

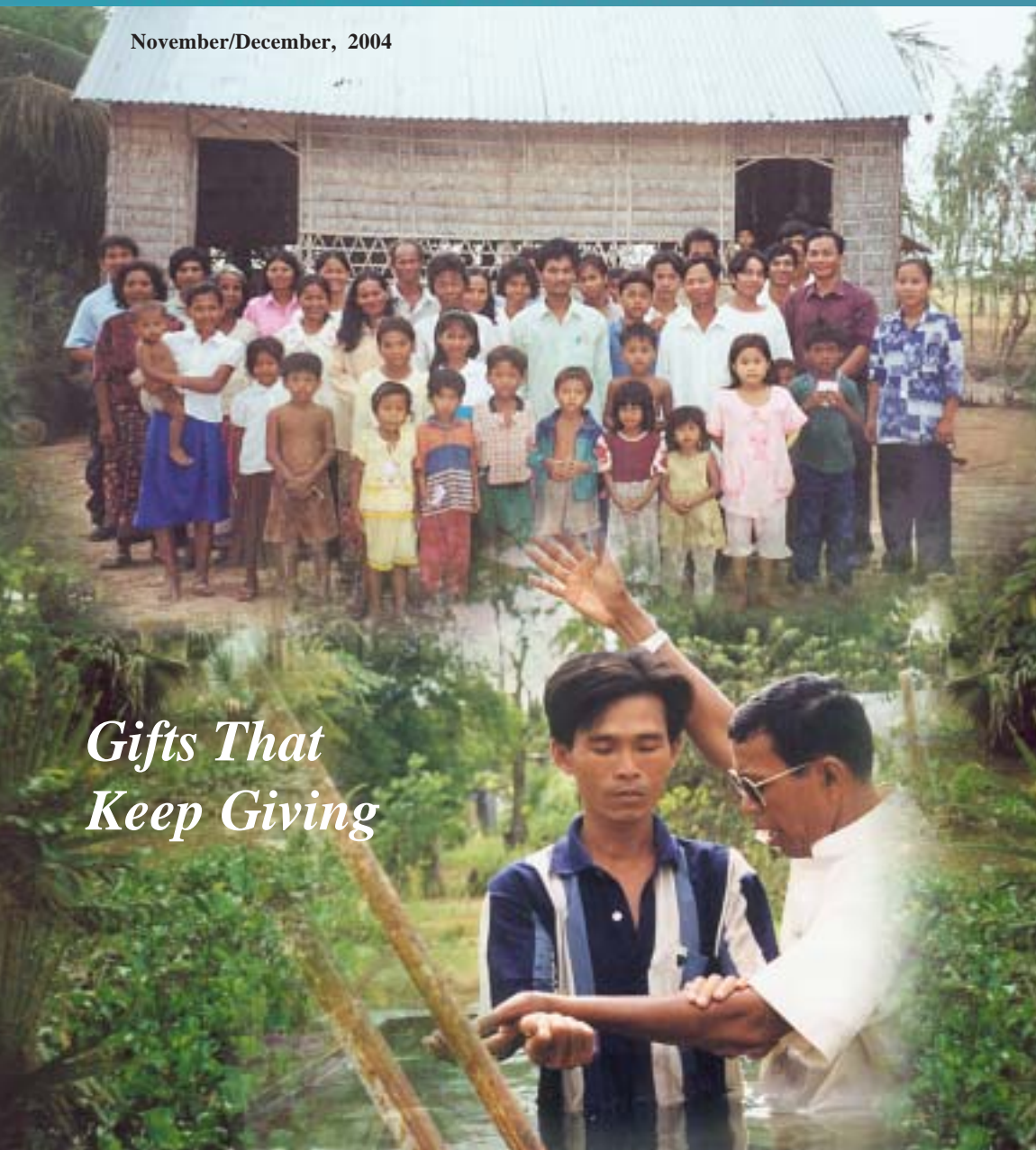
The Newsletter
of Adventist
Southeast
Asia
Projects

ASAP

ADVENTIST SOUTHEAST ASIA PROJECTS

November/December, 2004

*Gifts That
Keep Giving*



Features

Editor's Update..... 3
Catch the spirit of giving. Judy Aitken shares thoughts on gifts that keep giving.

