



The view after a few rains—the rice paddies are green again

Joel Stewart  
World Team Cambodia Field  
Preah Vihear, Cambodia  
June 2024  
NEWS FROM PREAH VIHEAR

Update, Volume 25, No. 168, June 2024

Let it Rain!



Joel & Chetra on his birthday

*The Secret Place, Koak Rumdeng, Preah Vihear — “The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. .” - Deuteronomy 28:12*

Dear Prayer Partners,

The first sign was the sound of distant thunder. We had been waiting for 5 months through triple digit heat for that first rain. The parched ground seemed like it was pining for refreshment. Then it came. The first rain. With that earthy, nitrogen laden smell coming ahead on the wind, one could literally see the grey wall of rain, approaching from the West, from Mt Tbeng, falling like a curtain, shrouding the landscape in a veil of mist. As that refreshing rain finally poured down, it felt like the whole earth was rejoicing—at least at the Secret Place, for all that I could see. The parched, thirsty land seemed to drink it in. Were the trees singing? It sounded like it. Like a kid during a summer shower, I was out there, soaking it in as well. Within two days the grass, which had been fried to a crisp and had not trace of life, sprang back from its death sentence and started greening up. Within days, the leaves popped out on the trees, and the Amryllis exploded with new flowers.



Like the new life when the rains finally come after the long, dry hot season, there is something happening on the spiritual plane as well, if one has eyes to see it. There are so many souls still trapped in the hopeless darkness of idolatry and spirit worship here in Cambodia. But God is moving in many ways, and we continue to rejoice in the freedom we have to make the good news known. Recently there have been a number of responses as God’s Spirit moves in people’s hearts. (You can read about their stories on the next page). Indeed, what Jesus proclaimed in John 5:24 is true for them—*“Truly, truly, I tell you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not come under judgment. Indeed, he has crossed over from death to life.”* Hearts which were hard and dry and held captive by spirits and the evil one have received the life-giving rain of God’s grace and are being transformed. Those without hope, caught in an endless cycle of appeasement, now have freedom to joyfully follow the Lord they never knew until now.

With their new faith walk comes another battle, but this one we are promised to win. They will be swimming against the current of the prevailing culture which does not understand why people would leave the system which they believe protects them. They do not understand that the spirits they serve and appease have no benevolence in mind for them, but only destruction. New believers are confronted with skepticism and often endure persecution, loneliness and a loss of relationship in their community. But we are seeing new communities form, entire families coming to Christ together and a softening of hearts as people see the joy and confidence Christ can give to those who trust in Him alone.

After 21 years of clearing rocks, preparing the soil, planting and nurturing, we are finally seeing a miraculous harvest. And the best thing is that we are no longer in the front, but prayerfully supporting in the rear guard as we watch our disciples move out to reap the harvest God has prepared. Thank you for standing with us throughout the tough years. We now can say together, “Let it rain!”

Do grab a cup of your favorite beverage and join us in some stories and news on the next page.

From the Living Fields, *Joel*

[NEW Address in Cambodia](#)

Joel Stewart  
Preah Vihear City Post Office  
Mobile—088 980 7375  
Preah Vihear Province  
Kingdom of Cambodia

[Mission Address for support](#)

World Team  
1431 Stuckert Rd  
Warrington, PA 18976

1-800-967-7109



Our PV Website: <https://worldteampreahvihearcambodia.org/>

website: <https://www.worldteam.org>

**Ministry Update & Prayer Points, June, 2024**

**Plas Prai (Transformation) Center**

- Every Friday night the 10th grade students study **Firm Foundations** and the 11th & 12th grade students learn about biblical values during **Discipleship Meetings**. *Please pray* for the gospel to penetrate and transform lives. Each Saturday evening the students at the Plas Prai the students invite their friends and people in the community attend **Family Night** for worship and a message. *Pray* for them to impact the community.
- Every Sunday morning the students travel in carts, by truck, by bicycle or by motorbikes to 7 different villages for **children’s ministry**. One of the villages, *Choam Srae*, is 1 hour 40 minutes away by moto. One of these now has a church for new believers, and another has a small group of new believers meeting. These are all home villages of our students who have become believers. *Pray* for safety while traveling.
- On May 22nd 3 of the Plas Prai students were baptized. Pray for Pañavoen, Nitaa and Chandaa to grow in grace and that they may follow Christ faithfully.

**CP Team and New Believers Meetings** — The new **Church Planting (CP) Team**, headed up by *Sokhoeurn*, traveled to several locations to encourage new believers who are parents and relatives of our students. On May 21st 7 of the new believers from 3 remote locations gathered as a group for a two day program to help build their faith and equip them to reach their communities. This month 2 families heard the good news and responded by choosing to follow Christ. Today we received videos of Phannath helping his parents to take ALL the spirit paraphernalia out of their home and burn it. They have cut ties with the dark world and have come into the light. See photo below for the joyous expressions on their faces. Another 5 relatives of our Plas Prai staff Silat were baptized in their remote village in Kulen district. The gospel is being sown abundantly and people are responding. John 4:35—“...*lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!*”

- Pray for **Jim and Carolyn Gabriels** who are on Home Ministry Assignment until early October. Pray they may make many connectins and also find rest for their souls (Matthew 11:29). *Sina* and I are holding down the fort! We appreciate your prayers!
- **Pray** for our partnership with the new **CP Team**. Praise God, *Sina* (Plas Prai supervisor) has completed all the steps forrenewing our local NGO for Plas Prai. Now we just need to get through the inspection at the end of the month. Please pray!
- *Please pray* for the **Plas Prai** students , as their 2nd term exams start soon. **Pray** for new recruiting of **9th grade students** for next year.



Phannath’s brother and wife



Phannath’s parents both came to Christ



Plas Prai students—Khmer New Year April '24



Ready to head out to the harvest



Puu Rith and Rathanak baptize Plas Prai student



Daneth teaching the kids



Baptism candidates with PP staff



Our '23 grads finished DTS



New believers



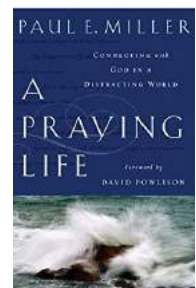
New believers in Chey Sen district



Ming Nea’s funeral—home with Jesus!



Chunny (grade 10) teaching Sunday School



This book by Paul E. Miller will challenge you in your prayer life. Check it out!

