

Calling Cambodians to Christ

Ecclesiastes 3:14 "I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever:..."

Dear Praying Friends,

Many of you know that the Lord has allowed New Hope Baptist Church to build their own church building. For a little over a year, this project has become my "day job." My latest and hopefully my last big project was to make a platform in the church auditorium. These projects need to be done, but they are temporal. This platform and even this building will all fall apart some day. Granted, this building will be used to preach the Eternal Word of God to make an eternal difference in ways that I will not realize until I get to Heaven, but I want to personally be involved in life changing work not just improving a building. So on the morning of January 27th, (a bit discouraged, I admit) I asked God to let me make an eternal difference in someone's life even though I was buried in work on a temporal building. This is what happened.

In front of the building but inside the property wall, I set up a place to cut wood for building the new platform. On January 27th, an older man was walking by the church. I greeted him as he passed. A few hours later, he was walking by again in the opposite direction. I gave him a second greeting and remarked about his return. A few moments later, as the high pitch of the saw slowed down after a cut, I noticed this man staring at me through the steel bars of the gate. He asked me what I was doing and why I was doing it. (White people doing sweaty, dirty, and physical labour is not common place here.) I opened the gate, answered his questions, gave him a Gospel booklet that I wrote, and invited him to church. He left, and I went back to work.

The following Sunday, January 30th, he came to Sunday School, morning service, and then came back for our evening service. Pastor Wang was preaching in the evening, so Ta Mun (Grandpa Mun) and I had a private Bible study to help him understand some foundational truths related to the Gospel. He came back Wednesday night, the following Sunday morning, Sunday night, and the next Wednesday. Every time he came to church I taught him more about the Gospel.

After that, Ta Mun's cousin passed away, so he was gone for about a week. Then Cambodia got hit pretty hard with Covid, and Ta Mun missed about 4 weeks of church. When he got through all of that, he was right back in church asking questions of Pastor Wang and Pastor Sakaun.

After finishing our Bible study on March 23rd, I told him that he was more than welcome to contact me any time if he wanted to study more about the Gospel. He had not yet revealed his address to us, so we were unable to visit him at his home. On Monday March 28th, he called me. "Pastor do you have time to teach me today?" I had so much to do that day, but nothing could compare in importance and urgency. Ta Mun met me about 2:30 pm, and he listened, questioned, answered, and considered the Gospel for two hours. At approximately 4:30, he asked Christ to save him! Praise the Lord!

Ta Mun is hungry to know more of the Bible. He has started discipleship. I have visited his home. Most importantly, he is seeing God do a great work in his heart.

It is so rare for an 80 year old man to accept Christ in just about any culture, but especially Cambodian culture. He had so many questions already when I met him. For Cambodian standards, this happened so fast! Come to find out, seeds were planted about 30 years ago when an American preached the Gospel to a group that he was part of. Ta Mun told me that he couldn't understand enough of what was being said to comprehend the truth. He has visited a number of churches in Phnom Penh, but eventually gave up. He told me that none of them explained to him how to get to Heaven. When I gave him that book the first day I met him, he realized that New Hope Baptist Church might be a place where he could finally find out the way to Heaven!

Just a tool in the Mighty Hand of God,

Rodney Ruppel
Rodney Ruppel

**Ta Mun
Receiving Christ!**

