

CAMBODIAN HARVEST

MARION FROMM'S NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2011

Since September the Cambodian Mekong River systems have been deluged by floodwaters coming down from China and Vietnam as well as the normal rainy season's rains which have caused the rivers to rise to levels not seen here in living memory. As a result, our farm has flooded for the first time in history. Our mango trees are standing in a meter of water and our pineapples are submerged just as the pineapples were nearly ready to harvest. It has not been necessary to evacuate our farmer and his family yet because the water has not entered their house. However, all this could have been prevented if we had been able to erect the fence around the property. The deep foundations would have stopped the flood water from seeping in from the surrounding area and we would only have had the normal rain water to deal with. The foundations for the fence were the reason that the cost of the fence was so high at \$35,000. We urgently seek donations for this fence so that future flooding will be prevented. Unfortunately most of the natural flood lakes have been filled in to make prime real estate in Phnom Penh and flooding on this scale will probably be an annual occurrence. As I write the Mekong River is starting to fill low-lying parts of Phnom Penh. During the total flooding of Seim Reap, Tepy walked through waist deep water to collect payments from customers.



Flooding at the farm



MARKETING

As a direct result of prayer to release the flow of exports without paying bribes, the Government passed a new law banning bribery and making it an offense to pay or receive bribes, which could result in imprisonment. In August we received an order to send Glacé Pineapple to Singapore. Consistent with the new law, we refused to pay any bribe money for each export document required. This resulted in many delays, until finally on the last day of the contract to export the pineapple, the product had to be delivered to the airport customs office. I had felt led by the Lord to discuss this law with the Australian Embassy staff and I shared the difficulty we faced on the Tuesday before the final day. They agreed to contact the relevant department on our behalf. When Bunthoeun Cheng, (Administrator) arrived at the airport with the order, it was ignored because there was no money hidden in the documents. Finally the senior head of the department asked Bunthoeun which company he was from and when he said Cambodian Harvest, the senior official screamed out orders to everyone that they were to process our order immediately, without any payments! So, with the help of the Lord, we were able to successfully export our first overseas order ourselves, without paying any bribes! Little by little the darkness is being pushed back by the Light of God.

CAMBODIAN HARVEST'S 7TH ANNIVERSARY

After 7 years of hard work to reach self sustainability we have not quite got there yet. We may actually have achieved that this year, except for the disastrous floods currently being experienced across the country. We now have 30 very committed staff that is doing their level best to reach this goal. We handed out three Awards for Excellent Service this year and they went to **Kimsan** and **Tepy**, our marketing staff in Seim Reap who are two of the original staff employed by the company in October 2004. The third award went to **Noun**, our Accountant.

*From Left to Right
Bunthoeun Cheng
(Administrator)
Kimsan Han &
Tepy Orung
(Marketing in Seim
Reap)
Marion Fromm
(CEO)
Noun Chim
(Accountant)
Thong Bunthoeun
(Factory Manager)*



STAFF NEWS

Three new staff has joined us recently. Sau and Mom work in the fruit cutting area and Kesay works in the packaging department. Sau has lost his leg to a land mine, Mom has a polio disability and Kesay is not disabled. Kesay speaks English well and she is being trained to be our quality control inspector, replacing the job that Mary was doing before, assisting in the preparation of orders. These three new staff came from very poverty stricken families and they are all very grateful for their jobs. Kesay has some contact with a Church in her village but she is not a Christian yet. Sau's amputation is very high and he walks with a stick and amazingly, rides a bicycle to work!



Sau



Mom



Kesay

CHURCH AND BAPTISM

On Sunday October 9th, Savin and Sokoung, (a new couple at Church) and factory staff Neang and Sokleang, (our farmer Theng;s wife) were baptized. This brings the number of staff baptisms so far this year to six. God is doing wonderful things in the hearts and lives of our staff. During Kesay's first week on staff, the Lord healed her of a serious sinus infection she had for 10 years and all the pain and discharge stopped and her sense of smell returned. She really praised God for that. Soeurn's broken and damaged finger has completely healed and it has returned to normal size and he has full use of his finger, which is another miracle, although it took longer than we expected for it to completely heal.



< Savin & his wife
Sokoung >



Neang >



Theng's wife
Sokleang >



MARKETING

Due to the flooding it has been very difficult to supply customers and collect payments. Factory door sales have suffered because of travel warnings to tourists, who are not coming to Phnom Penh right now. This has meant that our supply of cash for expenses has been seriously reduced. Please pray that this situation will improve quickly.

Dy with his daughter & son >

Miracles continue to happen through our staff and their families. Dy, the man who had the stroke five years ago is walking well now with a leg brace and he is speaking much more clearly. He is able to help around the farm and he is praising Jesus for the miracle of healing continuing in his body. Pray for his family to be the beginning of a new Church in their village.



Marion Fromm will be in Australia from 16th October till 27th November. Please pray for her trip and for her speaking engagements. Without your prayerful and financial support, none of the above reports could have been possible. As partners in our ministry, you share in our rewards. As I send out monthly prayer requests to those on our email list, I can feel the power of your prayers at work and the Lord's answers to each concern and the strength and wisdom He gives us every day. God is so good. Thank you so much. May God bless you and those you love in every possible way? I am looking to meeting many of you soon.

Marion Fromm