

SEPTEMBER 2016 CAMBODIA REPORT

September 30, 2016 - Report 9
Kevin & Catharine Carson - Cambodia

In September we were happy to have Donna Palmer and Peggy Wilson join us in Siem Reap as volunteer World English Institute teachers. This was Donna's second time teaching with us and Peggy's first time in Asia, although she has taught in other places in the world. They continued teaching the students who had been learning with Linda Ross and Marion Waugh and also added some new students to their schedules. Needless to say, they were busy from morning to evening, with short breaks here and there throughout the day. Last month a member of the church in Mesa Arizona gave us a generous donation to buy Bibles to give away to interested students, so we had Donna and Peggy purchase a number of Bibles in the "Easy To Read" translation and bring them from the USA. While they were here we also hosted a games night at the Partners in Progress apartment for all the students and Peggy and Donna helped fill the evening with fun games to encourage the students to get to know one another and to practice their English together. Part of what made Donna and Peggy's time here so successful is they are good friends and travelling companions. We'd like to encourage others to consider following their example. Why not find a good friend who is a bit adventurous and plan on a short-term mission trip?



Donna presents a student with a free English Bible.



Peggy teaching.



Peggy leading a group game.



Students, teachers and Siem Reap Church members at our games' night.

When Cyclone Nargis devastated the delta region of Myanmar in 2008, Partners in Progress (PIP) responded with immediate disaster relief in the form of food, clothing and other necessities for a number of villages. Since that time PIP has been helping several small village churches in the delta region by providing two Bible seminars a year in the capital city for them to attend. Christians from the villages bring their Buddhist friends with them for a week of Bible study and Christian fellowship. PIP



Kevin teaching Christian Evidences.

covers the cost for transportation, food and accommodations for the villagers and also provides the teachers. In turn, leaders from the congregations in Yangon do all of the logistics and planning and they host and run the seminar for the week. I taught Christian Evidences in the mornings, and Phanat taught Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther in the afternoons. In the evenings Philip and other local church



a meal with Phanat and Philip.

leaders led discussions, taught singing, and conducted devotionals. Forty-five people from the Delta region attended, the majority being Buddhist neighbours and friends of members of the village house churches. One Christian widow brought almost twenty ladies from her village with her. It was very encouraging to meet people with such open hearts to God's word. For five hours a day, Monday through Saturday, they listened attentively, took notes, learned how to find verses in the Bible, read aloud in unison or listened if they cannot read, asked and answered questions, and actively participated in group learning activities. We



Kevin teaching Sunday morning in a traditional longyi.

rejoiced at the end of the week when six people made the decision to be baptized into a saved relationship with Jesus Christ. It was also very encouraging to worship with congregations in Yangon that have roots stretching back to the 1970's.

We also visited a famous temple complex near our hotel. Many people come to it in order to offer sacrifices and pray before a large white marble Buddha statue. As much as I respect the people's search for spirituality and meaning, when you see things like this up close and in person, it makes the contrast between a dead stone



Catharine and a new friend.

idol and the true, living, ruling creator God powerfully clear.



Please join us in praying for these six new Christians.



*“But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”
Mark 4:20.*

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