



APRIL 2022 NEWSLETTER

EVANGELISM IN CAMBODIA

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Since Buddhism is the national religion in Cambodia, it is safe to say there is a strong Buddhist population there, even though there are several other religions present. In reality, the people of this country are free to worship whatever they want: some worship big trees, rocks, animals, spirits, and even their ancestors.



Actually, they are seeking the gods of their heart, that is, gods that are the result of their own fears and imaginations. People who seek such have not yet been led to the true God, making Jesus' command even more urgent:

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age, Amen (Matthew 28:19-20).

The followers of Jesus taught this message wherever they went during the early days of Christianity.

According to Wikipedia.org, evangelism in Cambodia started in the year 1923 after the arrival of Arthur L. Hammond, an American missionary who was sent by the Christian & Mission Alliance. He entered Southeast Asia in 1921 and began translating the Bible into Khmer, the language of Cambodia.

The New Testament was completed by 1934, and the entire Bible was completed in 1954. He started the Bible Society in Cambodia and trained many leaders and religious leaders to evangelize the country. That is the

method used to teach the Bible openly in Cambodia until the present time.

But, it is not about who first evangelized in any specific area; rather, it is about the gospel message that was preached and the responses to that message. We are thankful for those evangelists who left their home to travel the world to bring the good news of salvation to the World and especially to Cambodia.

What about us? Have we become a part of the Great Commission? Have we responded to the command of the Lord our Savior in obedience? Not everyone can travel the world! Not everyone can preach, but everyone can be a part of the work. All can pray for those who are committed to the work. All can encourage, lifting up those who are far away.

We all can be a part of the Great Commission, even if we are not able to travel the world: we can do so by sharing the gospel wherever we are. We may not be able to preach to many people at once, but we can speak to people we meet. As Paul says:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The Just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:16-17).

If we are ashamed to declare the gospel of Christ, not only will people around us never come to know the true God, but we will be denied in the day of the Lord: *"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 10:32-33).*

Some think that, once they are saved through obeying the gospel, they do

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not have to do anything else. The Commission in Matthew 28 is not only for the apostles but for all disciples. *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9).

As Paul has declared, *“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?”* (Romans 10:11–15).

The key to evangelism in Cambodia, then, is the same as it is in any other part of the world: we declare the pure and simple precepts of the Gospel of Christ, as revealed in Scripture by the Holy Spirit, to a lost and dying world so that all who will hear and obey can be saved.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED JOB?

J. Todd Richardson | Houston, MO

In the book of Job, God asks Satan, twice, a question that we should all consider today. The question is, *“Have you considered My servant, Job?”* (Job 2:9).

This question is truly an important one because all of us have (or will have) experienced tragedy and loss in some way or another in life. Most of us can relate to the anguish Job experienced after his losses, even though our losses are not usually as devastating as Job’s were. We can understand the reason Job would essentially ask such a question as, *“Why God—Why me?”*



Yet we are blessed with knowledge Job did not have—we have the background for Job’s situation whereas he did not. God allows Job’s faith to be tested in a way similar to the tests of faith Jesus endures in the wilderness many years later. Both times after God asks Satan the question, *“Have you considered My servant Job,”* the ‘father of lies’ offers a declaration and promise that Job’s faith would break under a weight of suffering—that is, Job will not be faithful if God grants Satan permission to pour tragedy and loss upon him.

Again, as with the Lord Jesus, Job finds himself alone during the most difficult time of his life. Even Job’s wife mocks his faith when she asks him, *“Do you still hold fast to your integrity?”* This question is followed by her heartless and unmerciful advice, *“Curse God and die!”* (Job 2:9).

But perhaps the saddest moment comes when Job’s closest friends turn their backs on him during his darkest hours. All three of Job’s friends question his circumstances, assuming Job has sinned and undoubtedly is receiving due justice for his wrongs. Every time Job questions why, his friends condemn him for such things as pride and stubbornness.

Yet we are privileged with the knowledge that Job was not faultless in his response to his tests. God would eventually reveal to Job that it is never wise—nor right—to question Him, regardless of the outcome. Also, as Job questions God regarding his pitiful circumstances, God, in turn, voices a series of questions to Job. Upon hearing the Lord’s response, Job’s heart is humbled, and he responds, *“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You. Therefore, I abhor myself, And repent in dust and ashes”* (Job 42:5–6).

Following Job’s confession and repentance, the Lord says something rather remarkable at the end of the book. God reveals His disdain and anger toward Job’s three friends when He says to Eliphaz the Temanite, *“...My wrath is aroused against you and your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me what is right, as My servant Job has”* (Job 42:7). Then the Lord tests Job again by requiring him to “pray for” his friends, in order for God to forgive them! So, what did Job do? *“And the Lord restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed, the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before”* (Job 42:10).

