

# ប្រជារាស្ត្រខ្មែរគ្រីស្ទ ជួយព្រះគ្រីស្ទជាអម្ចាស់ Cambodia for Christ

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After a day and a night of bitter debate the UN General Assembly defeated by two votes a move to expel Marshall Lon Nol's government from the UN. For more than two years the Algerians and China have led a non-aligned block battle to oust Lon Nol and give Cambodia's seat to the Peking based regime of Prince Sihanouk. Their basic argument was that Sihanouk had been overthrown by 'foreign invaders' (e.g. Americans); that he was still in authority and that the Khmer Republic would collapse if United States aid were withdrawn. Cambodia's Asian and Pacific neighbours and the Western nations submitted a counter resolution which instead of supporting either faction simply called on both to hold peace talks, this motion was passed by a narrow two vote margin, the second time this has happened in two years.

This vote was a major victory for democracy and a step towards a possible peace settlement involving some sort of compromise between the present government and the Khmer Rouge, similar to the situation now existing in nearby Laos. The UN vote also means that US aid will continue (currently £285 million a year) and that freedom of worship will still exist in the country—a doubtful possibility under the Communists. The US congress is dubious about continuing commitment to Cambodia, yet a cessation of aid would have amounted in effect to the handover of the country to the Khmer Rouge. The Khmer army could not carry on for a week without petrol and munitions from abroad, and the civilian economy is almost as dependent on American financed imports of foodstuffs and other commodities,

The situation is reported to be bad and the start of the dry season has brought an increase in enemy activity. The end of the war or some sort of agreement would seem to be the only hope for a country struggling to survive. Please pray for a speedy settlement to war and for continued freedom of worship, and praise the Lord for preserving Cambodia as a nation.

Some of the worshippers.



Prayer and support for God's work and His Church in the Khmer Republic.

## CHILD CARE

Last month Dr Penelope Key, a Christian Doctor with World Vision on a short furlough to England, brought news of the Child Care programme operating in the Khmer Republic. There is a large World Vision medical team in the country, 105 Khmer workers including four doctors, seventeen trained nurses and a large number of auxiliary nurses. A few staff from overseas are also there.

World Vision along with the C MA run the only four nutrition rehabilitation centres in Cambodia. One centre is open 24 hours a day for emergency cases. Children are admitted with kwashiorkor and other severe forms of malnutrition and they usually stay for about four weeks, long enough to get on their feet again- About 80 children are catered for there. The three day-care centres also exist for less severe cases.

The hospital in Phnom Penh is almost completed and. this will deal mainly with Paediatric emergency cases.

Dr Key holds child-welfare clinics, as possibly 98 percent of children in Cambodia are malnourished. Most families exist on just rice (when it is available and supplies get through), very little fresh fruit and vegetables are to be seen, and the average family eat meat once a fortnight. The rice (which is imported) is the highly milled sort, lacking in vitamin B, therefore most of the population suffer from vitamin deficiency. The overall condition of children is deteriorating and many are open to infection, There is a high mortality rate through measles, one in twenty who contract it die. Typhoid, Polio, dysentery, pneumonia and tuberculosis are on the increase. Twenty clinics around Phnom Penh are run by World Vision and over 75 percent of children attending are under ten years old,

Very little preventive medicine can be practised in the war situation ( though the Red Cross are doing something in this realm) most of it is curative. World Vision do not have the time or staff to do immunisation or public health as the outstanding need is just to keep people alive. As the capital gets squeezed, the situation can only get worse. Please pray for the doctors, for Dr Key, Dr Dean Kroh; and for the nurses who are working in deplorable conditions for long hours in the preservation of life. Pray for their physical strength; for their mental health as they contend with daily tragedy; and pray for their -spiritual life, that they may be aware of the presence of Jesus, the ha<sup>p</sup> of Sorrows, that others may know that they love and serve because of Him.

THE PROVINCES. Pray for the provinces of Cambodia, little news filters through from these. Medical teams have gone out to large provincial refugee areas and report that these are in a very poor condition. Recently an influx of refugees came from a town seventy miles north of the capital. They had been living in trenches for three months and finally 20,000 were ferried out by river. They were later visited by a medical team, and the Asian Christian Service.