Christmas Opportunity 5
Pastor Nhean Thorsovan on the meaning of the season in Cambodia.

ASAP Mailbox 6
Be inspired by these gifts from the heart.

In Loving Memory..... 6

Helping Others 7
A shipment will soon leave for Cambodia. Send gifts aboard that will make a difference.

Can Anything Good Coming Out of Orissey? 8
Mary Ann McNeilus steps out and into the lives of Cambodian villagers.

The Gift of a Church Planter..... 10
Soum Sovanny shares on the meaning of salvation in one Cambodian province.

A Holiday Thank You 11
Cambodia Adventist Mission president offers a glimpse of ASAP donor's impact on spreading the gospel.

The Gift of God's Love 12
This is the difference Christ had made in Quyen Lai Nam's life – a testimony from a Vietnamese physician.

Gifts That Keep Giving..... 13



Gifts that keep giving: ASAP donors provided bamboo and thatch churches as requested by villagers and the Cambodia Adventist Mission. This church (top) in Prey Kom Peng Village was an answer to prayer.

The Gift of Eternal Life: Pastor Men Mara (bottom) baptizes a new believer.

Editor.....Judy Aitken
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Adventist Southeast Asia Project's purpose is to support the preaching of the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ through church planting and evangelism endeavors for Southeast Asian people throughout the world. As a privately funded nonprofit organization, we work as a supporting ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. As an unaffiliated independent ministry, we are dependent upon God to move people to support this work. For information write to **Adventist Southeast Asia Projects, PO Box 84, Berrien Springs, MI 49103**. (Tax-deductible contributions may be sent with the enclosed envelope.) Our telephone #: 269-471-3026. Our fax #: 269-471-3034. Our e-mail: asap84@cs.com. Web address: <http://www.ASAPministries.org>. We would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

Editor's Update ... by Judy Aitken



"The Savior's joy is in seeing, in the kingdom of glory, the souls that have been saved by His agony and humiliation. And the redeemed will be sharers in His joy, as they behold, among the blessed, those who have been won to Christ through their prayers, their labors and their loving sacrifice. As they gather about the great white throne, gladness unspeakable will fill their hearts when they behold those whom they have won for Christ, and see that one has gained others, and these still others, all brought into the haven of rest, there to lay their crowns at Jesus' feet and praise Him through the endless cycles of eternity." Ellen G. White, Maranatha, p. 339.

Beside me, here on my desk, sits a small, flip-calendar. Each morning as I wait for my computer to boot up, I flip to the day's inspirational quote and Bible text. I look forward to this little routine. The calendar was a gift from my son, Jay. It is one of my favorite gifts received last year. Why? Because it is a gift that keeps giving - over and over again I am blessed by it. And I pass this blessing on, as I share the texts and quotes with others.

Many gifts will be given and received over the upcoming holidays, and I'm sure you will agree that the best are those that keep giving. We have all been given an exceptional gift - the book that inspires us, the magazine subscription that enriches our lives or an item that comes in so handy. Far more exceptional than all these gifts is that one and only gift that keeps giving and will do so "through the endless cycle of eternity." If only we could wrap salvation up in a bright little package to give to all those we

love! But wait, maybe it really is that easy. How surprised and excited we will be in heaven to learn of the simple things we did in life that resulted in someone receiving the gift of salvation: a short prayer, a smile, perhaps a small gesture of kindness, a passing comment to a friend, a donation sent for pastors or support given for Bibles - just to mention a few.

If I placed my little calendar in a drawer and forgot about it, it would no longer hold significance in my life. The fact that I have incorporated it into my mornings gives it meaning and makes it a meaningful gift. This little newsletter you hold in your hands is filled with gifts of all kinds - gifts available for the giving (pg. 7), appreciation for gifts already given (pgs. 8-12), the effects of gifts given in the past (pgs. 13-16), and gifts that are currently being given (pgs. 10, 11). What is better yet, is that these gifts are the very best kind - gifts that keep giving by leading men and women to know the great

love of God. They bring people to the most important gift that the almighty God of love gave to the world - His precious Son, Jesus Christ. It is the only gift I know of that will keep giving through the endless cycle of eternity - better than any gift we could think of on earth!

