



Update from Mark and Deb Wilson

January 2021

សូមត្ខិណ្ឌខ្មែរ - Merry (belated) Christmas

Luke 2:7. *And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

Matthew 2:13. *... an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ...*

Luke 2:10. *And the angel said to them [the shepherds], "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.*

Dear Friends and Family,

These days we are somewhat at a loss about where to begin this letter; these past months have been unsettling for us and we can only imagine what you all have faced. This brings us to the passages above where we read of the birth of Jesus amid *unsettling times*; Mary and Joseph faced isolation from home and family, homeless, threats on the life of their newborn child, and the need to seek help from strangers.

An Advent devotion that we read together summarized their situation this way: "Mary's main preparation [for the coming of Jesus] was adjusting to the *unexpected and unwished-for*." And yet it is in the middle of this *confusing, unsettling* environment that the announcement is made that there is ***good news of great joy, a Savior has been born*** (and, by the way, He was not born in a palace but rather in a cattle stall).

And so, our prayer for your family and ours is that this season, as we remember the great faithfulness of God in the past, we can look forward to the future with courage putting our trust in the One for Whom *nothing is impossible* (Luke 1:37), and find tangible and appropriate ways share this ***good news of great joy of a Savior*** with others who are also facing the *unexpected and unwished-for*.

Thank you all for making it possible for us to rejoin with God in what He is doing here in Cambodia. For the most part, Cambodia appears to have been spared the worst of this pandemic and the work of the church here continues, though often in unexpected ways. Soon we will share with you the latest news from the ministries of



Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.

the Garden of Life and the Phnom Penh Bible School. Please continue to pray that more people here will hear and experience the ***good news of great joy*** and respond in faith to God's gift to all people of the Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

The Wilsons