

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 in my love."

Dearest Family & Friends,

Volume 4, Number 1, Winter 2009

Where does time go? The New Year just started and here we are; it's already March 2009. When the New Year was just over a month old we had already celebrated twice! Celebrating is something the Cambodians really look forward to! So, we celebrated the same New Year most celebrate and then the Chinese New Year. They both have come and gone with much hoopla.



Since our last visit with you much has happened. Our spirits were lifted by the visit of George & Hilda Carman from the Keller congregation. Although their visit lasted just a few days, we received much encouragement and love. Thanks Keller, for sending them.



That same week, we began a new regiment of language study. Before, we were going to a language school a few blocks away and studying separately for one hour per day, five days a week. We augmented this with considerable self-study at home. We confess that it was so easy to allow other opportunities to draw us from our self-study. Our new training involves a competent professional tutor coming to our home two hours in the morning and two hours each afternoon, five days per week as we study together. We really like his teaching style and are thankful to the Lord for this blessing. We could tell a big difference after only a few weeks with him. The studies continue and we are finding ourselves more able to communicate with the Khmae. They are so gracious and patient with us! We still have so much to learn and are preparing to begin studying reading and writing. So, it's back to kindergarten with the #2 pencils and Big Chief tablets!

We are excited to announce the first students have graduated from CBI (Cambodia Bible Institute). Hooray!!! After approximately four years of studies Khim & Sothea have completed the training program and are now more adequately prepared to serve in God's Kingdom. We had a nice ceremony, many pictures and yummy food. We were thrilled George and Hilda could be here for this event. Please lift Khim and Sothea up in prayer as they venture out to preach and teach the Word of God.



The month of January brought a Medical Missions Workshop to the countryside. Many locals and foreigners contributed in this great work as we served the much needed health concerns of this nation. The Medical Missions kickoff started with five or more villages assembling together on Sunday morning. It was a blessing to see every chair full and the unity of the Cambodians as they joined together. We had the opportunity to help and in just one day, there were over 500 people seen. The team was here for one week. Sharon now wants to learn even more in the medical field in order to help in this great need.

The work here keeps us very busy. There are so many amazing opportunities. Like so many places, we need more workers. As a matter of fact, because of the lack of volunteer instructors for CBI, Dennis is back teaching and really enjoys it. God has given him a great gift which he loves to use! During both January and February he has been teaching Acts and will be completing this course in just a few days.

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The first weekend in February started with several of the villages coming together for an all day meeting. You know--the good ole "Tent Meetings"! There were several speakers in the morning, then lunch and more speakers in the afternoon. Many attended as we sang songs of praise, shared in some great lessons and enjoyed a time of fellowship. In the following weeks we were singing more praises as five were baptized and entered the family of God. Please pray for these new Christians to grow, mature and serve fearlessly in love!

We finally slowed down for our first R & R break in mid February. We soon would be celebrating our six-month anniversary of living in Cambodia. We went to a remote island which was fairly primitive and had a wonderful time of rest & relaxation. Of course we did have to venture off for a little excitement and went rock climbing (around the beach). The area was beautiful and peaceful! We came back to the city revitalized and ready to press on.



We have had many opportunities in the past two months. Most weekends are spent out in the villages. The city is convenient but we love getting away from the business and noise. We get to meet with many villages and generally worship with three different groups each Sunday. What a blessing they are to us! Dennis has made numerous trips to the countryside. Some of these trips are for meetings, others to encourage, and some with the students of CBI. The curriculum at the school often schedules evangelism weeks. This allows the students to

get hands-on experience reaching out to the lost people of Cambodia. We are so encouraged to see the efforts of Rich Dolan, the dean of CBI; the school's instructor/translator, Tawn Lork; the students; and often other instructors as they spend special time of mentoring and teaching. We pray all are enriched and inspired.

Dennis also attended a two day seminar "Faith Comes by Hearing". This seminar was geared toward teaching the Word of God through audio lessons. Many Cambodians do not know how to read; therefore studying the Bible can be quite difficult. We are thrilled to now have a tool from which they can learn. We have acquired three units, in Khmae, the language of Cambodia, in which we can now



take to the countryside to use for evangelism. Praise God for opening more avenues to teach His Word. Sharon has also had some new outreach opportunities as she continues to meet people in the market and as she runs errands. She has already made several new Khmae friends and is spending some additional time with them. There have been opportunities to reach out to the sick, suffering and lost in some of the villages as well.

There is so much more we would love to share but we know your time is precious. Thank you for all the love, prayers, and encouragement you always poured out on us and so many others too. We are so grateful for the Godly example you are and the treasured memories we have of you. May God continue to bless you with His love, peace and grace!

Eternal love & blessings,

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