

John 15... "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener... Remain in me, and I will remain in you... No branch can bear fruit



The Welch's Grapevine



For The Glory of GOD!

Dearest Family & Friends,

Volume 3, Number 6, September 2008

Sousa-dtey or hello from Phnom Penh, Cambodia! We are confident all of you remain securely in the Lord; trusting in Him to grant you peace. Although we miss you, we rejoice in the reason for our separation. You are always near in heart and spirit.



So much has happened already, but I should start from the beginning. Remember all those boxes? Well, on 8/27 we and all 27 of them made it safely to the airport with relatively little hassle from customs. As you might imagine, this is exactly that for which we had prayed. Praise God!!!

Rich & Rhonda Dolan along with Troy Snowbarger were there to help us with our boxes and deliver us from the airport to the Dolans. (Christians treat one another so well!) They are letting us stay in their comfortable home while we search for a house. These coworkers of ours are great hosts and becoming good friends.



Every weekday morning, we all attend the Cambodia Bible Institute (CBI) for chapel. It was a special joy to be reunited with the students again. There are now twelve of them. One is married with a baby due in a couple of months and another just became engaged in a delightful celebration including festive attire and great food. There are ten guys & two gals.

We told most of you that our language training would begin on 10/6, giving us plenty of time to find a house, furnishings, car, etc. Instead, we started school on 9/1 with Conversational Khmae. There is lots of memory work which is pretty hard for us old folks but we are having fun (between frustrations) and learning a little each day.

We now have transportation! We shopped for some good quality used bicycles to give us some exercise and to get us by until we purchase a moto (motor-scooter - very popular in Asia) or a pickup. Dennis found a blue one and Sharon a red. So far, we've been able to avoid downpours - just a few sprinkles. By the way, for several days now, the temps have been in the 70's & 80's instead of the 90's. Lots of wind and storms; all very dramatic. God's power displayed in the sky!



Over the last two weeks we have looked at dozens of houses for rent. It seems we fit into a class where there are few to choose from. Most all were much too big or too small, too expensive or... In the end we did find a "flat," three quarters of the second floor of a three story house. It has one long room that transitions from a front balcony, to a living room area, to a dining room, and to the kitchen. Along one side-wall are doors to three bedrooms,

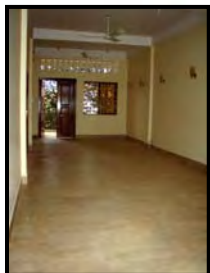
and it will be given you... This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit... As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me... I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will

bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing... If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish,

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each with a small bath, and a fourth door to a half bath off the simple kitchen. The bedrooms have air-cons, but the rest of the house uses fans. It is very modest by US standards and quite nice for Cambodia. The owner is just finishing the construction so maybe we can move in next week. We chose to furnish it ourselves so we could choose the items and styles we want. We hope that works-out okay?

Last Sunday, we had our first fellowship meal at the church building. Sharon brought fruit instead of experimenting with a Khmae dish. There was a big crowd and lots of food with hardly any leftovers. All we tried was quite tasty. More importantly, the Lord allowed us the opportunity to encourage and be encouraged in fellowship. Thank You Lord!



One day this week, we got to witness two new births. Two of the new students had been studying with the others and asked to be baptized. We hope we never stop getting teary-eyed with joy each time we witness the power and grace of God through faith in Jesus saving another soul. Praise His holy, holy Name! So, please say a prayer for your new brother, Ron and sister, Pisay.



In the US, we can worship freely. However, over here, there are a few struggles going on that beg for prayer. One student is without a country because his former home has outcast him due to his faith. There are solutions on the horizon so please pray for his safety. One or both of the young ladies are being instructed by their families to return to their villages as a form of persecution for being around Christians – pray for their strength to endure these trials. All the students endure hardships. Please consider making them a part of your daily prayers.



There are many more items on our checklist before we can ever settle into a groove of language and culture study. We still have to take some trips to the countryside churches and villages. Upcoming on your side of the planet is the Mission Benefit Concert in Lubbock on 9/18 to fund a part of our work. I hope you can attend and tell us of all the fun you had. Mission Sunday is just around the corner in Lubbock and Keller. Please pray for the fruit of the works that will be funded as a result of the Lord's blessing from all our sacrifices.

We long to see you again but know that it will be some time before we can. Many blessings in your personal ministries and service to our majestic God and Father. May you overwhelm the world by the spirit of love you show one another – and all to His glory!

Living abundant life (John 10:10),

Dennis & Sharon Welch
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