

Contact >>>

Web* www.thechurchofmercy.org

Web* www.firstbaptistparker.org

Blog* billandjenniferhale.blogspot.com

Email* thehales@thechurchofmercy.org



Sent out by the First Baptist Church of Parker, Texas

*The Hales
sharing Christ*

In Cambodia



Isaac is Born - 11/24/2009

In November we went to Thailand for the birth of our son, Isaac. Everything went very well and he is doing great. He is sleeping through the night, and Jennifer is enjoying caring for and holding him. She says she enjoys having a newborn more this time around because she knows so much more of what to expect and is not as worried about maintaining a schedule and what to do when he cries. Katherine has really taken to the little guy, too, and she is a good sister. Please pray the Lord would continue to help us to raise our children in the way of the Lord!



Greetings!

Nearing the Completion of Our 4th School Year

Things have been going well here. We are finishing up the fourth school year since our arrival. It's hard to believe that we have been here that long! Our language acquisition is going pretty well. Reading and writing using the Khmer alphabet is still hard but we are making progress. Mastery of the Khmer language will be a life long pursuit for us.

We are reaching a good place in the ministry here. Local church members are now teaching Sunday school, recording sermons, leading evangelistic endeavors, translating classic Christian books into the Khmer language, leading our community English program, and much more. We so thankful to God for the increase and we look to him to sustain and grow the church moving forward. We are also very thankful for all the encouragement we have received through our partnership with you and your many prayers on our behalf. Thank you!

We are coming back on furlough in June of this year, Lord willing. Being on the field long-term is a good thing when it comes to relating with the local people, establishing relationships and ministry stability. One potential negative is that if we aren't careful, we will loose touch with our partners in the USA. With this in mind, we plan to be stateside for a few months to give us time to visit with our current partners and also to present our Cambodian work to additional churches. The ministry here is growing and so we want to expand our support base to accommodate the growth.

I want to remind you of the great need that Cambodia has for the Gospel and the great opportunity we have to minister here. Cambodia is a country of 14 million people, and according to national statistics only 1 percent are considered believers. The work is hard, but our God is great and is calling out his people from among the Cambodians. Jennifer and I still enjoy our work here very much and are looking forward to the work ahead. To God be the glory!

Future Ministry...

Four years ago pastor Chheng started a Bible training program to train up disciples of Christ and future church pastors and workers. This May we will see the first graduates from this program going out into the harvest fields. Read below for more information about this important work.



Who Are These Students?

The graduating class has seven students. Their names are Daniel, Bora, Dina, Sothea, Theory, Sopheak, and Leab. Daniel and Dina have expressed a desire to take the Gospel to new, unreached areas with the hopes of starting Bible studies and cell groups. Bora will be going with Dina in a support role, and Theory will be supporting Daniel, as they are engaged and will soon marry. Sothea, Leap, and Sopheak are still seeking the Lord's will for their work after graduation. Please pray for these brethren as they seek to honor the Lord and go out into the harvest fields of Cambodia.

Where Will They Work?

There are four main areas which will be the focus of our efforts.

Prek Ambel - Located in Kandal province, which is in southern Cambodia. This was the first church plant of our mission. We will continue to preach the Gospel and hope to increase the already strong witness we have in Prek Ambel and more broadly, S'Aang District, which has over 175,000 people. This is the headquarters of our ministry. The PATC Bible training center is in this village, as is The Church of Mercy with its 85 members. Pastor Chheng's family and our family live here, as well.

Sre Trang - This is the second church plant of our ministry. It is located in Chuke District which has over 80,000 people. Chuke is in Kampot province, which is in southwest Cambodia. We plan to send a team here to help strengthen the existing work. The team will help Pastor Ngan to preach the Gospel more broadly, and to open additional Bible classes within the church. The church's membership is currently 25 plus. Pray the Lord would continue to work in the Church of Mercy in Sre Trang.

Two New Areas

Koh Thom - This district is also located in Kandal province in southern Cambodia close to the Vietnam border. It lies just to the south of Prek Ambel (approx 5 miles). It is a heavily populated area with over 135,000 people. To our knowledge, there are only two small churches working in the area, and both of them have very little activity. There are also two mosques in the district. The Lord has moved in my heart to reach out to this new area. We have gone on numerous scouting trips to see the area and look for a potential place to setup. We also started preaching the Gospel two times a week in the area about two months ago. We have had many good conversations, but so far no one has received the Lord Jesus. We will be working in this area along with Daniel and his future wife, Theory.

Moung Ruessei - This district is located in Battambang province in northwest Cambodia. It also has a large population with over 140,000 people. We have several students in our school from this area and it seems to be a natural fit for future outreach. At this point we are still in the exploratory phase of planning for this area. There is a new village being built and we desire to plant a church there. Please pray the Lord would give us direction about the best way to proceed.

In all these areas please pray the Lord would be glorified and that he would establish the work of our hands! Psalm 90:17

Prayer requests >>>

- *More English teachers for the PATC*
- *Wisdom in choosing evangelism and Bible study locations*
- *Cambodian government to allow religious freedom for Christians*
- *For us to have a fruitful time in the Unites States*
- *The new PATC graduates to find places to work*
- *For the Lord to establish the work of our hands*
- *The Lord to bless the churches in Prek Ambel and Sre Trang*