

The Johnsons

Greetings to all,

We're glad to have you here reading our updates. We would also like to thank you all for your prayers and for your special gifts towards us and our baby who's due end of August. We really appreciate your thoughtfulness and love!

MINISTRY

This is Oum Tam (Aunt Tam). She has been a church member for a long time now and has been involved in the house church ministry since the beginning of this year. It's great to see another church member join in and help with that ministry! Oum Tam has taken over the kids village classes while the Pastor with another lady facilitate the home churches. We still get to provide the weekly lesson materials for her. She has been very happy about teaching the children and said that it's been a blessing to her. Last week she even asked her nephew, who is from another church, to come along with his guitar and to help play worship. Our church still does not have a music team set up. We use karaoke with lyrics that is played on the speaker during church service. The one student Elza taught guitar to last year has stopped playing and is focusing on her studies instead. Hopefully we can find others who would like to learn music in the future. There are lots of Christian Cambodian musicians in the city but none at our church yet.

Even though there is no music team here, you can still feel true worship rising from the church members' hearts. Not having instruments does not mean worship is impossible. True worship is our heart's posture towards God. It includes expression of admiration for God's greatness and holiness. Worship is also how we live our daily lives. It's about choosing Him first. There's more to say, and this verse summarises it a bit:

Romans 12:1, 2, 'I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.'



Oum Tam sharing about ministry at church



Students at Chrey School

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BORDER SITUATION UPDATES

You might have read the prayer request email we sent about the situation between Cambodia and Thailand. But here's a summary and update.

In the last week of May there were 2 clashes between Cambodian and Thai troops at the land borders. One of those confrontations caused the death of a Cambodian soldier. This triggered much tension, and some people feared there would be a war. Praise God that nothing more violent has happened after this event in May. To be on the safe side, some villagers living by the borders were moved and lots of Cambodians who were working in Thailand travelled back. People were able to cross the borders as usual for a few weeks after the event, but as political tensions arose between the countries and within the Thai Government, restrictions were put on each other. Now in July, the land borders are completely closed. Flights are still operational but the restrictions have caused lots of trade issues. Cambodia imports lots of products from Thailand, and

we've seen the consequence of border closures at the grocery store here. There's no fresh milk available and now there's even limitations on dairy products bought per person. Small family businesses that rely solely on exporting to and importing from Thailand are also being affected. We pray and hope that this situation will not get worse and that the politicians and military will be able to make peace soon as both countries are suffering from those restrictions.



SIDE STORIES



◆ The school at Chrey now has a Sunday art class. An art student from the local university has been working part time teaching the kids. Thank you for your support that also goes to helping facilitate this class and providing supplies for the children.

◆ Honoring the dads on Father's day at church



Tong Deng

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Meet Tong Deng, 12 years old. He likes the color purple and loves to play with his brother and sister. His favourite subject is Khmer language. He is a very hardworking student. Even if Tong Deng might not grasp concepts straight away, he is a good student who shows result after applying himself to his studies. He wants to be a soldier when he grows up! Pray that this little boy will open his heart to Jesus!



Cleaning after classes



Sour fruit & spicy salt

PRAISE & PRAY WITH US

Praise God for:

- The rain & clouds that help cool down the hot temperatures
- Provision
- Oum Tam who stepped up helping with kids ministry
- Healing Bryce's back that was hurting for a long time
- Providing for our families as they travel to Cambodia
- Peace and joy in a time of tension and transition

Pray for:

- Tension at the Thai-Cambodian land border to subside
- Wisdom and protection for the team that goes out to the villages as the roads have been far from ideal
- Tong Deng to know Jesus as his Lord and Savior

'Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit.'

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

Thank you for reading our latest newsletter. We are very grateful for you all supporting us in every way. Thanks also for replying to our emails and messages. It was great to chat with some of you and to pray more specifically for each other. Please do not hesitate to contact us!

Blessings & Peace,

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