It is my prayer that you will find a way to make this newsletter personally significant. I pray the Lord will impress upon your heart

the appreciation and gratitude felt by those who have been given the gift of salvation. I pray the Lord will impress upon you the amazing effects of your gifts given for Him - how they keep giving and the impact these gifts have in changing lives. And finally, I pray that the Lord will pour out His blessings upon you as you prayerfully consider the gifts you will give during this season of giving. **ASAP**



The story of the birth of Jesus Christ was performed last Christmas by Bible students in the Tang Krasang Village Church of Kampong Thom Province. Thousands of people hear the message and are saved in Christ's Kingdom through the witness of Adventist children and adults who share the gospel story at Christmas. It is done through dramas and plays in churches across the countries of Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand.

Christmas Opportunities

by *Pastor Nhean Thonsovan*

ASAP friends, thank you so much for thinking of us at Christmas time. This year, more than 700 Khmer people will join in Christmas celebrations in the Phnom Penh SDA Church. More will celebrate Christ's birth in villages and cities in other areas of the country. My church in Phnom Penh will be very crowded with members and many visitors who come with friends (remembering from last year). Officials from the government, police officers, section and district leaders, religious heads of the government, grandparents, parents, relatives and friends will be invited to join our Christmas services. The church plans and practices many weeks for this special time. It is our big time to tell the whole city about the God we worship.

One Department of Religion officer told me that after they did a recent census of people in the country, they have found that there are 80% who still believe in Buddha with the remaining 20% being Christians or Muslims. This statistic is not official yet. If it is true, one can thank God so much for His working in Cambodia.

Each year, it appears that the country is more receptive to the Western holiday of Christmas. Things seem to be different from years in the past. Now restaurants, hotels, larger stores and the big markets have decorations and a Christmas tree to celebrate the holiday. I know we do not know exactly the date when Jesus was born, but it is a good sign that the holiday is observed by Cambo-

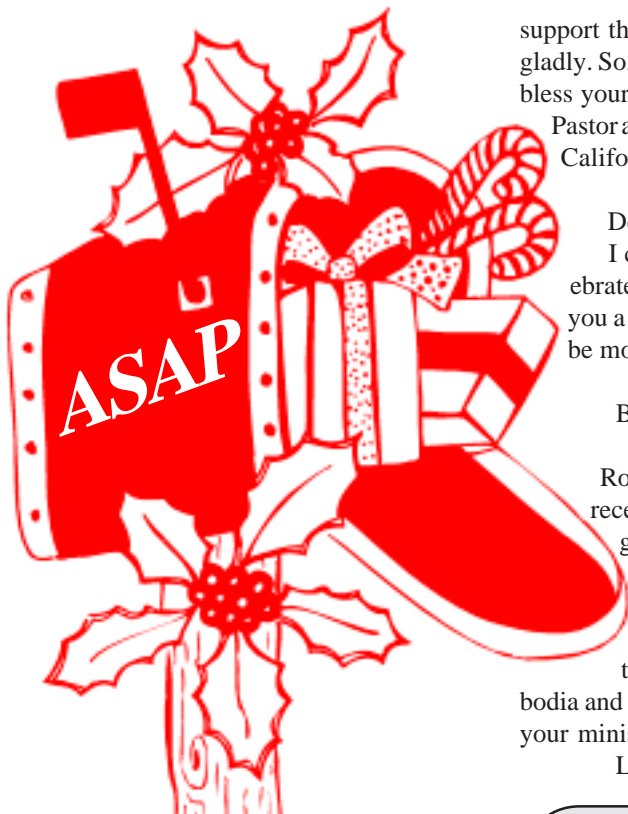
dians now. It is good advertisement for Christians. It is a chance for us to witness. It is a chance for us to tell the history of this holiday, that it is the birthday celebration of Jesus. Some people celebrate but they do not know the meaning of what they do. During this season Cambodian pastors are very busy because we have many opportunities to share the history and meaning of Jesus' birth. With the special Christmas programs in our churches it is easier to tell the story of Jesus coming to earth because people like to come to a celebration.

The Christmas season gives all people an opportunity to know about Jesus and the big gift that He gave. When I share the manger story with others, I look into their faces and see that they are listening intently. Step by step they will come to know and love Jesus. Please remember your Cambodian family this Christmas. Please pray for us during this important time when people in Cambodia can have the opportunity to know about Jesus. ASAP



The author, Nhean Thonsovan, is pastor of the Phnom Penh city church and the northern district of Phnom Penh.

