

2019 Review for the Lims in Southeast Asia

Cambodia Ministry

Church Plants in the City

- This past year, we have been working on a building project for Redemption in Christ Church. With inflation growing in Phnom Penh, our city churches have been unable to afford the rent. Our team decided to purchase land and build for long-term sustainability. The RCC building will be complete at the end of January 2020. The building will be used for church worship and dormitory ministry.
- In 2020 we are making plans to raise money for a second building for Khmer Christian Church. The building will be a multipurpose building for worship, dormitory ministry, and also office space for the MTW team. The KCC dormitory will be very vital, as the church has begun taking in students from Agape Ministry. Agape ministry is an NGO involved in rescuing young women from sex-trafficking and rehabilitating them to join society in a productive manner. KCC, MTW, and Agape ministry has decided to partner together to provide a place for these young women to live while attending school. We pray we will have the partners from the US to provide funds for this building project.
- In November, we ordained Pastor Vanna. He is in the process of church planting in the city. Pastor Samath is also gathering some people in a new developing area of the Phnom Penh to church plant. In the past couple we have had several set backs to the church planting work in the city but God has graced us to start again in bringing the Gospel to Phnom Penh.

Village Church Plant

- This year we helped establish one of the church plants of a pastor we ordained in 2018. Pastor Sopheak was given funds to start an orchard farm for his own financial stability. In 2020, we plan to aid in teaching his congregation and help Pastor Sopheak raise up church leaders.
- Pastor Pheakedey is another pastor we ordained in 2018. Over the past year he has been preparing to move to the village and begin a church plant. He has already started meeting with people to start a small group for the church plant. We are praying to help him with funds to buy land for a home and a building for gatherings.
- This past year our team has been able to build solid relationships with another church in Chouk area so that in the near future we could form a presbytery in the village headed by our MTW missionary Luke Smith.

Theological Education

- Bible Training – For the past 2 years, our team has been teaching 15-18 students regularly on the Bible and Theological Doctrines. This past year, we covered the Pentateuch and the Gospel of Mark. All of the students have grown in the knowledge of Scripture and are demonstrating gifts to become the leaders of their churches. The Bible training program is on going and we are continuing to add more students each year. We are expecting the number to increase to 20 students in 2020.
- Pastoral Training – This past year, we had continuing education, meeting once a week, for the pastors in our city churches going over principles of

worship and have spent extended time on Gospel-centered preaching. The pastors have grown in their ability to lead and preach at their churches. We will continue this program in 2020 and will expand the program to the village church pastors where Tim and possibly other members will regularly visit the village to train and teach.

MTW Team

- Our team this year has again shrunk in numbers. We now have 3 families in the city and one family in the village. Emily Whitley, a single female missionary, has worked together with us for 3 years and has returned to the US to pursue a degree in counseling. We hope she would eventually return but as of now we pray for her to grow spiritually and become better equipped to serve the church of Christ. She has contributed tremendously in discipling young Cambodian women and ministering to our team in various ways. With our team shrinking, we are having a difficult time in wanting to expand our ministry. We just don't have enough workers on the field.
- Thankfully, John Lee who was an intern on our team in 2018 will now join our team as a long term missionary to go help in the village in March 2020. We are praying that more would join us soon.
- Our team has had some difficulty with health issues. But we are thankful as our team is united with one mind to serve the Cambodian church.

Family



- The beginning of 2019 was a difficult time for Irene. She has struggled loneliness as all her close friends she made over the years has left Cambodia. Yet, God is kindness provided new friends and one of her close friends at school returned later in 2019. Irene has grown and is entering into her teenage years. With all the changes, Moonsook and I had some difficulty with her behavior. But as the year progressed, God continued to work in Irene's life to encourage her with friends visiting Cambodia. We are praying that she continues to grow in her knowledge of the Lord and in due time make a public profession of faith. She appears to be more positive about the upcoming school semester. She is physically healthy and we look forward to seeing how she will grow in 2020.
- Moonsook – 2019 has been real difficult for Moonsook as she was uncertain of her role in Cambodia. She at times struggled with depression and loneliness. But in due time, as she spent more time reading the Bible, praying, and meeting other believers in her prayer group, God gradually worked in her life for her to rely solely in God's grace. Christ, through various means, has encouraged her to know that her hope and securing is Christ alone. She is now renewed and encouraged to seek ways to serve the Cambodian Church and other non-Cambodians, like other missionary wives. By sharing her struggles and how God has shown her grace to others, she has been able to counsel and minister particularly to other

missionary wives. They have expressed to her that she has a gift in counseling. She plans to take some classes in counseling in 2020 and has a real interest in pursuing a degree.