Of the twenty provinces in the Khmer Republic over half of these are in enemy controlled areas. There has been no way of contact with these four million people except perhaps by radio broadcasts, therefore many of them have never been reached; Six churches are in the cities which remain in free areas in other provinces. At Battambang in the north there is a growing church, about 20 more attend as a result of the meetings held by Ravi Zacharius in the summer. A prayer meeting at the church at 5.30 am is well attended. Correspondance courses are reaching over 3000 in the free areas with good results.

A new medium wave radio programme will operate from FEBC **in** Manila from January and reach many communist controlled areas. Pailin, Siem Reap, Takeo, Kompong Cham, Kam pot, Kompong Som and Kompong Thom will all be visited by teams from the Bible school during the Christmas break. Pray that this will be a time of encouragement and growth for Christians and an opportunity for many to come to know the Saviour. Pray

PRAISE FOR THE CHURCH GROWTH IN PHNOM PENH. Bung Tra Back is a new church group started recently when a layman opened his home for services. Already about 70 people come each Sunday. North Dike is another new group in a refugee area. In Bethany church, Christians are meeting from 6-7 am daily for prayer.

PRAISE FOR STUDENT MINISTRIES. Takhmau Bible School has its highest enrollment of 25 students. Pray for guidance for specific ministries for them for their practical service. Theological Education by Extension classes are held two evenings weekly. About 103 have enrolled. In both schools are some fine young people, pray the Word will bear much fruit, The Operation Mobilisation team from the ship Logos came in September for one week of discipleship training and teaching, over 100 young people attended.

Bible studies in English and French have been started in two private schools. Over twenty other English Bible studies are held weekly in the Youth Centre, in churches and homes. About ten Buddhist monks attend one class.

PRAY FOR PARTICULAR PEOPLE. Saree, a Bible School student doing a year of practical service was in charge of the Youth Centre while Andrew Way was away on furlough for a month recently. Ou Sein, a teacher, recently converted, hoping to be released from the army, wants to study the Bible and serve the Lord. Nilian, the director of one of the schools where Bible studies are held, is open to the Gospel, recognises the cost and is struggling to be willing to follow.

OTHER NEWS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER. Pray for Andrew Butler and Don Cormack (OMF) both young workers previously doing language study in Taiwan and now beginning work in Phnom Penh. Pray for them and the two new missionary nurses, for health and strength to do the task and for faith to stand firm as they come under fire perhaps for the first time. Pray for safety and for God's protection upon His children.

-There is an urgent need for translators in the Pix series. The first Pix series on the Life Of Christ is being printed in full colour in Phnom Penh.  
-Recently a four-day course with daily practises was held at the Youth Centre resulting in a group of leaders who will soon begin to form Bible Cell groups in their high schools and colleges.

-Reverend Chavan of India held recent meetings in the Capital bringing challenging messages on tithing, pastor's responsibilities, evangelism and missions. Praise God for about sixty young people who dedicated their lives to follow the Lord wherever He leads.

-Praise God for the burden of prayer which has led some groups to spend all night in prayer. All-night prayer meetings began first in the Angel's Christian Orphanage. The only stipulation was that all under five years of age had to go to bed: The director of the orphanage is a Korean, Mr Jimmy Kim.

-Praise God for providing a classroom in a government hospital for the nurses aid course being taught to twenty-three young people. Students and missionary nurses need prayer.

-Ruth Patterson, Rose Ellen Chancey and Soth Tien (a Khmer Lady) spent seven days of intensive teaching and visiting in Siem Reap province last month. Several accepted the Lord and new Christians were greatly encouraged, recent news from Siem Reap indicated that they continue to meet together. Join them in prayer for a pastor.

-Christmas programmes have already begun in Phnom Penh and will continue to be held in the various churches until the end of December. This is a wonderful opportunity of blessing and outreach.

-The children of Eugene Hall. and Norman Ens (a total of eight) will join their parents for Christmas, these families would be grateful for your prayers.

-Pray for the safe arrival of the hospital equipment due in early January.

-A radio studio is to be constructed in Phnom Penh, permission has been given and plans are to finish by the end of January. Pray for construction and needed personnel