GIFTS FROM THE ASAP MAILBOX



Just a note to accompany this donation. We had a mild winter and early spring. The fruit trees bore one month earlier than usual. In our small backyard we have three apricot trees. We never got much of a harvest. The fruit that appeared was mainly harvested by birds and ground squirrels. But this year we did not have any ground squirrels and not as many birds until the end of the harvest season. This year the trees were loaded with fruit, even breaking some of the branches. We had more than enough for our own consumption and to give to some friends. So we announced at our monthly retirement meeting that everyone was welcome to several flats of apricots free of charge. The only thing we asked for was a freewill donation for ASAP to help

support the pastors. This our members did gladly. So, we collected a total of \$110. God bless your work.

Pastor and Mrs. J. G. Nikkels of Calimesa, California.

Dear Friends,

I can't think of a better way to celebrate my 73rd birthday than to send you a donation. Oh, how I wish it could be more!!!

Yours in Christ,

BW

Robby and Shayla both had a birthday recently and they both decided to give their birthday money to ASAP.

Of the \$100 enclosed, \$50 is from Robby and \$50 is from Shayla. They would like it to go to buy Bibles for people in Cambodia and Vietnam. May God bless you and your ministry.

LS

In Loving Memory

We sincerely thank Max and Carolyn Hammonds of Hendersonville, North Carolina, for their gift made in memory of Fred Gerling, long time missionary to Burma and other areas of Southeast Asia.

To this family we send our deepest sympathy and condolences. We join you in looking forward to a reunion in heaven and hearing Christ's words, "Enter thou into the joy of Thy Lord."

Matthew 25:21.

GIFTS THAT ARE GREATLY NEEDED

Vietnam:


Salaries and training for 200 pastors
Evangelism needs i.e. Bibles,
Bible lessons and literature
Mopeds and bicycles for pastors
The Vietnamese SDA radio ministry
(entitled Peace and Happiness)
Cow bank
Rice and food for emergency assistance
Repair for house churches
Radios, sermon tapes and DVDs

Cambodia:

Support for church-planters, lay pastors
Support for Bible workers
Mopeds and bicycles,
Bibles Bible lessons and hymnbooks
Bamboo and thatch churches
Literacy schools and teachers
Tuition assistance for children at Adventist
schools
Humanitarian assistance: rice, food and
wells
Income generating projects for widows

Thailand and Laos:

Stipends for 21 lay workers and pastors in
Laos and 10 in Thailand
Evangelism materials (Bibles,
Bible lessons, hymnbooks)
A church building in northeast Thailand

God bless you for your support!
And, **thank you** for your gifts of love to
the people of Southeast Asia. 

God
Bless
YOU
for your support!

GIFTS FROM YOUR HEART



If you would like to give treasure in heaven this holiday season, you can do so anonymously, in memory or in honor of someone special, in someone else's name or simply as a gift from yourself. We have added a provision on ASAP's web page: www.ASAPministries.org where you can make contributions on-line. Contributions can also be made over the phone 269-471-3026 or by mail (see enclosed envelope). Our address is: P.O. Box 84, Berrien Springs, MI 49103. We thank you for giving the gift of salvation this holiday season.



Can Anything Good Come Out of Orissey?

by *MaryAnn McNeilus*

Mary Ann McNeilus (left), Soum Sovanny, district pastor of Kratie Province with Kim Chheun (center).

This year, Diana David, a New Start nutritionist from Singapore, and I traveled to Kratie. This scenic city, located along the Mekong River, is the gateway to northeastern Cambodia. We planned a health and nutrition seminar for Bible workers and church planters from Kratie as well as surrounding provinces. The Kratie City Church work began four years ago under the leadership of Pastor Saum Sovanny. This twenty-seven year old young man and his family have been tireless laborers in the Lord's vineyard! Today there are eight new groups in addition to the Kratie City congregation.

