

December 2nd, 2025

Dear Praying Friends,

Faithful Men Conference

Sometimes God overwhelms your heart with emotion in the most unlikely places. I had such a moment a couple of weeks ago during our Faithful Men conference while standing between floors in the steep, narrow stairwell of our church building. The triggering event was when the voices of three men teaching the Word of God on three different floors all reached my ears at the same time. Though the voices were jumbled together, I could distinctively make out the individual words of each of them as they taught God's truth, and after stopping for a moment to listen, God's goodness filled my heart and tears filled my eyes.

The sound coming from the floor above me (the auditorium) was Pastor Sikaun, an elderly and well-respected national pastor, who was teaching the men how to stand for Christ in a land filled with demonic activity and spiritual oppression. The gist of his lesson: we are on the winning side, so act like it!

The sound coming from the floor I was on (a mezzanine level with a low ceiling, crammed between the first and second floors) was Pastor Proh, another national pastor, teaching the men in his session about how to be victorious over bitterness. I still remember inviting Proh to church nearly 25 years ago while out passing out tracts. The pastor of the church we were attending at that time while in language school went on to lead Proh to Christ and train him for the ministry, and God has used him to influence many for Christ!

The sound coming from the floor beneath me (the ground level floor) was my assistant pastor, Brother Ta. He was teaching a group of men about what the Bible says about drinking (which is a huge problem in this country). I remember leading Ta to Christ many years ago, and listening to him teach the Word of God with passion and clarity stirred my heart.

I didn't even mention the 4th voice, because it was coming from the rooftop and in that moment I couldn't hear it. But I had just come from the roof moments before where about 30 teens were listening to one of the laymen in our church (Bro. Rut) teaching the young men biblical truth about debt and buying things on credit.

The above experience was just a snapshot in time of our men's conference, which all-in-all was a great success. We are thankful to have had about 85 men in attendance this year, and the added space of our newly-expanded building was such a huge blessing. Thank you for praying for the conference! The man who takes our pictures every year has a new job keeping him extra busy, so he hasn't sent me conference photos yet, but I snapped a few myself which I will include in this update.

Special Prayer Request

I would like to ask special prayer for a very sweet young lady named Manna. When she was born, her parents and grandmother attended our church. In fact, my parents came to visit us right after Manna was born, so I have a picture of my mom holding Manna. Sadly, the parents split up and Manna and her little sister had to move to a distant province to live with their maternal grandmother (their paternal grandmother is a faithful member of our church). We hadn't seen the girls in a long time, but recently they came to Phnom Penh during a school break to stay with their grandma. It was during this time that I began to develop a renewed burden for these girls. When we sent a busload of ladies to the ladies conference in Siem Reap, we finally got the grandma to go to the conference for the first time ever, and she brought Manna.

Hearing reports about how well Manna did on that trip and how well she was connecting to the girls and ladies in our church, it just broke my heart to think of her heading back to the province (where there is no Christian influence in the home and no nearby church). I asked some of our church people to pray with me that God would work out the details for Manna and Sa-ime to move back to Phnom Penh. Long story short, after some bartering, arguing, requests, refusals, and demands back and forth between the divorced parents and the two grandmas (complicated by the fact that Manna's mom is deaf), the outcome was that the girls were split up (which is horrible) and Manna is now in Phnom Penh (which is wonderful). She is practicing weekly with our children for the upcoming Christmas program, and will be a part of our angel choir. Here's the prayer request: Pray for Manna to trust Christ as Savior. And also pray for Sa-ime. We would really love to see her move to Phnom Penh as well, and of course get saved when she understands the Gospel.

Ladies Conference

The ladies conference went great! We rented a 24 passenger bus, and every seat was filled! The two ladies who gave testimonies (Rachana and Chanthy) both did great, and several new ladies attended the conference for the first time. Thank you for praying!

Just a few weeks ago, we hit the milestone of 25 years on the field, and I want to say a special thank you to each of you who have given sacrificially and prayed faithfully over the years. I cannot imagine any missionary on the planet having a more solid and dependable group of supporting churches than we do, and for that we are eternally grateful. We trust you will all have a wonderful season of celebration of the birth of our Savior.

Sincerely,

Stephen Benefield
Phnom Penh
Cambodia



The rooftop - Bro. Rut teaching the teen boys



Every year the teen boys have 4 sessions tailored just for them, in addition to joining the men for all 4 preaching services and all the meals.



Auditorium level - Pastor Sikaun teaching



My mom holding Manna in November 2015. The house this picture was taken in burned down 4 or 5 years ago.



Mezzanine level - Pastor Proh teaching



Ground floor - Bro. Ta teaching
(you can see Pastor Proh in the
window above Ta)



Manna at the ladies conference in
September, 2025



A few of our ladies seeing the sights in Siem Reap the day before the conference. One of my favorite parts of ministry in Cambodia is seeing how much these dear people love each other.



Chanthy giving her testimony at the ladies conference. It was her first time doing public speaking.



Rachana giving her testimony at the ladies conference. She got saved in our church when she was 8 or 9 years old!