



Plas Prai students during Khmer New Year party April 2025

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World Team Cambodia Field  
Preah Vihear, Cambodia  
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**NEWS FROM PREAH VIHEAR**

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Tum, Raan, Thavi and Chanra

*"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. - Isaiah 43:19*

Monday, April 7, 2025—The Secret Place, Preah Vihear, Cambodia

Dear Praying Friends,

So much has happened since I last wrote an update. We are now on the cusp of Khmer New Year, which is celebrated from April 14-16th. For two weeks before and a week after, the entire country is consumed by a celebratory mood. It is kind of like a three week long 4th of July on steroids! It happens to coincide with the absolute hottest time of the year, where highs rarely fall below 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38 Celsius). Parties, traditional games, family gatherings, picnics and water fights mark the time, and the schools have a 3 week holiday. But there is a dark side to the celebration. Besides the binge drinking (as much as 150,000 cases of beer may be consumed in our province alone during the holiday), this is when the Cambodians welcome a new "angel" to control and guide the country.

During our Friday Night Firm Foundations classes for the new 10th grade students at the Plas Prai Center, one of the first lessons is on the spiritual realm. They learn for the first time the identity of all the spirits, ghosts, angels and spiritual powers in their pantheon of spirits. The knowledge of the true Creator God is slowly transforming the students' understanding about spiritual things. I will share two stories about our Plas Prai students—one from an incoming 10th grade student, and one from one of our 12th graders. Both are students I mentor one-on-one twice a month.

**Chanra** — before coming to Plas Prai, Chanra had heard about Jesus from an evangelist who has been traveling to their very remote village of Antil in Choam Ksant district. His aunt is a believer and has a small house church meeting in her home. Chanra has adjusted well at the Plas Prai dorm, and has now accepted Christ and is praying for his parents and younger sister to come to faith. He is in the electrical engineering class (tech school) and has consistently been in the top 5 in his class. Chanra has been reading in the gospel of John and in the Psalms. He is a very sensitive young man and is extremely grateful for the chance to be at the dorm, and like most of our students who come from agricultural families, he is very hard working and disciplined. He asks for prayer for his studies, for his family, for health and spiritual growth.

**Panhavoen** — a room leader in the dorm, Panha (Panya) is in his last year at the dorm. He is in the animal husbandry section at the local high school, and is currently raising quail as his senior project. Panha comes from a very poor family in a remote area of Chey Sen district. His younger brother Panhavet is in grade 11 also at the Plas Prai. Panha's father died 5 years ago from a dog bite, and his mother works as a hired laborer. They do not own land, and their "house" is leaning precariously and will probably fall down during the coming rainy season. Panha has become a believer since his first year, and is very serious in his faith. He has a servant's heart and is conscientious and disciplined, and is looked up to by staff and students alike. He wants to go to YWAM (Youth With a Mission) after graduation and then come back to work with us as a volunteer staff. The transformation in his life is amazing to behold. We look forward to see what God will do as Panha yields his life to Christ. He asks for prayer for his studies and for his mother and grandmother to come to faith.



Panhavoen (Right) with students

Check out what's been happening on page 2 in all our ministries. Thank you for praying!

Joel

[NEW Address in Cambodia](#)

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## Ministry Update & Prayer Points, January-April, 2025

### Ministry Activities and Prayer Requests

- In January the Plas Prai senior class trip to **Kep** was a time of challenge, focusing on *servant leadership*. Many of the students saw the ocean for the first time. We enjoyed a day trip to Rabbit Island off the southwest coast.
- Every Friday night the 10th grade students study **Firm Foundations** and the 11th & 12th grade students learn about biblical values during **Discipleship Meetings**. *Please pray* for the gospel to penetrate and transform lives. Each Saturday evening the students at the Plas Prai the students invite their friends and people in the community attend **Family Night** for worship and a message. *Pray* for them to impact the community.
- We prepared the ground for the new **Ministry Training Center** which in the future will be a place for ministry expansion, training, youth camps and community involvement. *Please pray* that God would remove some of the obstacles as we look to begin the construction phase.
- Every Sunday morning the students travel in carts, by truck, by bicycle or by motorbikes to 7 different villages for **children's ministry**. Two of these villages now have a small **simple church meeting** after the children's program.
- In February *Jim, Sokhoeurn* (our Cambodian partner in church planting) and *I* took a trip to investigate potential ministry opportunities among the Cambodian diaspora who live and work in neighboring **Thailand**. *Pray* for the almost 1 million Cambodians who live in Thailand where there is not one known church in the Khmer language. *Pray* for our next steps as we also pray to mobilize workers to minister there.
- Every 2 weeks or so the **Church Planting team** staff and some students go to outposts in our students' or staff's home villages where their parents have become believers. Every two months we have a **New Believers** meeting at our **Ministry Learning Center** where they are invited to come in and have fellowship together, study and worship with us. *Pray* that we will see spiritual growth and more opportunities.
- Our World Team Preah Vihear team has grown! We welcome **Sina Dy** as a World Team Core member as of February. Sina currently manages the Plas Prai dorm and its 36 students. She was officially accepted into World Team and we are thrilled to work with her.
- In March a colleague, *Jean Marie*, came to teach at a two day **PRAY Cambodia** workshop. This was a special time with almost 30 believers from around Preah Vihear which challenged us in all aspects of prayer, which is our strength and calling.



On outreach at Anseh village near the Thai border



Joel and Chetra's brother in Rong Roeng 4 village



Heading out to visit some remote believers



Chetra's dad reading a new book



Friday night discipleship study at Plas Prai



Sovann with a student during Khmer New Year party



Building community at the Plas Prai



Students finishing a prayer gazebo at the new Ministry Center land