One of these new groups is in Orissey - a village notorious for gambling and drunkenness. One of its charter members is Kim Chheun, a widow who was a smoker and an alcoholic for more than twenty years. She did laundry for people in Kratie City. A relative lived near the Adventist church and mentioned Chheun to Pastor Sovanny. The pastor visited her from time to time with stop-smoking literature from ADRA. Nelson Decina, a young Filipino church planter working with Souvanny, asked Chheun to do his laundry. Sometimes she came to work drunk. Knowing this, Nelson and Sovanny still invited her to join Sabbath worship at

the Adventist Church. Again, Kim Chheun would come to church drunk. As the gospel seed took root and grew in her heart, her life changed. She no longer smoked and the drunkenness disappeared.

Two years ago, a new church group started at Kim Chheun's home in Orissey village. As her house was small, the group met underneath the dwelling. The village midwife and two of her children joined the group. One Sabbath, the midwife's husband, Moul Kren, along with six other village men, disrupted the meeting with loud drunken dancing! When Moul came to his senses, he was ashamed and embarrassed by the spectacle he had made of himself. Pastor Sovanny and Nelson visited him and invited him to join the worship group. The following Sabbath, he sat alongside his wife. Today, Moul Kren and Kim Chheun - both former alcoholics are living witnesses of God's transforming grace in human hearts.

When Philip told Nathanel that they had found Jesus of Nazareth of whom Moses

and the prophets wrote, Nathanel said, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip's reply rings true today when he said, "Come and see" (John 1:46). Yes, with the gospel's empowerment, good things are not only coming out of Orissey village, but out of all the northeastern provinces of Cambodia! Your gifts for evangelism, pastors and Bible workers make these good things possible. **ASAP**

The author, Mary Ann McNeilus, is a physician who practices natural ways of healing. She and her husband, Marnelle, have a home health center in Whalan, Minnesota.



Moul Kren (seated center) and Kim Chheun (right of Kren), with a group of believers in Orissey Village, Kratie Province. Moul Kren and Kim Chheun, former alcoholics, are living witnesses of God's transforming grace.

The Gift of a Church Planter

by Soum Sovanny,
District Pastor of Kratie Province, Cambodia


I work to share the gospel in Kratie Province. There is a church group in the city and also eight groups that worship on Sabbath in villages.

From March 25 to April 4 of this year we held a big evangelistic meeting in the center of Kratie town. During the daytime there were 30 members who went out city-wide to alert people's attention to upcoming meetings. They walked from house to house and family to family to give them tracts and invite the people to come to the meetings. Around 300 to 500 people came to listen to God's Word every night. After ten days of evangelism, 39 people who were baptized.

During that series of meetings my father was baptized also. He had attended church for one year before he was baptized. I had prayed for my father for ten years. So this is a very happy time in my life. God loves us. My father said, "I am very happy when I believe in God Jesus. Everything changed when I accepted Jesus as the living God. I believe that Jesus is the true God."

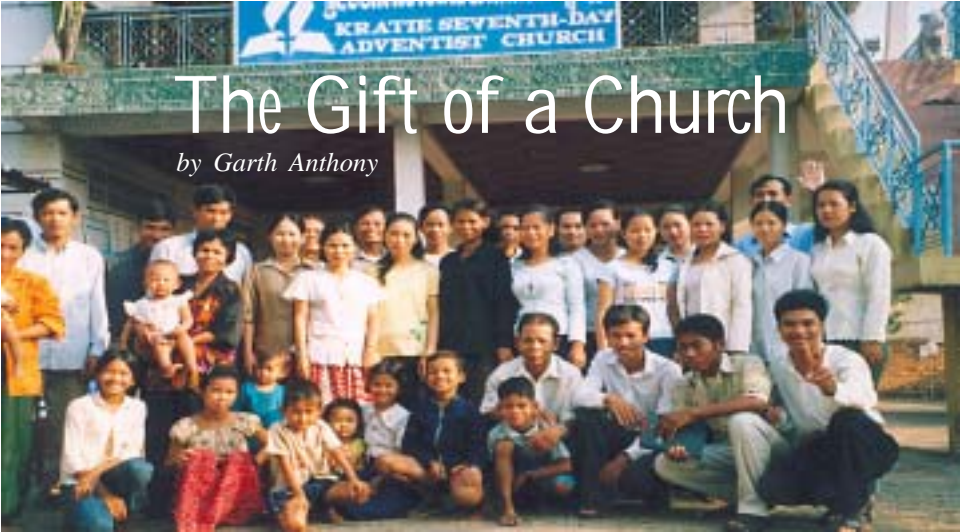
I will use the DVD evangelism tools for an evangelistic meeting in the town of Chhlong and also Kratie City in December. Please, can you pray for my plans for evangelism in these cities?

