

Merry Christmas

from the Sem's Tribe

Kampot City

Kampot is a city of 50,000 people south of Phnom Penh. God has been speaking to our hearts for a couple of years about this city but really planted something clear and definite in our hearts as we spent one month there on a sabbatical in 2015. Since that time, we have been waiting on God's timing and the pieces have fallen into place for us to take the next step. In January 2017 we will begin taking two trips per month—once a



month Sophea will go alone with some leaders from our Phnom Penh Thmey church, and once a month the Sem tribe will pack up their homeschool and go too! We will focus the first year on building a small group of true disciples and leaders to further build on. We have some contacts in the city already. Please pray with us as we move into this new territory for the Kingdom.



OCC Church Planters Initiative

God spoke to Sophea this year about becoming more strategic in his involvement with the Operation Christmas Child ministry that he has been involved with for the last 7 or so years. He has spearheaded a movement to use the gift distributions to strategically start a

church in a new area. He has gathered a group of 30+ pastors and leaders from many denominations, who are interested in planting churches this year. He is training and coming alongside them to help them use an Operation Christmas Child gift distribution to gather people, get the word out, and share the gospel. They will then follow up on these contacts as the means of launching a new church in that village! What a better way to celebrate the birth of Christ than to start a new churches in so many villages where there were none!



New Life Fellowship, Prey Romeas

The church campus in Sophea's home village of Prey Romeas is growing and moving forward! With several amazing testimonies of God showing Himself real and strong on people's behalf, the young church is growing in strength and maturity. Just the beginning of November, the worship service was

changed from Saturday evenings, to Sunday mornings. The residents of the village are more available at this new time, but it means the campus is now truly standing on its own feet, as the members from the Phnom Penh Thmey church who used to travel there to help play music, lead worship, or serve in other capacities, now have a schedule conflict. Only a preacher is sent out some Sundays, with the campus pastor preaching on other Sundays. That said, last Sunday might have been one of the strongest worship service they have had yet! And this weekend the church will travel together to the beach to baptize 8 more members! Praise God that He is building His church, and the gates of hell will not stand against it.

2nd Service at our main campus

Dec. 11, we will launch a second worship service at New Life Fellowship Phnom Penh Thmey. The entire leadership team has agreed that it is time for us to open up another opportunity for more people to come in and have the opportunity to experience the presence of God and hear the life-giving message of the gospel. We also desire to provide more opportunities for the many young men and women of God to exercise their gifts and to learn how to minister in the house of God. Two services will increase the opportunity for both!

We truly believe that this will be a launch to a season of greater growth that we have been restructuring and praying for over the last couple of years! Please join us in prayer for the community of Phnom Penh Thmey, that God will bring in those whom he has called, chosen, and prepared to become part of His global family.





Khmer Life Giving Network

Sopheha also heads up the Khmer Life Giving Network, a mentorship program that connects and equips pastors to be more strategic and fruitful in their ministries. He has a team of 5 master trainers and their goal is to help pastors lead their churches with the purpose of strategic evangelism, systematic discipleship, and multiplying leaders. Many churches in Cambodia exist and are good at evangelism and gathering crowds, but don't know how to disciple them into mature believers. The result is weak

churches that don't really grow and many die after a few years. The Life Giving Network desires to provide training and resources to help them be successful in growing people from unbelievers to new believers to become mature believers and leaders—allowing them to grow and multiply churches. There are now 83 pastors in the program. In 2017, our goal is to add more master trainers which will allow us to reach out to more pastors. There is currently a waiting list of pastors asking to be included but the current trainers cannot handle any more trainings right now.



Baptisms

On Oct. 23, the Sems celebrated a very special baptism, as our sister-in-law, Mey, publicly professed her faith in Jesus Christ! We have been praying for Mey, sharing with her, and encouraging her for several years now and we are so happy to see God really at work in her life, bringing her to new life in Him! Mey has also come on staff just the last month to help do administrative work with the OCC Church Planting Initiative.



We want to say a special thank you to all our amazing friends and partners who stand with us always, through prayer, communication, encouragement, and financial giving. You are those who lift up our arms and keep us in the battle. And together, we have the awesome privilege of being instruments to see lives transformed and transferred into the Kingdom of our God!

Have a very Merry Christmas!
Sopheha, Jenny Sem and the rest of the Sem Tribe.