

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 4, Number 2, March 2009

Warmest greetings from the sunny skies of Phnom Penh, Cambodia! We pray you are well, finding peace and comfort in the blessings of our Lord and Savior. Seven months have passed since we departed the States and since we have seen your beautiful faces or heard your lovely voices. Even though there are many miles between us, we rejoice with you as together we see Kingdom growth in mission fields all over the world.

Our love for you continues to grow daily. The presence of your love, prayers and encouragement is always with us. Without you, we would not be here! Thank you so much for your involvement in the Lord's mission here in Cambodia.

Our report to you this month includes the following:

- ✠ Khmae Lessons
- ✠ Medical Assistance
- ✠ Weekends in Countryside
- ✠ Salvation Abounds
- ✠ Dennis teaches & preaches
- ✠ Countryside Church Community Assistance
- ✠ Orphanage Activities
- ✠ Missionary Care Group
- ✠ Khmae Traditions (Wedding)
- ✠ Building Relationships



The Khmae lessons are ongoing! To this point, we have focused on conversational language, but now our language training includes learning the alphabet—88 consonants, vowels and vowel combinations. Fun stuff, but challenging memory work! We are excited to share that we have learned 25 consonants and can actually write these letters and pronounce their sounds ;-), however, to remember them, we must be persistent about our studies!

More and more, Sharon has been able to use her medical training to serve in the countryside as we had hoped. We convinced our language tutor to teach us some more advanced and difficult medical terminology to be able to help the village Christians all the more. Lord willing, with these specialized words in our vocabulary, we will be able to communicate and understand the medical needs as request are being made. We have so much opportunity for nutritional, medical and hygiene education. If you know of anyone with graphic arts training and a heart to serve by helping us design and produce some posters, please let us know! Unfortunately, the Cambodian people have so many health issues with which we cannot help. Please pray for wisdom as we serve these people in their medical needs and as we continue to build relationships.



We love to go to the countryside on the weekends to teach, preach, worship, fellowship, and encourage. The Lord allows us to see Him at work in so many special ways. In the last several weeks we have seen 27 obey the gospel call in the city and countryside, all with a support network to care for these new babes. It is such a blessing



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to see the village churches grow and mature as they focus on knowing the Word and then living it day-by-day. Praise our almighty God!!! We enjoy the lessons Dennis presents at TNT as he continues to preach the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month. He preaches and teaches on occasion at the other village churches and is facilitating a makeup class for one of the students at CBI. The Lord also allows us to be involved in helping these village churches exercise creative economic ways to serve the brethren and the village. We praise God because His work has been productive and encouraging; we give thanks and ask you to do so too!



This month we have been blessed with spending some precious time with the orphans out in the village of TNT. The facilitator of this orphanage, Kimsom is such a godly man. You may remember us mentioning shortly after our arrival a woman who was ran over by a dump truck and died. This woman, Sokha, was Kimsom's wife. With two young children left behind and twenty-two orphans, Kimsom has continued this work and inspired us all with his dedication and service to the Lord. His love and desire to care for these children shows as he teaches them Bible lessons and plays with them all! We all enjoyed several great activities from picnicking to taking three vans filled with many church children including the orphans to Kirirom National Park. The vans were full and we calculate approximately 60 to 70 gathered for the trip! It was a real treat to be involved in these events and we look forward to many more opportunities to interact with the children and orphans at TNT.

Thank you for all the ways you reach out to us! We are so encouraged when we receive emails, cards and packages from you. With the miles between, us our spirits continue to be lifted as we hear from you. Please keep the contact coming, it is greatly appreciated! Sharon loves to use her special gift of hospitality and outreach. One way we do this is with our missionary care group. Each week we have our recurring meetings on Thursday night. This is a great way for all of the missionaries to stay enriched and encouraged. We generally enjoy a meal together, devotional time, and beautiful singing. The only thing that could make this time better is if you could be here with us!

We had the opportunity to attend our 2<sup>nd</sup> Khmae wedding with friends we met while we were attending KSL Language School. Sharon's past teacher, "Pov" invited us; her brother was getting married. Traditional Khmae weddings are quite a memorable occasion. The wedding lasted about 6-to-7 hours (we stayed only 3 hours). The wedding had many events, a lot of yummy food, and a big party! We enjoyed ourselves and were able to learn more about the Cambodian's traditions and culture.

Please continue to pray as we reach out to build relationships with the people around us. We both have a variety of individuals we visit with as often as time allows us. Whether we are walking to school, in the market or on our street, we remember we came to share the *good news* about Jesus!

Eternal love & blessings,

Dennis & Sharon  
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