

Truth B-P Church

Missions Trip to Sihanoukville, Cambodia (25 to 28 Jan 2019)

Reported by Hazel Chew

The missions team, consisting of Pastor Dennis, Eld Winston, Auntie Soh Han, Uncle Martin, Auntie Susan, Auntie May Ling and myself, left for Cambodia on 25 January (Friday) for a four-day missions trip.

Our objectives were to: 1) rejoice with Lively Hope BPC on their 8th Anniversary, 2) visit the new premises of Lively Hope BPC, and 3) see Bro Bun Kouy's ministry in Puom Jor Long Village.

Day 1:

Upon arrival at Phnom Penh International Airport, we travelled to Sihanoukville by van. It was a tiring five-hour journey. Most of the vehicles on the road were heavy trucks. The road condition in parts of Sihanoukville was very bad with many potholes and much water-ponding. After dinner, we checked into our hotel, a nice chalet-style oasis in the midst of brown and dusty construction sites. Pastor Dennis led us in the evening devotion from Psalm 92 before we rested for the night.



Day 2:

We were woken up very early by the crowing of the cockerel. We met for morning devotion and were briefed on the activities of the day. After breakfast at the hotel, our first stop was Lively Hope BPC where we fellowshiped with Pr John Saray and his family. Pr John shared how there was an increasing number of

casinos in Sihanoukville. Currently, there are about 83 casinos, and counting. Many of the teenagers are lured to leave school to get jobs in the casinos so that they can earn a quick buck at an early age.

There is also an increase in the number of migrant workers from China working in construction sites and casino-related work. Auntie Lydia (Pr John's wife) shared that it can be dangerous to go out at night to certain places. There was one occasion when their son, Jonathan, was alone buying things from a provision shop, and a Chinese man forced him to take and smoke a cigarette.

Another struggle that Pr John and family had was the relocating of their church because it meant that they had to establish their ministry all over again. As a result of their recent move, they lost most of the members from their previous location. Nonetheless, we thank God that children staying near the new church premises started coming to the church. Now there is a total of about 20 children regularly attending the church.

We then met Bro Bun Kouy at his outreach. At a rented shelter, he was sharing the gospel in English to the village children. A total of twenty to thirty children regularly attend his class on Saturdays. He also holds Sunday School at the shelter on a weekly basis. After the classes, he takes the opportunity to visit the children's parents, or to reach out to residents of the nearby villages.

Currently, he lives in the church of his pastor-brother (Rev Tan Cheng) and comes to this outreach during the day. He intends to buy a piece



of land near this rented shelter so that he can minister more effectively.

Thank God for a good fellowship lunch with Bro Bun Kouy and his fiancée Sis Srey Nang. We then proceeded to visit Rev Tan Cheng's church and his kindergarten ministry.

We also visited the new piece of land that Pr John bought. He intends to use it as a permanent place to build a church in the future, as the Lord leads.

Pastor Dennis had a session of pre-marital counselling for Bro Bun Kouy and Sis Srey Nang. The Truth BOE also had a meeting with Pr John to find out more about his needs and challenges. The day ended with fellowship dinner with Pr John and family.

Day 3:

We were at Lively Hope BPC when they conducted their Sunday School in the morning. Auntie May Ling took the opportunity to sort out their church accounts with Pr John. The Aunties helped out a little with the preparation of the Anniversary refreshments. At 3pm, we gathered again in the church and rejoiced with Lively Hope BPC on their 8th Anniversary. Pastor Dennis preached from Psalm 2. The Sunday School children presented two song items, and our missions team presented "Amazing Grace" in English and Khmer. Subsequently, together with our Cambodian brethren, we enjoyed the delicious refreshments of curry and bread.



Prs Liv Rotha, Chan Sopeak and Kiet Thaven came over from Kampot to rejoice with Lively Hope BPC. The Truth BOE took the opportunity to meet up with them, to pray and to find out their needs and challenges, as well as to share with them the TMS expectations and requirements for their ministry. During dinner with Pr Sopheak and family, and Pr Thaven, we had the opportunity to witness to a handicapped man. We invited him to attend Lively Hope BPC. Pr Sopheak will share with Pr John so that Pr John can follow-up on this man.



Day 4:

On Monday morning, after devotion, we had an early breakfast and set off on the five-hour van ride to Phnom Penh Airport to fly back to Singapore. Although tiring, the journey was smooth.

Thank God for granting us a safe and fruitful trip. Do continue to keep the Cambodian preachers in prayer, that they will be faithful servants of the Lord.

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