



# Khmer Evangelical Association (KEA)

A Church Planting Ministry in Cambodia and Beyond

## Report for year 2010

There is much to thank God for as we experienced His blessings for our ministry. We realized that this is the answered prayers of God's people around the world, especially for those who have been helping our ministry both prayers and financially through out the year. We are so grateful for those who pray continually for my wife and me, who have been struggling with health problems for long time, but God has granted us to serve Him just as we are. We are able to continue to serve Him no matter our limitation is, and we appreciate your prayers very much.

Year 2010 has been a blessing year for KEA to achieve our plan for the whole year. At this time we got the total of 28 churches has been planted and we look forward to plant 3 more newchurches for year 2011.

Our church Planting movement now is reaching out to the least people that no body rarely reached them. Our goal is to bring the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to our nation no matter where they are, but to make sure that they will hear the gospels and accept Christ as their Lord and Saviour. The first six months of this year 2010 we are able to plant 3 churches and six preaching points and we will be setting churches when we have enough leaders to lead the church.



**Evangelistic meeting at the remote area**

### **Praying of the conversion of the entire Community**

We are praying hard for the conversion of entire village that located along the Tonle Sap River name Koh Tasom about 80 kilometers from district of Kompong Chhnang province. Working in the community to spread the gospel is not an easy job, but we are looking forward to see them having hope in Christ. We can reach this location only by boat no access road at all. If someone is very ill, they cannot be rushed to a hospital like other place else, but travel by boat at least two hours or more in order to get to the hospital. God is working among the believers in that area, so they start learning and growing gradually with the Word of God and the gospel was quickly spread to the whole village and we need to uphold them in prayers. It was a good start the gospel in this village by partnering with the local authority. God help us to use any source in order to reach out people.

Another thing that we would like to take care for this community is the need of their children that they don't have any school nearby to let their children to learn at all. There are about one hundred children from the age of 6 to 14 that they never had experienced in schooling as same as the other children in the city or district at all.



Children are in needs for schooling at this area

For helping them how to lean write and read the Cambodian language , our church planters oragnize an open place where the children can come learn the language and sharing the gospel the same time too. This is what we are trying to do in starting small elementary school in their region, so they can learn to read and write and study the word of God. We are appeal to partners around the world to pray for them and our church planters that God may answer their prayers to a shade or a building for these children to learn and to endeavor to reach this unreached people for Christ.

### Praying to the Lord of the Havest.

The sower went out to sow the seed. As he sowed, some fell on the wayside and got trodden down and some were devoured by the birds of the air. Some fell on the rocks and among thorns and thistles and were either scorched by the heat of the sun or choked up by the weeds and thistles. But the seed that fell on the receptive soil brought forth a hundred-fold (Luke 8:5).



**YOU SHALL REAP WHAT YOU HAVE SOWED**

The sower failed to choose a good soil and plough deep the fallow ground (Hosea 10:12), ....remove the hindrances to the Gospel- before sowing the seed.

Once the harvest is ripe and ready to be harvested, we are asked to **PRAY** to the Lord of the harvest to send the havesters into the field ( Luke 10:2) and then when the harvest is ripe and ready we have to put the sickle immediately!!! (Mark 4:2). Yes because the people who are responsive today may not be responsive tomorrow. Let us reap immediately. And those who sow the Word of God, both sower and reaper, rejoice together (John 4:39). Let us not be weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not ( Galatians 6:9). This our humble strategy. And this is God's message to us for this time.

We would like to invite God's children everywhere around the globe get behind this unique church planting ministry that God has entrusted to us with a goal of planting one village one church in Cambodia by year 2021. We hope and pray that God will enable us for the sake of His Glory.

### MINISTRY WORKS

#### A. Leadership Development:

Our priority in order to keep the ministry going is leadership development both at the present time and for the future. To produce more leaders at the local churches and to send more qualified students to Bible school for further study for long run, we need to conduct lots of training and to encourage church leaders to fulfill God's Great Commission. Year 2010, we did two leadership seminars with 38 church leaders involved and recruited 9 qualified students whom can study at PPBS. There is a life changed of our student when they feel that God has called them into the ministry. In the following there is a testimony of one of our students who will finish his fourth year at PPBS and will work in Youth ministry of our KEA. It is a Changed Life by the Power of the Gospel.

