

Dear Praying Friends,

Daughter's College Graduation

As we mentioned in our last letter, we came to the states a few weeks ago to attend the college graduation of our 3rd daughter, Emma. As an added blessing, we arrived just in time to also attend her senior piano recital. Both events were a real blessing, and we are excited to see how God continues to use her in the future!

Blessings At Good News Baptist Church

The church is doing very well in our absence. The new auditorium and the increased space have been a real boost to the morale of the church, and we are rejoicing in several victories that the church has enjoyed in these past few weeks.

First of all, they have seen 2 new professions of faith in Christ over the past couple of weeks, and I am told that a third person seems to be getting very close! One of the ladies who got saved is a stranger to me, led to Christ by one of our faithful ladies. She attended church on Mother's Day and I'm looking forward to meeting her upon our return. The other lady who got saved is the mother of a girl who got saved in our church earlier this year. Her interest in hearing the Gospel was a direct result of the house-dedication ceremony we talked about in our last letter.

Second, I am very excited to announce that 2 new Sunday School classes were started on the first Sunday after we left. We had been needing to start new classes for quite awhile, but lacked sufficient space. With the recent expansion of our facility, not only did we double the auditorium size, but we also gained several more rooms to use for Sunday School and other purposes. Right now, I can't decide if I am more excited for the boys and girls who are now in new classes which focus on them in a more age-appropriate way, or for the new teachers and the new opportunity that they have to serve the Lord!

Third, the church had a wonderful day on Mother's Day, with 23 mothers in attendance! The church enjoyed the preaching of our guest speaker, Missionary Rodney Ruppel, and from all reports I received, the day went great! Please pray for Father's Day! We'll have another guest speaker on that day, a national pastor, and we are hoping to see the Lord work on that special day as well.

Fourth, we had a good group of our people attend the leadership conference at the New Hope Baptist Church in Phnom Penh. We attend this meeting every year (in fact, this was my first time to not be there personally), and it always gives our church a shot in the arm and a renewed sense of purpose.

Long-Time Church Member Home With The Lord

In addition to all of these blessings, just a few days after we left, a long-time church member who had been bedridden for a good while went home to be with the Lord. Though we are saddened by Ming Mallee's home going, we are grateful for the Gospel, for it is because of the Gospel that we know we will see our sister again in Heaven! I was very proud of Brother Tha and our entire church for the way they came together to minister to her family and to one another during that unexpected difficulty.

Upcoming Travel

We are greatly anticipating our return in a few weeks. I would say we are looking forward to picking up where we left off, but that would imply that everything was put on pause during our absence, which would be highly inaccurate. So instead, I'll say that we are looking forward to jumping back on board a church that has kept on going forward while we were away. Please pray for us as we fly back on July 2nd.

Sincerely,
Stephen Benefield



Chialang (on the right) got saved last year and baptized early this year. A couple of weeks ago, after being taught by one of our ladies, Chialang's mother got saved!



Emma, after completing her senior recital at West Coast Baptist College.



Mother's Day. This is about half of the moms who attended. The woman in the dark purple shirt just got saved a couple of weeks ago.



These men from our church (and some women and children) attended the Pressing Forward conference in Phnom Penh this month.



Our ladies Sunday School class (not a new class or teacher, but a new classroom!)

This is what is left of our younger children's class after we split the older kids off into two new classes. Also, a new teacher, a new teacher's helper, a new classroom, new tables, and new chairs!)





This is our new older girls class. They got the old nursery, when the nursery got a new room!



This is our new older boys class. New class and first-time teacher!



Brother Tha and his wife Bunda visiting Ming Mallee recently. She's been bedridden for quite a while, but since her graduation day to Heaven, she is bedridden no more!



I just want to say how thankful I am for this family. Tha and Bunda and their son Ezra work tirelessly for Jesus. I'm not sure how much work little Kanika does, but all in due time...