

# Efforts in Evangelism

December 2014

Kevin Carson's 6th Report from Cambodia

There is a God who created all things. When the time was right, he left heaven and was born into our world as Jesus - the Christ. After living a sinless life, he died, for our sins, that we may die to our sins. Just as Jesus was raised from the dead to a new glorious state, we too can have the promise of eternal life, after this brief physical one, in heaven, with Jesus, the Father and the Holy Spirit. What a glorious gospel the gospel is in which we believe, stand and live.

How do you share this gospel message with those who have never heard it? Not only that, but how do you share it with someone who is unfamiliar with most or all of the central truths of the message that they absolutely must understand for any of it to make sense?

For most rural Cambodians, the only "religion" they know is Buddhism and Animism - a belief in, or better stated, a "fear" of the consequences for all the bad they do in their life and a fear of the attacks from the spirits of their dead ancestors. Get it wrong in this life, and you will return in the next one to continue to suffer and try to perfect yourself. If you ever get it right enough, the 'reward' you have is to cease to exist as you are absorbed into the nothingness of the universe - the state of Nirvana. If you are a younger Cambodian, you may not really believe or even know all of this. However, you do know it is your duty to honour your parents by keeping the traditions and following the rituals, so you do. You can't imagine not doing as your parents, grandparents and ancestors have all done. This would bring shame upon your family.

Then along comes someone with this "foreigner's religion" called Christianity. *"A personal Creator God who knows me and values me and loves me? Never heard of that before. Forgiveness for my sins based on what 'Jesus' did? Doesn't make sense. I perfect myself through suffering, don't I? Pleasing God as a living sacrifice rather than offering incense and food before statues at the pagoda? What kind of sacrifice is that?"* These would be some of the thoughts and questions a rural Cambodian farmer/fisherman would most-likely have to your teaching about the gospel of Christ. That is, if he has time to listen and consider the message amidst long days fishing, planting and harvesting rice and vegetables in order to survive and provide for his wife, children and aging parents.

But the gospel is for all. There is one God who created all people and who offers salvation to all people through one way, The Way - his Son Jesus Christ. So we don't shrink back or give up because the task daunting. With the work of the Ship of Life, we are trying to show people - first in a physical human way - what love for, compassion for and interest in others looks like. Then we link what we are doing to the One who motivates us to do all that we do - God the great physician and Heavenly Father of all. When patients are waiting in the triage area we play various dvd's for them including: The Message of Jesus for Children, and The Life of Christ.



When they are on the ship's mid-level, waiting for their turn to see the doctor, we have short teaching tracts - one for children and two for adults - available for them to take and read. These are efforts at "first-phase" evangelism. We're introducing people, many of them for the first time, to Jesus and his teachings. Recently, during an evening walk in the village of Steung Chhroa, Rob and Jolene saw a lady who had been on the ship that day, sitting outside of her small hut/home



enjoying the cool air evening sunset. She was reading our teaching tract on "God the Creator." What might come from these efforts? What impact can we realistically have when we are at a village for a week, and then don't return until next year? I'm not sure, but that doesn't prevent us from trying. God has left this glorious message in us, jars of clay, and he can accomplish mighty things through our flawed, feeble works.



Maybe a village will emerge in which there seems to be a pocket of interest in learning more. If that is the case, then perhaps we can work with one of the local preaching schools to send an evangelist to live there and teach and establish a church. Maybe when this young village boy grows up and goes off to Phnom Penh or Siem Reap to study or work the Lord will put a "Phillip" in his life to invite him to church and to learn about Jesus. I pray he'll remember the Ship of Life, and will accept the invitation. I pray, too, that his parents, who experienced the compassion of Christ from Christian medical staff on The Ship of Life, will be predisposed to allow him to go and learn more about Jesus.



I don't expect us to have any "Acts 2" days with 3000 souls being baptized at one time. But, individuals have, are and will continue to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour through the efforts of the Lord's church in Cambodia.

***"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!" Romans 10:15***

**Follow us on Facebook:** "Catharine Kevin Carson," and "Ship of Life in Cambodia"  
**Email:** [kevincarsonpip@icloud.com](mailto:kevincarsonpip@icloud.com)  
**Watch video clips I upload:** [Vimeo.com](https://www.vimeo.com) (search "People" for "Kevin Carson")  
**Website:** [partnersinprogress.org](http://partnersinprogress.org)