

CAMBODIAN HARVEST

MARION FROMM'S CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2011

I have just returned to Cambodia from Adelaide, where three weeks ago I slipped down an embankment & broke my upper left arm. Sadly that curtailed my activities considerably. However, the Lord really blessed me and gave me strength to return on schedule.

When I left Phnom Penh in mid October, the city was surrounded in flood waters & our farm was under water and we lost our pineapple crop just as it was nearly ready to harvest. The flooding was a great shock to us as it had not happened before in living memory. Our area was flooded because the government approved filling in the natural flood lakes with sand to make prime real estate, which is now an environmental disaster. We can continue to expect flooding in the future. If we had already erected a concrete & brick waterproof foundation for the security fence around our farm, the property would not have flooded. It is now an urgent priority to erect this fence before the next wet season.



Flooding at the farm

7th ANNIVERSARY

This year we celebrated our Company anniversary with a PowerPoint presentation of our history from the beginning, to show the newer staff how far we had progressed over the past seven years. We also gave Awards for Excellent Service to Kimsan & Tepy, our marketing staff in Seim Reap and to Noun, our Accountant. While I was in Adelaide, the RTC Board gave Awards of Excellence to Bunthoeun Thong, Factory Manager and Bunthoeun Cheng, Administrator. These two men have served the company in outstanding ways and they are both men of integrity and faithful servants of the Lord. I praise God daily for them and the wonderful way they have committed their lives to His service here.



Bunthoeun Cheng, Kimsan, Tepy, Marion. Noun & Bunthoeun Thong
all received awards for excellent service

CHURCH NEWS

Over the past year we have baptized six staff and four Church members. The blessing of the Lord has been upon us, especially as we have seen many wonderful healings and lives changed as they have come to know Jesus personally. While I was in Australia, some of the Church members went out to several villages each Sunday afternoon, to where staff or others who have been healed live, to share the love of Jesus. They have also been preparing the new believers for baptism soon. This development has taken us by surprise and we sense the Lord leading us to plant Churches in these villages and train up the staff to disciple the new believers and pray for the sick and see wonderful miracles. We are experiencing what the Apostle Paul said, "I came to you in weakness and fear and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power". 1 Corinthians 2: 3-5.



Bunthoeun Thong sharing about Jesus in a village in Kompoung Speu

BUSINESS

This year the business has done very well. We increased production four times and sales increased over 70%, so we were very pleased with our staff and their wonderful performance. However, when the country experienced serious flooding, similar to Thailand, the tourists stopped coming and for two months our sales dropped off dramatically. We have always understood that our dependency on tourism was a serious weakness. After much prayer for the export market to open up to us, the uncertain cost of export documentation were resolved by the passing of a new law prohibiting the payment and receipt of bribes. In September we received an order for pineapple to go to Singapore. We refused to pay the bribes to get each of 17 documents and the Lord blessed us with His favour and we are now able to export overseas to Australia, Japan and Korea and anywhere else, bribe free. We can increase our profits by exporting and stabilize our business, which is a wonderful blessing.

STAFF

Four different production areas have had team leaders appointed to be responsible for each area, including fruit cutting, syrups, jam and dehydration. This makes each team responsible for their own production results and allowing them to suggest improvements. This is working well and preparing and training management staff ready for future expansion when we build the new factory.

PRAYER & PRAISE

1. Praise & thank God for wonderful blessings from our Lord.
2. Pray for donations to build the new factory fence. This is urgent.
3. Pray for increased donations for the daily ministry.
4. Praise God for the great breakthrough in the high cost of exporting.
5. Pray for strength and wisdom and for Marion's broken arm to heal quickly.
6. Pray for the Gospel to impact the lives of those hearing the Gospel for the first time in the provinces and for these small Church plants to grow and thrive. Pray for God's anointed leaders for them.

As Christmas Day is a Sunday this year, we are again planning a special celebration and a baptism for Dy, who is recovering from his stroke. We are overwhelmed by the awesome and amazing plans God had when we began this ministry seven years ago, that have far exceeded anything we ever imagined. We thank and praise God that He is using the "least of these" to impact the hurting country of Cambodia with Jesus' love.

As once again we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may God bless you and give you a fresh vision of what the Lord has for you in the coming year. May God bless you abundantly because you have been a partner with us in the work of bringing the Kingdom of God to Cambodia and His will to be done here on earth as it is in heaven.

Marion Freeman