Bible Institute (CBI) is proud to announce the arrival of our first baby. Timothy was born to Veasna, one of our students and his sweet wife, Linna during the month. We thank the LORD that both baby and mother are doing well, but Veasna is a little sleepy during school. Congratulations Veasna and Linna!



**New Spiritual Life:** We thank the LORD that a few weeks ago we added two new students bringing our total to thirteen. Both of them were not yet baptized so recently one called on the name of the LORD and was immersed in a grave of water to wash away his sins. PRAISE GOD! The students continue to study with the other new one.

**New Joined Life:** Another of our students, Sophea recently married his sweetheart, Srey Neang. We thank the LORD He has joined these two precious Christians to a lifetime of devotion to Him, to His church and to each other. This was our first wedding here and although it was not fully traditional in the sense that it was Christian instead of Buddhist, most every other facet was culturally true.

**Loss of Life:** The cycle of physical life continues – birth, marriage and now death. All of us are grieving the loss of our sweet sister Sokha, the wife of a village preacher, mother of two young children, foster-mother to over 20 in the orphanage she tended, and competent Bible class teacher to many more children in her village. We thank the LORD she is resting in His joy. She is sorely missed.



**Works of Life:** Indeed, life continues. Our struggle is to be thankful for each precious moment. We continue to rejoice in our opportunities to serve. Sharon has decided to continue teaching English using the Bible and the World English Institute material at Partners in Progress. This is a work with which many retirees



from the States come to help. If you would like to learn more send us a note. Dennis has been

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teaching at CBI for a few days to help while Rich Dolan is away. We thank the LORD for allowing us to do these works of gratitude in service to Him and His kingdom.

**Holiday Life:** In November each year, Cambodia has a three-day water festival that includes spectacular long boat races on the Tonle Sap River in front of the King's Palace. Ronda Dolan (<http://randrdolan.blogspot.com/>) and Gail Northen (<http://www.mekongriverboatproject.blogspot.com/>) have done a great job of telling about the events. We thank the LORD for a few days off to relax and recharge.



On Friday of that week we celebrated a big birthday! Sharon is so grateful to each of you who took the time to send her a note or card. We thank the LORD for everyone who spends a few precious moments of life to encourage another. Part of our birthday celebration included the wedding mentioned above where they fed us the most extravagant meal we have had in Cambodia to date. We enjoyed course after course of delicious food.

**Adventure in Life:** One of the ways we celebrated Sharon's birthday was to escape the city and visit one of the four national parks in Cambodia. Kirirom National Park, about two hours away includes a mountain plateau at an elevation high enough the flora changes from tropics to pine trees and meadows. Included are a few smaller waterfalls, the largest about 40 meters or more. We rode an ox-cart for part of the journey to the falls and hoofed-it the rest of the way. We had great fun and got soaked – by the waterfall spray and by sweat. We thank the LORD He allowed us to share in the beauty of His creation over which He has commanded "subdue it and have dominion over it." Gen. 1:28



**Travels of Life:** We thank the LORD He oversees the traveling of so many during the holidays. Even as an ex-Air Traffic Controller, I cannot fathom how many miles His mercies extend. Several of our fellow co-laborers here are traveling. We know many of you will be also. We pray each of us puts our faith in our God and not in governments, in the Almighty and not in airplanes, in the Lord and not in laws of the highways, and perhaps most appropriately in our Savior and not in our selves.

Help! If you've made it this far in our newsletter, you obviously have an interest in our part of the LORD's mission and ministry here in Cambodia. As I mentioned in a previous newsletter, we've been bombarded with opportunities to serve since stepping off the airplane. Some require time, some require funds. If you're able to financially assist the work here on a monthly basis, please let us know. Certainly, PRAY for more workers! Please send us a note if we can count on your help through '09. Thank you LORD!

Saved by the blood of the Lamb,

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