



The Khmer Chronicle

The Cambodian Ministry Newsletter
of George and Shary Frahm
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Building Community ~ One Village and One Person at a Time

This morning, I chose to take communion. It was an opportunity to commune with my fellow worshippers. The French use the word commune to refer to the smallest territorial or geographical unit for administrative purposes. From commune, comes both communion and community.

When we commune with one another, we share our beliefs on the most emotional and intimate level, especially when we witness God's love for all mankind. This involves relationships, our relationship with God, and our relationship with those around us. Before we can witness, we need to build relationships with the people we want to tell the "good news."

Living in a community also involves having relationships. Most generally, we think of a community as being a group of people living in one place. This can be a small rural village, or a large city. Communities exist in every country in the world. They are the thread connection of their world.

No two communities are identical, but all communities share at least some characteristics. Living and working in Cambodia involves living in a different community from the one I grew up in. The Cambodian community has a different language, different foods, a different type of housing, and a different government. But, the Cambodian community and the American community both involve relationships between people and the opportunity to follow Christ's command. Whether we are in the United States or Cambodia, Christ has commanded us to be His witness. To do this, we have to form relationships.

Rural communities are especially and oftentimes critically important. These are the more stable

areas of either the US or Cambodia which produce food for all the city dwellers. Rural areas are the bread baskets for either country and produce the staple grains that feed the rest of us. When a crisis strikes, rural areas are where we all run to escape the dangers of the larger cities. Rural communities are conservative strong holds that take a lot of prayer and effort to break, but once you are considered an insider, things happen rapidly as you form relationships and make friends. All communities are important, but rural communities are especially important.

In 1996, then first lady, Hilary Clinton wrote a book referencing the African proverb of "It takes a village (community) raise a child." Other ways of saying this are, "A child does not grow up only in a single home," "A child belongs not to one parent or home," or "A child is belongs to his parents, but his upbringing belongs to the community." Communities and the relationships we have within those communities are so important that they cannot be overlooked. It is not only the relationships among and with children that are important, but also the relationships between adults which serve as models for the children.



In Cambodia, if a gift is given to a single individual, that individual stands out and becomes the target of theft and physical harm. But, a gift given to a community is a gift where no individual is singled out, and the community assumes joint responsibility for maintaining the gift. When we raise the income of the community, we help everyone in the community

and teach them how to work together to support the church and the community.

One of my favorite passages in the bible is Acts 2: 42-46. What is described here is an ideal Christian community where the focus is on sharing according to needs, not wants; everyone is equal; and God's word is studied daily. I have had the personal experience of working with a church which used this a model for ministry and it was delightful. Going to church was not an obligation, but a pleasure. Studying the bible together over a light meal was fun. There were friends available to assist me, and others to hold me accountable. Wow!

Who is your community? How do you share in community? How does it impact your daily life?

This is food for thought for the day for our faithful readers and supporters of God's ministry in Cambodia. Thank you !

Knee Thoughts



Praise for our Jesus and His love and salvation for each of us.

Prayers for travel mercies for ELCC President Chimm Vannarith.

Praise for the safe delivery of K. born on July 31st. Mom and Dad are loving their new roles!

Praise for selling the condo in Saginaw, MI so quickly. God is so perfect in his timing.

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*****Did you get our prayer card in your mailbox? If not, and you would like one, please let us know and we can get one out**

to you. We appreciate our mighty prayer warriors along this journey working together with us to glorify Him.***

As we approach fall and return to a calendar schedule, please let us know when we can come and share God's ministry in Cambodia with your church or small group or just yourselves. Since our condo is sold, we are able to move forward with our return to Cambodia in the near future. Currently we are in discussion with our Cambodian partners to formulate an efficient budget that will work for us in the field for the work that ELCC would like us to continue. They too invest in this and are a part of this budgetary process.

Partnership in the Gospel

Partnership with Global Lutheran Outreach means that your prayers, encouragement, and financial support are fully recognized and counted. We welcome your continued attention and love to God's work in Cambodia. Thank you so much!



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(Please write check to 'Global Lutheran Outreach' with 'Frahm-Cambodia' in the memo line)

or (THIS IS A NEW LINK)

www.globallutheranoutreach.com/support-frahm.html

(Click on 'give' on the right side of the page which will take you to the giving page. We are near the bottom of the page).

****Global Lutheran Outreach website has been under construction and now its our turn to work thru those changes on our part. We will keep you updated as these occur.*****