

RODNEY & BECKY RUPPEL

CALLING CAMBODIANS TO CHRIST

FEBRUARY/MARCH/APRIL 2024

“I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth...” (Luke 15:7a)

So often in Cambodia, it takes many visits and many lessons before a person accepts Christ. When we first arrived in the country, few people knew who Jesus Christ was. Although that has changed some over the years, the concept of salvation through Jesus Christ rather than through good works is still a totally foreign concept to most people here.

Rodney was introduced to a man named Vuthy during our first weeks in Memot. He began a salvation Bible study and Vuthy did not seem very interested. However, he was willing to listen. We truly do not know what is happening in a person's heart when we are giving the Gospel. Some people seem interested but decide to reject the Gospel. Others, like Vuthy, who don't seem to be interested ultimately make the decision to accept Christ. We were thrilled that he accepted Christ in March and excited when he came to church the following day! Rodney was able to sit with him and explain how to use the Bible, the songbook, and help him understand what was going on around him. Please pray for Vuthy as Matt Brown takes over with his discipleship. His wife and children also need salvation.

I spent several years teaching at an international school in Phnom Penh. Although it was not a Christian school, many of the teachers were Christians. We had some opportunities to share Jesus Christ with our students. I especially used the month of December to share the true meaning of Christmas. My students were first graders, and I was thankful for the opportunity to plant some seeds. Two weeks ago, while in Phnom Penh, I ordered a coffee and my order was not done correctly – too much sugar! I was unable to drink the coffee and was a bit disappointed. Later in the day, I decided to try again at a coffee shop I had not often frequented. While ordering, I noticed one of the baristas staring at me. He finally walked over and asked if I had been a teacher. He told me he had been one of my students many years ago. Then he said something that THRILLED me! “Teacher, do you want a big surprise? Do you think I am Buddhist or Christian?” He went on to explain that his father had died, and it caused him to think about what really happens after death. He recalled things he had heard as a young boy and began to seek Christ. This former student had accepted Christ! The seeds planted bore fruit! I am so glad my first coffee order was messed up that day or I would have never tried again later. God orchestrated that for me!

Please pray for us as we continue to share the Gospel here in Cambodia. We would especially ask you to pray for a couple we met many months ago. We have been doing a salvation Bible study with Phan and Chee for quite some time. Phan had just finished up chemo treatments for cancer when we met them. She is now undergoing another round of chemo. Seeing people face things like this puts into perspective their need for Christ. Both husband and wife have come to believe Jesus Christ is real and that he came to save the world from sin. However, they are having a hard time believing that Jesus would do that for them personally. Pray that they will see the truth and accept it.

Thank you so much for your prayers and your support! Any fruit we have here is fruit to your account!

Becky Ruppel

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