My name is **Pok Rithy**. I am 22 years old from Kandal, Province, Southern part of Cambodia. I am from the farming family who have 7 brothers and sisters and I am the 3<sup>rd</sup> one. Before I was a Christian, I was a shy person and I was not confidence to talk with others. When I finished grade 12 high School, I've heard an announcement about a church in my location which provide an English Bible Study program that the students can learn English through Bible. I don't know God in the Bible, but I was interested about English language and I was enrolled quickly. The pastor who was in charge of the training, invited me to attend church service every Sundays. He preached the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, but I did not make decision to believe in Jesus yet because I was not yet satisfy with enough reasons that I should believe in Him. Later as I learn more through my English Bible about Him, I started to see God's Grace and His majestic works being revealed throughout ancient history until now. The truth is revealed, Jesus is the Saviour who can save me from my sin and He alone can give me new life in eternity. This truth touch my heart and later I made decision to believe in Him. More than just a regular church member, God gave me gifts to serve Him. Since the beginning of my Christian life, I was interested to serve Him in music ministry. He allowed me to progress in this gift quickly. I played music in church service. Step by step, I grew out my shyness and become outspoken person. My friendliness amazed some of my friends personally. I have seen lots of changes in my life and now I am also given a role of teaching God's word to others at church. So, this is my testimony so that you can see God's Amazing Grace. God is living with full of power and I hope that this short story can encourage you to reflect and continue to believe in Jesus Christ. Thanks for your Prayers. **Pok Rithy, PPBS Year 4.**



**B. Church Development:**

It is hard to find funds to build church building or to depend on tithe and offering to build the building for the church in Cambodia, but our philosophy is build God's people with the word of God first before anything else, so most our meeting place is from house to house a same as the early church in Acts 2: 42-47, and we pray that will answer their prayers for larger meeting place later.

Our church leaders were working hard to strengthen their own members to have a deep faith in Christ and to

make sure that the Christian conduct will be used on their Christian living everyday basis. God is adding the numbers of his church everyday. Beside of home bible study, there are some church activities to respond to need of the community and some church rituals need to be observed too. Last year 2010, we celebrated thanksgiving Day, but not like American style. We brought all the things that we had to put together in one place, even rice crop and other produces and we give thanks to God together and rejoice for His blessings. Praise God!.



**C. Church Planting:**

Our church planting movement is going well and we have to move ourselves from place to place to reach out people for Christ. There two objective that we plant church last year. One is we move our goal to Vietnam border to reach out people along Cambodian – Vietnamese border. Right now our home group near that border has two people from inside Vietnam, we Kampuchea Krom to have bible study together with our group and we hope that when they go back, they can share the gospel to other Vietnamese people inside along Vietnam border too. For security purpose at this time we don't need to go into Vietnam country directly, but through our bible training, we hope the gospel will be there ahead of us. Praise God that he can work among every nation to save His people. The other place we are working with a group along Thai- Cambodian border, but we still not find people who are related on that area to bring the gospel into Thailand yet. Please keep praying for this area. This area is Preah Vihear Province.

Last year we had done beyond our plan. Every year we commit to plant 3 churches, but last year we had 3 church and six preaching points that may be this year will set up churches when we get enough leaders to lead the church. We conducted a baptism service with all churches together about 75 candidates. Praise God for their lives being converted to be the followers of Jesus. Thanks to our church planters who organized the meeting places and working diligently with confidence in Christ.

**D. Church and Community:**

To respond to the community need, we will help as much as we can both financial and physical needs. There was a big tragedy occurred on the last day of Water Festival celebration. People were very happy on this occasion and gather a big crowd on a small bridge located in a small island name Diamond Island or in Khmer word called Koh Pich. The disaster began at about 9:00 PM on November 23, 2010, when the huge crowd started to different direction without no way to go, so they began to step up from one to another in order to get away from the crowd, but it would not work at all.

Some of them get killed by jumping from the bridge into the river, but the most killing took place was stampede because people were dizzy, exhausted and became weak and fainted due to the lack of oxygen and human poisoning. The official final report has shown that there were 376 get killed and 394 wounded. This is a huge amount of deaths that Cambodia experiences the first time in this popular event. The Prime Minister, Hun Sen, has announced the 25<sup>th</sup> November be the Memorial of the death. One of our group has been working in the hospitals to the help injured victims to make sure they will release from the hospitals very soon so they can go back to be with their families.