So, have we considered Job? Have we considered a man whom God rightly declares, *“...there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?”* (Job 1:8). Think about it. Job chooses to pray for false friends who have failed him and have turned against him during his darkest hours. Job chooses to forgive his friends and to pray to God—that He might forgive them, too.

Perhaps if we consider Job...God will consider us.



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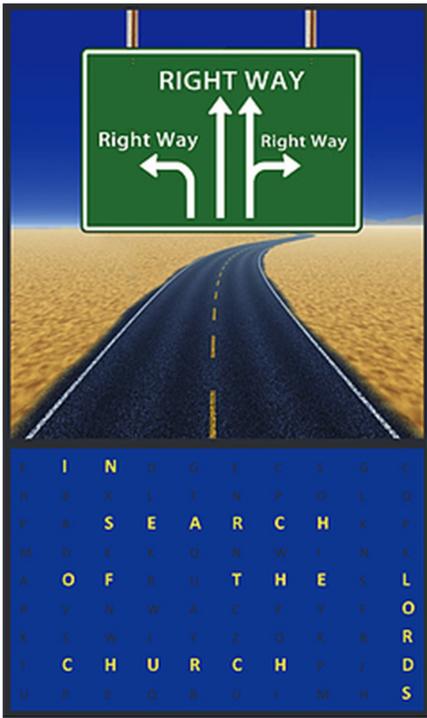
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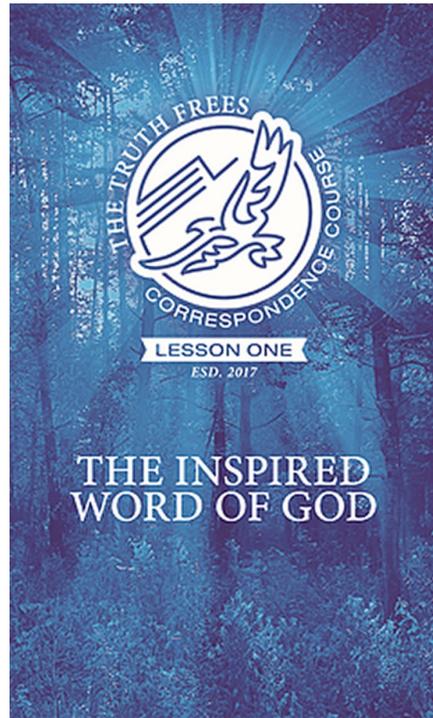
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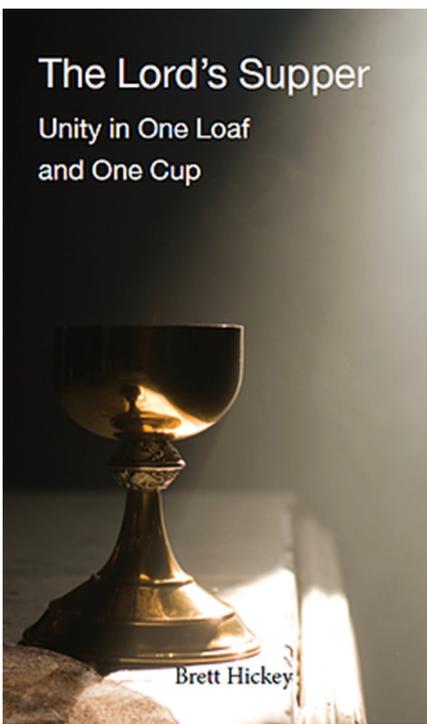
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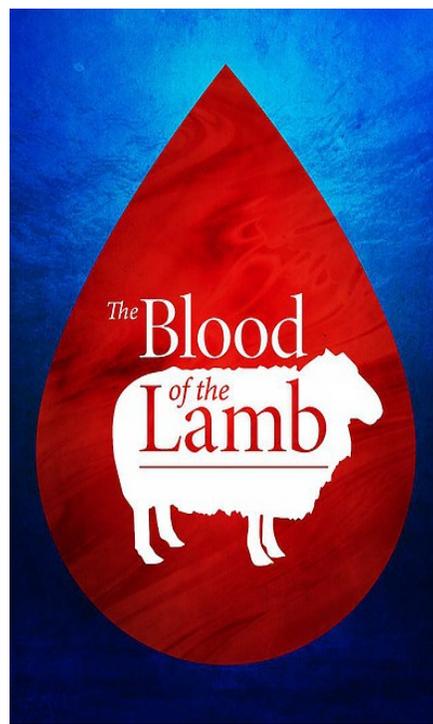
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