

# CAMBODIAN HARVEST

## MARION FROMM'S NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2011

In early December we were blessed to have Dean Paterson, the Chairman of the Reverse The Curse Board with us for a couple of weeks. This proved to be a great blessing. Following his visit, Rhonda Pooley stayed for a week over Christmas and at New Year & her daughter Rowena joined us and they were a great encouragement to us everyone. Rhonda used to be a member of our Board and she has begun to write a book about Marion Fromm and the history of this ministry.

We had wonderful Christmas celebrations last year. More than 50 people were packed into our Church and young people from local families also attended. Three family members of staff received salvation, along with our two farm staff. Theng and Gam are currently receiving instruction for baptism. At the end of the service, Rady was baptized and his testimony and other staff testimonies of how the Lord has been working in their lives were very encouraging. Rady joined our staff as a security guard in November and quickly came to faith because he had been searching other Christian religions for a long time, looking for the truth. Twenty children were given Christmas gifts and the function concluded with lunch.

For our staff Christmas party we hired a bus and took all the staff to a picnic resort near a river at Goat Mountain. This was a beautiful spot, with a platform to relax on under shady trees beside the river. We all had so much fun together, especially so as now the staff has become a wonderful warm loving family, worshipping and praising God together.



Christmas service worship



Rady is baptized



Marion with Ny (left) & Noun (right) at Heng's son's wedding

Some of you may be anxious about reports of war between Cambodia and Thailand. This is not really the case. There is a skirmish up on a small section of the far north western border between Thailand and Cambodia. This is an ongoing dispute about the ownership of an ancient world heritage temple on Cambodian land, four kilometers inside the Cambodian border, which the Thai believe really belongs to them. Periodically the Thai army assembles at the border and shots are fired. This time the damage is a little more and about 4 people have been shot. No one is worried here and we all believe that this dispute will settle down again soon. However, when these events have happened previously, it has always resulted in many more sales of our products because the locals stop buying products from Thailand. The United Nations and ASEAN have been asked to mediate and install a buffer zone.

#### **STAFF NEWS**

Four new staff joined us this year. **Neang**, as a fruit cutter and factory worker. New marketing staff include **Bun**, salesman, **Sreyngy**, marketing and **Thany**, sales assistant for factory door sales. Tin left at the end of December to open his own shop.



Neang



**New Sales Team -Sreyngy, Mary, Bun & Thany**

#### **BUSINESS**

We have been asking the Lord for a capital injection of funds to help us through the current very expensive time of buying mangos for processing for the coming year. This is a cost of about US\$500 per day and we need to purchase mangos until our own crop is ready to harvest, so that we can have dried mango in stock throughout the coming year. The mango season is from February to May. Our sales have soared, which is wonderful, but we need at least three times the amount of stock we produced last year to keep up with increased sales to customers throughout the year. We are running to keep up with the current demand as it is.

New manufacturing regulations require us to have each product tested and registered by the Ministry of Health, who will issue a certificate that costs \$250 each. For our 11 products, this is a total of \$2700. We have an order from Japan that we can't deliver until we get these documents, so funds for this are urgent. All staff are having to undergo a health check at a maximum cost of \$80 each. As we now have 27 staff, this is an unexpected expense.

#### **NEW FACTORY BUILDING**

New factory plans are complete. A local builder is considering building our factory for cost if we use a steel frame construction with stand up cement panels for walls. This is a new building design for Cambodia and he will use our factory to showcase this new construction method. If this happens, it will be a great blessing to us.

#### **CHURCH**

Church services have increased in numbers this year, with staff increasing and family members and friends coming with them. Some staff are sharing the Gospel in their villages when they return each month to bring home their salaries for their families. Their obvious health, happiness and financial improvement are a wonderful testimony to their faith in Christ. The happy circle of staff gathering at the gate at night attracts many neighbours who love to join them and participate in their joyful conversations. Some neighbours attended Church for the Christmas service. Slowly we are impacting

the street with our love and breaking down the discrimination that they experienced at the beginning of our factory moving in here. Those coming to Bible study have also increased from an average of twelve to between sixteen and twenty. Nin, Ny's son, regularly assists us with singing and we recently bought a Khmer drum, which Bunthoeun Thong plays with an amazing anointing. In spite of their disabilities they enter into the worship with enthusiasm and dancing. Some have seen angels worshipping with us.

Last year we told you about Chandray, a lady with severe polio disabilities, who came to Church for help and prayer. We did see some improvement in her disability but not as much as we desired. However, when we took her home to her village in Kompoung Charm province, we met her bedridden mother, who was suffering from terminal TB and AIDS. Chandry's brother, who had been supporting his family, was murdered, so the family had no means of support since his death a month before. We prayed for Chandry's mother and she was immediately healed. Now she has is completely well, has a job and the family is thanking Jesus for His wonderful love and healing.



Chandray & her mother in their shanty home

Marion Fromm will travel to Adelaide on 22<sup>nd</sup> February to attend the wedding of her grandson, Joshua Heidenreich. She will be having a much needed holiday and not speaking at many meetings.

**PLEASE NOTE:** A **Coffee and Cake Night** will be held for supporters at Morphett Vale Baptist Church, States Road Morphett Vale on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. We would love to see you there. Marion will share updates from the work in Cambodia.

#### **PRAYER & PRAISE**

1. Please pray for the Board in Adelaide for energy & wisdom and blessing on all their hard work in fundraising.
2. Please pray for our wonderful supporters who give so generously, that God will greatly bless them and their families.
3. Pray for the plans and costs estimates to be completed for our new factory building. Pray for the contractor who will be considering building the new factory at cost, that he will be used of God to bless us. Pray for funding to come in to build the factory.
4. Pray for our staff & our production as we work at maximum capacity to process mango from February to May. Pray for the finances to supply all the fruit and materials needed.
5. Pray for our marketing to increase and exporting to Japan to become established. We praise God that we have more than doubled our manufacturing and sales in recent months. Pray for exporting costs to be reviewed and decreased.

6. Pray for our farm that the Lord will protect our ripening mangos from insects & rain, so that we get a bumper crop.
7. Pray for Theng & Gam who are expected to be baptized on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> February. Pray for four new staff, Neang, Bun, Sreyny and Thany to become believers.
8. Pray for the Cambodian Government & the Prime Minister, who has been publicly reported on multiple occasions, calling for the death of all opposition members & parties. Pray for peace on the Cambodian border with Thailand.
9. Pray for God's blessing and Holy Spirit anointing to increase on our Bible studies and services. Pray for the Church members to mature in their faith.
10. Pray for Kay Draggett, a teacher from Brisbane, who will arrive on 13<sup>th</sup> February to teach all our staff English. Pray for safe travel and an enjoyable time with us.
11. Pray for Marion Fromm as she travels to Adelaide on 21<sup>st</sup> February to attend her grandson's wedding on 25<sup>th</sup> February. Pray for a restful & relaxing month's holiday for Marion.

We are so excited about the wonderful crop of mangos coming on our farm. Some of the trees flowered early and we will get two crops from them this season. This is a great blessing from the Lord. The changes we made in the factory last year, with two new dehydrators and more equipment have allowed us to increase our production by nearly 300%. Sales in recent months have more than doubled, so we are all encouraged.

The greatest blessing of all is the love of God shed abroad in the hearts of our staff and the fruit of changed hearts and lives. I continue to be astounded at what the Lord is doing here. We can see that our people are becoming the Church and not just going to Church. There is a real sense that the Lord is pleased, and He is the most important Person to please.

May God bless you in every possible way.

*Marion Fromm*