

## CAMBODIAN HARVEST PRAYER LETTER – JUNE 2021

While Cambodia is struggling with the spread of Covid across the land, we are rejoicing that none of our staff & no church members have caught the virus. This is a wonderful testimony of faith in Jesus. We believe that those who trust in Jesus (and not the vaccine) are covered and protected by the promises in Psalm 91. We live under the covering and protection of the Almighty. Amen. Let us thank God for the compassion for the poor that the Government has shown by handing out food supplies to those in lock-down in the slums, who would otherwise starve because they couldn't go out to work and earn money for food. This is an amazing answer to prayer. Praise God for food and other donations from the Christians in the community to help the poor in Phnom Penh.



Our new front fence was completed months ago but the new gates were only installed last week. Razor wire is being put along the tops of the fences to make theft more difficult. Some items were stolen as robberies happened all along our street, recently. We were shocked when this happened but as yet, not all of our fences are complete with wire on top. We will finish this when funds allow. The land has been filled up to road level outside and inside the fence, making more land available for market gardening.

Bunthoeun received permission to sell our meat and vegetables in Phnom Penh during the lock-down. This was stressful because at each check point, boxes of our products were demanded by the police before he could drive through. He lost 10 boxes on one trip. Lockdowns continue in small areas where there are many infections but the main roads to the provinces are open again. The worst hit cities are Seim Reap and Sionoukville and every province has some level of infection. A sick lady was caught when she ran away from a hospital because she couldn't pay the bill.



Storm damage

The factory is not producing dried fruit but we have begun to sell dried chili and this is very popular. The wet season rolled in early this year with violent storms and heavy rain. We suffered a little damage to our crops when a mango tree and some bananas were blown down. The pumps on our deep well have not yet been repaired or replaced because of closed shops and lack of stock due to Covid lock-downs.



Many fruit trees have been planted which give fruit all year so we can meet the demand more easily. About 40 of each variety, including bananas, oranges, pomelo, guava and longan (similar to lychee), the most popular all year round fruit varieties, as well as some younger mango trees. All the old mango trees died when we raised the soil level. As the new trees are young, vegetables are still growing around them. It is important to be able to maintain our fruit and vegetable supply to customers. All our unsold stock of dried fruit has reached expiry date because of the closed market, due to Covid, and had to be thrown out.

Ministry trips to our four churches in Kompong Thom Province have been halted by the restrictions, so contact is maintained by phone & Skype. A young relative of Bunthoeun's is currently staying at the factory because her family are worried that she may be vulnerable to abuse in their locked down village. On Pentecost Sunday, we saw a sovereign move of God when Holy Spirit fell on four of our staff children, with strong weeping and repentance. As Bunthoeun was teaching, one teenager read from the Scriptures, where on the day of Pentecost, it says, "Men & brothers what shall we do?" Peter said, "Repent & be baptized". The Spirit fell on Prown & Ol's son, Joch (19), & daughter Keo (16), Leang & Neng's son Som (17), and Sreyneang (12), Maly's daughter. They all began to weep & begged Jesus for forgiveness and asked to be baptized. So Bunthoeun took them across to the fish pond and they were all baptized, just like it was in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost. Pray for them to grow in maturity and the knowledge of God and His ways. I am so excited about this because it is the next generation of believers rising up in our church.

Church of the Redeemer's young people who were baptized at Pentecost

From left to right:

Joch (19), Sreyneang (12), Keo (16) and Som (17)  
Maly baptizing her daughter Sreyneang



At Khmer New Year our ladies had a fun day making the special sticky rice and pork or banana rolls to celebrate. Bunthoeun went to Kompong Thom to visit our churches but restrictions meant that he could only talk to a few members while he bought burnt rice husk ash to add to our clay soil as fertilizer. They are well and missing our visits. The Covid restrictions are severe because the incidence is increasing rapidly.

Please join in prayer for the following:

1. Pray for schools to open & business to return to normal.
2. Pray for restrictions to ease so our outreach trips to our churches in Kompong Thom can resume.
3. Pray for Bunthoeun's and Netha's unsaved relatives to come to faith & not catch the virus.
4. Pray for finances to repair our water pumps & buy a rotary hoe. Pray for the finances to pay the final payments to the fencing contractor and for more razor wire to complete the security fence.
5. Pray for our crops to grow well during the heavy deluges in the wet season.
6. Pray for wisdom for Bunthoeun & Netha & strength to manage all manner of decisions and activities.
7. God bless Church of the Redeemer with a continual outpouring of Holy Spirit, so that God's Kingdom comes and His will is done on earth in Cambodia, as it is in heaven. God bless our wonderful young believers.

Thank you all for praying. We really appreciate your prayer and support. God bless you all,

*Marian Freeman*