Editor's Note

Again this year ASAP has been asked to sponsor Soum Sovanny and his wife, Doung Sovanlida, in their work of planting churches in Kratie Province. 



Soum Sovanny with his wife Doung Sovanlida, with their children.




The Gift of a Church

by Garth Anthony

Members and interested people stand in front of the Kratie Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Kratie church is one of the fast growing districts in Cambodia. The new city church site is right in the center of the town, an excellent location. It comprises both living accommodation for the pastor, as well as ample room for the church members to meet in. The church usually is full each Sabbath and there are currently over fifteen people studying with the pastor. We are looking to our friends to help to purchase this building that we need for a church. We ask ASAP for help—\$26,000. Since work started in Kratie four years ago, 79 people have been baptized. Not only has the main church grown but has divided and now eight satellite groups have been formed. Soum Sovanny, the church planter who is supported by ASAP, uses the building for Bible and English classes, natural health classes, worship services on Sabbath and Pathfinders. His wife Doung Sovanlida also teaches vegetarian cooking to the ladies. There are currently fifteen Pathfinders.

We really appreciate the support that ASAP readers give to evangelism and church planting projects here. Without your help for church planting in Kratie Province and other areas of Cambodia, we would not be able to progress as we do. Our aim is to have at least one good church building in each province and then at least one church in each part of Phnom Penh. Temporary churches are also needed in new areas. Our first priority is for church buildings where there are many members and viable support.

Best wishes and thanks once again for all that you are doing and your many gifts for God's work in Cambodia. 

The author, Garth Anthony, a native of Great Britain. He currently serves as president of the Cambodia Adventist Mission. He and his wife, Sylvia, have worked in Cambodia for over three years.



The Gift of God's Love - His Wonderful Salvation

by Quyen Lai Nam

For forty-five years of my life I was a Buddhist by tradition, but not by my heart. Though I was a successful medical doctor, I did not have peace in my heart. I always felt a desire to find peace. About three years ago an incident happened that made me feel helpless. My husband became very ill. At that time I needed to have a God help me overcome this tragedy. A Christian friend came to see me. She comforted me by telling me about a God of love. She also gave me a Bible. I began to read the Bible, seeking to know God. I attended church with my friend and met the pastors of the church. Though I read the Bible and went to church I did not find peace until October 2002.

It was during this month that by accident I tuned into the Peace and Happiness radio program. The first time I heard the pastor's sermon there was a drawing power. I felt a new wind - a refreshing wind of peace come into my life. I tuned into the radio program every day to listen to the sermons. I fell in love with Jesus. Pastor Isah Young has a gift from the Lord. The Word of God changed my life and gave me a hunger to know the true God. I heard the pastor say, "The Word of God is a seed of faith. If you open your heart and accept Jesus, the seed will come

into your soul. The seed will sprout and bear fruit." I believe the seed of faith is sprouting in my heart.

