

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

in the Kingdom of Cambodia

Fall 2016

The doctors wanted to amputate her leg.

Our tiny hospital can't deal with broken femurs, and amputation is cheap, quick and often life-saving.

That's when I got a call from a Tampuan Christian friend named Sokha asking me to get to the hospital quickly. I arrived to find a 35-year-old Tampuan woman being carried down the front ramp by her relatives to go find a sorcerer to "fix" her leg. I knew she'd be crippled for life if we didn't do something.

Thirty minutes later I had convinced her relatives to let us send her down to the big city 250 miles away where they could mend her with surgery and metal plates.

We arranged for transportation and got the necessary referrals. A few weeks later we visited Teew in the city, and she and her husband, Lee, were all smiles. She showed off her scar and said that they would release her soon to go home.

That was 6 years ago, and it was the last time I saw her ... until this year. Sokha and his wife had moved back to their home-village and "happened" to become Teew's next door neighbors! Two weeks ago Sokha invited me to a small get-together at his house, and there were Teew, Lee, and other neighbors who were interested in the gospel. It was a sweet reunion

One young man and his wife looked especially familiar. In fact, we had just sent Trañ down to Phnom Penh a week earlier with a painful mass that we suspected was cancer. His family had wasted an entire month and an

exorbitant amount of money sacrificing first a chicken, then a pig, then a cow, and finally a water buffalo, asking demons to heal their son. Sokha heard about it and we took Trañ to the hospital, but the doctors said there was nothing they could do.



A few months ago Sokha used his housewarming party as an opportunity to share the gospel.

So after prayer for healing, we sent him down to the aptly-named Mercy Medical Center in Phnom Penh, an oasis of Christian love, care, and competence in the wilderness of the broken Cambodian health system. On the trip down, God began to heal him in both heart and body! MMC gave him excellent medical care and sent him back a few days later totally healed. His family couldn't believe it.

Trañ and his wife began to understand the futility of depending on evil spirits for life and health. They believed the gospel of Jesus—and now they, too, were sitting in this circle of unbelievers, seekers, and Christians.

Before his wife served lunch, Sokha turned to me and said, "JD, please share the gospel." Together, he and I explained Bakatoy's wisdom and power

in creating the world, His mercy to our first parents when they committed treachery, and His plan to send a Savior to reconcile us to Himself. We told them of Christ's perfect life, His death on the cross for our sins, and His victory over death 3 days later. We begged them to be reconciled to Bakatoy through faith in Jesus Christ. Lee asked many questions, all of them revealing insight and true interest.

Pray for Lee and Teew to believe in Jesus. **Pray** for Trañ and his wife to grow in grace. **Pray** for Sokha and his wife as they start a little proto-church in this village called La-awn Kren.

Prayer and Praise

- JD's father died peacefully in Christ on August 26. God graciously allowed JD to arrive one day before he went to heaven. He was faithful unto death.
- The leaders of a tribal church in the main town here who used to be antagonistic to JD and even boasted of not attending Bible school (so that the Holy Spirit could better speak through them!) have been set free from the expat who steered them in that direction, and have asked JD to disciple them and help them re-order their church according to God's plan. They are studying through Mark Dever's "9 Marks of a Healthy Church."
- JD speaks at the Frontline F/X conference in Minneapolis on October 13-16. frontlinemissions.info/fx-conferences
- The teenage daughter of a key couple in the churches of Ratanakiri is going through a time of rebellion and needs to be saved.