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Cambodia for Christ

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"Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33v12)

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This letter is an introduction to the work that God is doing in Cambodia. Many Christians in this country have expressed concern for the situation in South East Asia and especially in the war-torn lands of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. The latter has been perhaps the most neglected over the years by Christian Missions and the Church world-wide.

For the past two years the north eastern region of Cambodia has slowly come under the control of North Vietnamese and Vietcong guerrillas, and a naturally peace loving people have been thrust into a war for national survival. Up until recently the prospects of holding the capital had not been good, and at one point - when the American bombing stopped - the general opinion was that Phnom Penh would be taken. This, however, did not take place, and news from Cambodia by Western reporters states that the city is functioning fairly normally under the circumstances. Nevertheless, though food is available, prices have rapidly escalated, and with over one million refugees in Phnom Penh the situation is not good as supply routes are continually threatened. There are also increasing numbers of orphans and homeless, the natural result of war.

With the monsoon season beginning it is probable that the Communists will not mount another offensive until late December when the rains cease. This will allow the Government to strengthen its defences against a resupplied Vietcong force. At present there is a breathing space; the Communists seem content to keep the Ho Chi Minh trail and its supply routes open for their major objective - the destruction of South Vietnam. A war on too many fronts can be a drain on resources, so Cambodia may be spared a war to the end, at least for the time being.

For Christians in Cambodia, there is an open door of opportunity. The war has brought with it a sense of insecurity to a people who are normally happy with their lot. The church has a new boldness which is acceptable in the situation and the Asian manner of preliminary introductions before plain talking is slowly disappearing in the face of questions like, 'what can we do', 'who can help us?', 'is there a God?'. By practical means wherever possible, and by showing calm and compassion for the people, the Evangelical Churches and

positive and distinctly Cambodian way of life, relevant to them today.

The door to Cambodia is wide open - the Gospel must go out while there is time left, A land of seven million (approximately the population of Scotland), needs to know that Christ can give them hope in a future that looks pretty bleak.

Major Chhirc Taing who spent 18 months in Britain was the means of awakening many of us to the urgency and need of prayer for Cambodia. Little has been known about this land closed to the West for many years, and now we realise the situation, prayer would seem to be all the more urgent.

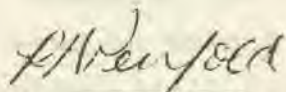
This is really what 'Cambodia for Christ' is for. Not a new Society, but just a link, (an overseas arm) of the Cambodian Church to represent them in this country. We aim to keep in touch with, distribute information about and highlight particular needs of the Church and people. To send out an up to date, regular prayer letter giving a comprehensive picture of the situation, and the work of God in Cambodia, - to bring us closer to our brethren over there, and enable us to pray for them. We need to be specific in intercession. If we are able to help the Church materially in their outreach, (e.g. refugee relief and literature distribution is limited because of finance) then our office will provide a central point for gifts to be sent to the Church's bank account in Phnom Penh.

If you know of any who would be interested in praying for Cambodia or receiving information please write to us for further introductory leaflets or prayer letters, and if we can help you or your prayer group in any way, do not hesitate to let us know.

"Prayer is as vast as God because He is behind it. Prayer is as mighty as God because He has committed Himself to answer it."*

May the Lord Jesus Christ be exalted through the testimony and faithfulness of His people worldwide.

Yours in the Master's Service.



Paul Penfold
(Secretary)

(* quoted from 'Why Revival Tarries' by L. Ravenhill)