**KOH PICH DEATH VICTIMS**

As Christian love, we tried to emphasize Christ to all people who have chance to hear it. It was a good testimony to the non believers, so they can see our activities to do the humanitarian work in among our community. On the other hand the government can arrange for us to work with the victims without any interruption at all. Praise God for that.

The Accident is not only this stampede victims in country, but there are more like starvation in the remote areas, homes fire ect... that



**PEOPLE INJURED BY STAMPEDE**

we need to help them along with love from Christ and it will be an opportunity to share the gospel as well.

## **MINISTRY PROJECT:**

I am very pleased to see that our God is our supplier. His love is everlasting love and he did through our donor around the globe. As most of you know that Cambodian people are 34% live under the poverty line. They only can make the living the most is \$3.00 a day or sometime less than that. Some of our church developments focus on holistic work that can help to reduce their living cost. I am updating some the project on going and some just one time gift that our donors want to share their love with people in our ministry.

### 1- Cow bank:

It is a good project and still working among the church members. To help the church members with long saving plan, cow bank is one of the best project that in each family can gradually reduce their poverty from time to time. There are lots of good testimony from people who raise cow and make their living better than before. When the cow produces more calf they make money from that and they can send their children further education or they can build house or whatever the needs are. Thanks to our donors who can help to invest people's lives through this project.

### 2- Rice seedling and Rice Bank

Rice seedling is the second project of our KEA plan to help the poor people who do the farming with rice. It was a good year last year that people can produce more rice than before and they start banking in the . AS some of you know most farmers in Cambodia they thought that they don't have money on hand but their money is rice. They can tithe to the church with rice too. Most churches in the country side now have rice and they can help each other to next year too. This project can help to the non-believers too, but there some condition that they will have to pay back and plus 1% of interest when they have rice crops. It is a going project that we want to see and make that our church members have enough rice to feed themselves and gain more tithe and offering in the church as well. Praise God for this project.

This year, we try to help people more with another project like pig bank and chicken and another agriculture production too like beans and others. We pray that God will enable us to find some funds to do

### 3- Computer Training:

To attract more people to see the activities of the church and to provide to the need in the community, we set up a computer basic training course in one of our Center which is located at Kmopong Chhnang Province. This project is not only for our young church members who are able to learn from this, but we open to the public too. Last year there are more young people from background interested with this computer training, even some monks from pagoda come to learn with us too. So the trainers can have a chance to share the Good News with them too. God can use us different method to reach out people for Him. We appreciate and thanks to our donors share their loves to build God's kingdom with us at KEA ministry.

### 4. Bibles Distribution:

Year 2010 was one of the success plan for KEA ministry on Bible distribution. We have given away more than 200 Cambodian bibles to non-believers through our youth program. This one of the good chance for people before they will believe in Christ, they can read the word of God first. We hope that the word of God can be spread throughout the country and people start to look for real God for their lives.

Once again on behalf of our KEA Team, I would like to say thank you very much to all our prayers warriors and donors who have supported us through prayers and financial needs with great care, sincere. I really appreciate you all very much. I also would like to give praise , glory and honor our triune God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, who has called us and given us this privilege to serve Him in our homeland. I also would like to

Invite all of you who are interested to build God's people for His Kingdom in Cambodia and for those who put trust in us to do the work Of God, please join us hand by hand for the sake of His gospel. We want to see Cambodian people change their lifestyle and to increasingly conform to the image of Christ.

#### PRAYERS POINTS

- 1- Timothy and Yun & Family for their Health
- 2- Church Planters and their Works for health, strength, courage and financial needs.
- 3- Church Unity in Cambodia.
- 4- Funds for Running the ministry. Financial sustainable.
- 5- Students at PPBC seek for Financial Assistant. The cost for each student is \$841.00 a year.
- 6- Building Project at Kompong Chhnang Province for church service and multi-purpose.
- 7- People open heart for the gospel.
- 8- Government leading the country on right way.
- 9- The poverty and the people living in the country. Reduce the poverty matter.
- 10- Phnom Penh Bible School and the Leadership and more full time faculty.
- 11- Training Center in Battambang province.
- 12- Peace and Freedom in the country, especially the conflict between Thai- Cambodian border.
13. Two motor-bikes for church planters. Each motor-bike \$1100.00 include license plate.

Thanks for your partnership with us for the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. May God double your blessings when you seek to serve Him as you just did. To God be the Glory.

Phnom Penh, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy Ith,

Director of Khmer Evangelical Association

#### **Any question:**

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