

The Ruppel Family
Calling Cambodians To Christ
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Dear Pastor Blount,

Thank you for leading your church to faithfully support our ministry in Cambodia. You and your church will be greatly rewarded for all eternity for everything that you do for the cause of Christ.

The reason for this letter is to report on some things (mostly financial) that I do not like to put into prayer letter form. I believe the prayer letters are for the members of the church to see, read, and pray over. Lord helping me, I will never contact members of a church directly about a financial prayer request/need. To clarify: As I give a report and ask for prayer below, please know that it sincerely is a request for prayer and not for money.

First of all, the radio program that we have supported for 6 years will cease at the end of this year. The funds are no longer available for this ministry. I believe God would have this program to be broadcast through a different medium. Lord willing, the Khmer pastor who has been preaching this daily broadcast will put his audio sermons on a facebook page. This will enable him to preach the Gospel to the Khmer speaking people in Vietnam as well. He is planning to use his time on the radio for the rest of the year to promote his facebook page. Please pray for Pastor Seoung's much less expensive and potentially more influential method of proclaiming the Gospel.

Secondly, you deserve a report about the land/building fund. The report and explanation of the report will follow this letter. Before giving you the report, let me explain some struggles of church planting here in Cambodia.

During the past two years, Pastor Sakaun and I have been reaching out to some struggling Baptist churches in a specific province. To my surprise, all the churches in this specific province have church buildings. A Korean group graciously built buildings for every group of believers they could find in this province. The result was not good! Instead of the expected church growth, every pastor testified that upon completion of the building, they lost all their members. The buildings killed the churches! I continue to find more churches in that province that are completely dead. Most are left with only the pastor and his family. Others meet only once a year at Christmas, when they can find foreign sponsors to give rice and/or gifts to the people of the village. The once a year service is well documented with photographs as to make sure the foreign sponsors are delighted with the "size and strength" of the church. The condition of these "churches" grieves my soul, and it has also made me extra careful to seek God's way and God's time for the physical structure of New Hope Baptist Church.

I continue to pray for God to give New Hope Baptist Church their own building, but God will only be glorified if the attainment of a building makes the church (people) stronger. My prayer, which I believe is also God's plan and desire, is for the people of New Hope Baptist