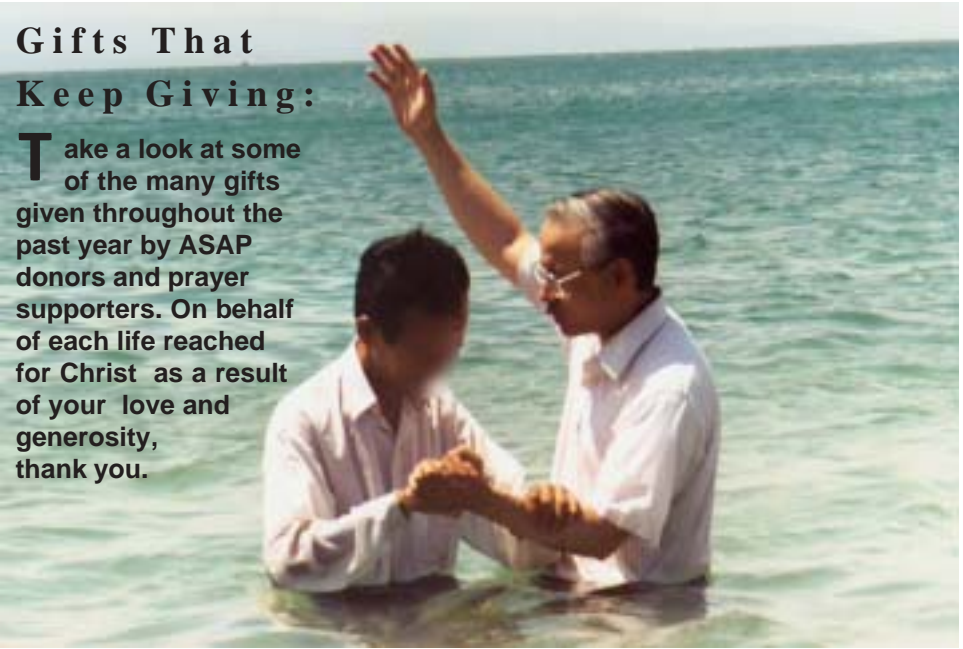
At that time I was worried about my life. My husband had cancer in the upper respiratory system. He lived with cancer for three years. His condition is stable at this time. I also have two sons that do not yet believe. The radio sermons give me peace and help me to trust in God.

I would like to give my appreciation to the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the radio broadcast. It is a great gift to my life. I am very thankful to the Holy Spirit who helps me understand and receive truth from the radio programs. Every morning I listen to the sermon from Peace and Happiness. The program is my spiritual food for each day. I cannot live without it. I write down what I hear and review it later. I have encouraged many friends to listen to this program. Lately, I have been following the series on Revelation very carefully. This is a difficult book but the Lord has opened my eyes. I am seeing the wonderful truth in this book. I have decided that I want to be a part of the remnant people of God and become a Seventh-day Adventist Christian.

ASAP

Gifts That Keep Giving:

Take a look at some of the many gifts given throughout the past year by ASAP donors and prayer supporters. On behalf of each life reached for Christ as a result of your love and generosity, thank you.



The Gift of Eternal Life: Pastor Isah Young baptizes a pastor who ministers to a large district of house churches in Vietnam. More than 30,000 new believers from the radio ministry are waiting for baptism. Thousands of people from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand were baptized into God's Kingdom during the past year.



The Gift of Bibles: Despite more than 2,000 Bibles given in Vietnam alone, more are needed for not only Vietnamese but also Khmer and Laotian Bible students. Pastor Isah Young (above right) studies the Bible with two district pastors from Vietnam.

GIFTS THAT KEEP GIVING continued...

The Gift of Transportation:

ASAP donors provided bicycles for lay Bible workers in Cambodia enabling them to travel to neighboring villages with the gospel. Two lay Bible workers (right) stand by their new bicycles that will take them to villages in Prey Veng Province. Mopeds were also given to district pastors in Vietnam, making it possible for them to follow-up on thousands of new believers.



The Gift of Wells: ASAP donors gave wells to many communities and villages throughout Cambodia. This one sits on the grounds of a SDA church in Chuk Chey Village of Prey Veng Province. Pastor Khut Choeun stands on left. The wells are a great blessing not only to church members but also to the people who live in the community.



The Gift of Eternal Life is given through literacy classes and child evangelism. Chan Phyrun (left) teaches children about Jesus in a Cambodian village.



The Gift of a Lay Bible Worker: ASAP donors support 70 Southeast Asian lay-pastors and Bible workers who work with the national district pastors in soul winning and evangelism outreach. Srey Sann (left) is 68-years-old and works with Pastor Pen Narith in Kampong Thom Province. He is the leader of Sdoc Sdom Village Church. Mao Yon (right) is the leader of the Tradocpong Village Church. She works with Pen Narith, district pastor of Kampong Thom Province.

The Gift of Emergency Support:
ASAP donors responded to emergencies by providing rice and rice seedlings during times of severe drought in Cambodia and Vietnam this year. Rice is distributed to poor people in Soriya Church, Banteay Meanchey Province. District Pastor Men Mara stands at left. An urgent call has recently come from Cambodian district pastors asking for help to provide rice for people in the north and northwestern provinces of Cambodia whose rice crops were destroyed by a severe drought this year.



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