- Tim – The biggest struggle for me has been to remember to care for my wife and child. I can be consumed with the ministry and teaching that often neglect to take time to minister to those who are most important in my life, my family. I have also been with some health issues as I tore my rotator cuff after falling off my motor bike. It has been a struggle sleeping because of the pain and it may take many more months to heal. Other struggles that I have been dealing with is the monotony of the work here in Cambodia. At times, the work seems tedious and I become lazy to do the things I am responsible for. In previous years, I spent a lot of time traveling to neighboring countries to teach but in 2019, I drastically reduced my travels to spend more time with the family. But even with more time spent in Cambodia in 2019, there were times when I was incredibly busy with ministry and felt at times feeling burnt out. But the struggles have forced me to rely more on God's grace. As the 2019 came to an end, I was able to reflect more on who I am in Christ and how Christ is the one who sustains me and my family. Therefore, I look forward to the challenges of 2020 and have a renewed strength to continue to minister in Cambodia and in Southeast Asia. Particularly, I am hoping to develop written Bible curriculum to be used in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar that is culturally appropriate for the situation on those countries.

Prayer for the family

- Pray for Irene that she would realize that Jesus is her true friend and she would grow to find her security in Christ.
- Pray for Moonsook that Jesus is her shepherd who will provide for all her needs and that she would find many opportunities to serve many people.
- Pray for Tim's health in order that he would be strong to minister and glorify the Lord.
- Pray for the entire family that we would place our hope in Christ and find strength from him to persevere in times of trial.

Myanmar

In October 2019, a short term from Eternal Life Ministries came to Myanmar to minister to our partnering church the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Myanmar. The team held a pastor's conference which we hold annually. The team also helped at the charity house providing teaching and tutoring for the children. The RPCM has 37 churches with over 8,000 members. Most of the churches are in the Chin state but they also have churches in the Yangon area and Rhakine state. The churches have continued to grow and the continuing theological education for the leaders is helping the churches be established. They do not have enough ordained pastors and do not have any ordained ruling elders. We are hoping in 2020 to continue training church leaders so that ruling elders could be implemented in the churches and train more men to be pastors.

To help the theological education of the RPCM, we are making plans to build a multipurpose building in Yangon. The building will be used for large

gatherings, dormitory for the Bible students, dormitory for the children of the charity house, and classrooms. The cost is estimated to be \$300,000.

One big concern is for the Mru churches in the Rhakine state. There is civil war occurring in the state as one of the tribal groups has taken up arms to fight the Myanmar government in trying to seek independence. None of our Mru churches are involved in the fighting but because of the unrest, the government has relocated many of the villagers into camps and about 700-1000 members of our churches have been affected. They lost their homes, church buildings, and are unable to work their farming fields. Aid is needed to help during this difficult time. We are praying that support would be raised to help them.

Vietnam

The Presbyterian church of Vietnam has been steadily growing. The big issue now is the transition of leadership as Pastor Khai, our main partner, will retire. We praying for a smooth transition of leadership as his son, Pastor Andrew will now be our main contact. More and more leaders are being trained each year and in 2020, I will be going to Vietnam in the Spring to teach a new batch of students at the Bible school. Although there is still a continuing need for me and others to travel to Vietnam to teach, we have been encouraged as the Vietnamese pastors and leaders are able to themselves teach and train their future leaders of the church. We also be holding a pastor's conference in the spring for the continuing education of the pastors.

Our team has also decided to expand our ministry in Vietnam by partnering with others who are like minded and so we are praying for ministries to develop in Hanoi and another church group in Ho Chi Minh. Vietnam is a communist country where the government often intervenes and tries to stifle the growth of the church. We are praying that God's mighty hand will be in Vietnam to further the growth of God's Kingdom and the spread of the Gospel.