



March/April 2008

Church Welcome to the new format Sovanapoom Church newsletter. We're trying out some new ideas for sharing about the work of Sovanapoom in Cambodia so we hope you enjoy reading it.

Recently in January the Sovanapoom Church has moved location from the old building on the riverfront to the new auditorium based within the new building. This has made a big difference to us and everyone's really enjoying the new location. Previously we had concerns about the stability of the floor during praise and worship with everyone singing and jumping on it but now we have no worries!



During a Sunday service a couple of weeks back one of the young men shared with the congregation about how God had touched his life, specifically that week. He has come from a tough background with very little family support and as a young man he turned to alcohol and gambling as he tried to fit in with his friends. Without a job, he found it easy to steal and he became what he calls, a bad boy.

That's all in the past now and he is a good husband and father to his two small children and he leads the family in devotions and reading the Bible daily.

Despite this, during this past week our friend was tempted to return to his old lifestyle. He spoke with Pastor Thoeun and with teacher Pam and through these conversations God spoke into his heart and he decided not to leave.

Not only that, but after sharing his story with us, our friend made a commitment to the church that he would give his wages for a whole year back to the church.

What a turnaround! We praise God for what he's doing in our friend's life and the lives of others in our church as they are getting to know Jesus more and more!

The children in our Sunday School have been enjoying learning most weeks with the use of puppets. Sokim and Jeremiah have been working with a script and have done well in entertaining and teaching the smaller children the principles found in the Bible.



Events For Easter this year we are planning a special event in the church to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. All of our teachers and students are preparing a special play to tell our friends what Easter means to us. The children will be using puppets, drama and songs to tell the story. It takes a lot of preparations and everybody is really excited about the big event. We'll have some photos to share with you in the next newsletter about that!

Prayer Needs

Please pray with us for...

- Funds to feed the children and continue the work of Sovanapoom Care
- Favour for Christian Churches with the local and federal government ministries in Cambodia
- Funding to come in through western Churches so that the Sunday Outreach can be funded and that we can continue to share the Gospel and gifts of food to the needy in our community

Verily I say unto you whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein" Mark 10:15

Following on from the Sovanapoom works newsletter we're introducing Tonet this month. Tonet is a young Khmer man who is one of our key leaders and he is doing a fantastic job here teaching and being a good role model for the younger students. Here is his personal testimony of how he came to know Jesus as told by Tonet himself:

My name is Tonet and I am 21 years old. I was born in Cambodia in Areyksat Village. I live in my church which is called Sovanapoom and I am still single. I'd like to share with you about how I came to know Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour and join in with the Sovanapoom Church.

I sort of believed in the Lord Jesus Christ back in the year 2000, but in 2002 I offered my life wholly and believed in Jesus Christ as the Lord of my life and my only Saviour in a stronger way by coming to live in Sovanapoom Church. This is the church that Pastor John and Tess Castledine, great people of God started near my home. We love and respect them so much for their love for the people especially the Cambodian children, that we call them Papa and Mama.

I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ because he has saved me and set me free from my sins. I believe that He is the only true God who died on the cross for me and to cleanse me from my sins. Before I believed in the Lord Jesus I was the kind of person who always wanted to be happy in drinking, smoking, gambling and doing all the other bad things even at a very young age. My parents and my sister who got saved before me used to often tell me about the Lord Jesus, but I didn't care or listen to them and I was afraid of losing my worldly happiness.

One day in 1999 when my parents told me again about the Lord Jesus and why I should come to learn about Him (Jesus) in Sovanapoom Church, something touched my heart and made me want to come to live in the church and receive the Lord Jesus teaching there. I have lived in Sovanapoom Church ever since and I have learned a lot about the Lord Jesus from my leaders.



I have learned to know God more and more every day by studying His Words I have come to have more hope in my life and to know God's plan for my life. God's word also encourages me to work hard and changes my life everyday from the bad to the good.

I just want to praise God for choosing me, without the Lord Jesus and His teaching my life would be so different.

I would have been a naughty boy disobeying my parents and doing all the bad things in life that are displeasing to God.

However, by God's grace He has chosen me, taught me and now I have become a leader in Sovanapoom Church and I am happy that I have jobs to do in taking part in building God's kingdom. I am glad to see God's Kingdom built and improved in Cambodia in the future.

I would like to encourage all who read this to believe and continue to believe in the Lord Jesus so that he will change all the bad things in your life to good. May God bless you all.



Tonet, teaching the 5-10yrs school class.

Please also read Matthew 3:3-13:

For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and wild honey. Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan, And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to [our] father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and [with] fire: Whose fan [is] in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.



Tonet, taken in 2004



Tonet, taken in 2005 teaching in Church