



Barang reading scripture at Ngoeurt's house church

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SPECIAL UPDATE FROM PREAH VIHEAR

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The Light Shines in the Darkness

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The Light Shines in the Darkness

The Secret Place, Koak Rumdeng, Preah Vihear — "And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. ..." John 1:5

Dear Praying Friends of the Living Fields,

Last Sunday Chelsea and I traveled to Sbal and Kdak villages in Kulen district over some really bumpy roads to visit 3 of our PVSAM Bible School students. We had tried this a month earlier but had to turn back because the truck couldn't go through. In 2002 when we first visited this district, there were NO known believers, and the entire area was like a dark hole without any light of the gospel. This was the case over much of Preah Vihear province. We knew of only a handful of believers in the provincial capital. The "roads" were barely passable at best. Forget about the rainy season.

This time we arrived at Mop's village in time for their worship service. Mop graduated from our Bible School last January. 3 years ago he had little confidence and not much biblical knowledge. As we joined their little church service we noticed his unmistakable growth. His little flock has grown as people around their village have been attracted by their contagious joy and the power of the Lord to heal. Mop's wife led the worship time and many of the believers shared Bible verses they had memorized. Mop gave a great message from the Psalms. What a difference in his confidence and ability to handle the Word. He seemed like a different person compared to when he began with us in Bible School.



Mop Preaching



House church in Kdak village, Kulen District

Next, we drove off to Kdak and thanks to better roads we arrived just as Ngoeurt's little house church were finishing. Ngoeurt also graduated from PVSAM in January. We expected to see maybe a handful of faithful believers, but when we arrived there were over 30, and many had not been able to come because they were bringing in the harvest. Two years ago, Ngoeurt confided that he was very discouraged, with no commitment from the people and no partner to minister with. Now Barang, Chentha's husband (she was one of our students), who is a new believer, helps Ngoeurt in evangelism and church meetings. A great harvest is happening in this once unreachable area near the foot of Mt Tbeng. We rejoice that our students are now standing firm and shepherding the flocks which God has given them.

My teammates Jim and Carolyn just returned from the opposite eastern side of the province, to Chey Sen district. There they visited some of the new believers we are discipling. These are parents, uncles and aunts of our Plas Prai students and staff. Jim and Carolyn along with 4 of our Plas Prai staff, visited 2 small house churches with believers who have only been following the Lord within this year. They explained the Christmas story 20 feet away from an actual cow stable to simple farmers and village people. The believers there understood how Jesus had to come in such humble circumstances, for that is how it should be. He came for all people, not just the privileged. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. These new believers will face many challenges as they go against the flow of the prevailing culture, but as they fellowship together, they are experiencing the joy and peace that only Christ can bring. Our little band of disciples are busy making His gospel known in dark, unreached places, beginning with their own families. We are humbled to have a front row seat. You also, if you have read this far, share in this amazing adventure.



The small band of new believers in Chey Sen

Let us all work while we have the Light, for the night is coming, when no one shall work. Together with the Lord, we watch as the darkness is dispelled. Blessed Advent from the Living Fields, *Joel*

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