Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, our wonderful Saviour for the world. We thank you for your prayers and your support of our ministry at Phnom Penh Bible School. We are a non-denominational Bible school with the goal of equipping and training National Christian Leaders to know God through His Word and to reach Cambodians for Christ in our country and beyond. Please allow me to share with you a little bit of what I have learnt about the church in Cambodia in the past and how you can help our students to do their ministry after they finish studying at PPBS. (cont. to p.4)

Congratulations to 17th Graduating Class

Bachelor Degree of Christian Ministry
Kol Savet
Ki Sokion
Chhien Chamroeun
Nass Sowannia
Pok Rithy
Leap Yuleang
South Rady
Siem Vannak
Smoung Lay
Sok Kimsoeun
Hout Po Thong
Ouk Sreynaith

Associate Degree of Christian Ministry
Evanson Ouk Vanny

Foundation of Christian Ministry
Nut Sitha
Yem Sochea
Am Sinang

Chief Editors: Timothy Ith - Khmer Language, Rose Ellen Blosser - English
Newsletter Team Members: Tep Somnang (Advisor & Editor) Thong Leang (Designer & Translator), Chay Hak (Assistant & Photographer)
Teaching at PPBS has helped me to understand the heart of Jesus more. For example, when students cannot understand what is being taught, even after studying for a very long time, I can see why Jesus said: “You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? Do you still not understand? Don’t you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? Or seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered?” (Matthew 16:8-10)

When students allow themselves to live according to their own will, instead of walking in faith, I can see Jesus and His conversation with the lame man and want them to apply that truth to their life.

“Do you want to get well......See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” (John 5:6, 14)

But when students understand the truth, I say this was not from me, but from Jesus, because He said to Simon when He asked Him, “Whom do men say I am?”

“Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my father in heaven” (Matthew 16:17)

And when students realise their own weakness but want to serve God still, I remember the words of Jesus when he met with Peter, after the resurrection, and even though Peter had denied Him before He died, Jesus still told Peter: “Feed my sheep” (John 21:17b)

I hope that we can understand God’s will more through our service. May God bless you all.

(Anna Lo, Phnom Penh Bible School Faculty)
From the time I was a child, until a youth, I had the hope, together with a dream, that by God’s will there would be a day I would become a good teacher at a Bible School. My dream came true in 2004, when after I graduated from Phnom Penh Bible School, God called me to teach at PPBS. As a teacher I have experienced frustration but joy, too. However, today I want to share my joy rather than my frustration. My greatest joy has been to see my improvement in three areas:

#1 The attitude of meditating on God’s Word: I am often reminded of Psalm chapter one about the wise man, “...his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.” (Psalm 1:2). Lesson preparation helps me to grow as I meditate on the Word of God seeking the meaning of the Scripture.

#2 My gift: God has given me the gift of teaching and I have tried to develop it to serve Him as the good and faithful servant in the parable of the talents. Jesus told the story of the master who entrusted his property to his three servants, giving one five talents, to another two talents and another three talents. Upon seeing how each had used his talent, the master said to the one who earned five more and to the one who had earned two more, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things....” (Matthew 25:21, 23)

#3 Communication:
Good teaching depends on good communication with students. This fact encourages me to spend some time to relate to students to understand their needs, both spiritual and physical, to be effective in teaching and communicating to them. I understand how the first church in the book of Acts communicated with each other. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer...they sold their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts (Acts 2:42-46).

In conclusion, I am grateful to God and give Him all honor and glory in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.
EQUIPPED TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

(Cont. fr. page 1)...Previously, most churches in Cambodia did not support any Bible Schools in the country by sending students to Bible School. Therefore, they did not have qualified leaders in the church but just continued to run the church in the old traditional way. There seemed to be no desire to be supportive or partner with the Bible Schools to produce educated leadership. Instead they tended to live isolated from each other.

However, there were some that sent their students to Bible Schools. At that time, those students had a heart for ministry; were eager to work in the mission field; and had an evangelistic zeal. Those students wanted to be prepared and equipped. So three or four years later the students graduated from the Bible Schools they attended. But after awhile, they lost their commitment because they felt they were unprepared for the task which they had hoped to accomplish. With this reflection in mind, I ask myself, “How can we help our students to fully commit themselves and have a heart to continue doing God’s work?”

After studying the needs of the church in Cambodia, we at PPBS realize that we must make sure that our students understand exactly how to use what they have learnt while in the Bible school. We don’t want them to leave the church, but to try to grow the church. As I thought on this the word of God came to me from Matt. 9:17. “Neither do men pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved”. Has the church been trying to put “new wine”—a new generation of Biblically educated young people—into “old wineskins”—old methods of doing and preaching and serving? Perhaps we at PPBS must attempt to do three things better for our students.

Develop their Directions:
If we want to change our country we have to change the minds of people and help them develop themselves. If we believe that improvement requires change and that successful leadership in ministry requires strategic planning and hope for the future of the church, then rather than doing things the same old way, we must have the courage to develop new strategies as we train men and women for ministry.

Change or More fully Develop our Subjects:
Our curriculum must be based on what is needed for a graduate to enter or to continue in his ministry in his context and age. Recently, we revised some of our subjects. It is necessary to make sure that our students understand that not only an academic knowledge of the Bible is successful, but that the development of personal spiritual maturity, ministry experience, character formation, servant leadership and spiritual modeling are necessary preparations as well. Our training objectives have always been to teach the Bible as the revealed Word of God, to model and emphasize Christ-like character in God’s workers, and for members of the school community to work together to build up each other’s faith, in community. Therefore, our subjects are all chosen, planned and taught toward that goal, but they also need to be continually evaluated concerning the needs of a growing Church in a changing society and to develop a more educated and spiritually mature people.

Teach and Expect a Missiological Emphasis:
Jesus taught His disciples to be fishers of men and gave them the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) as their plan to act. The real aim of Christian Mission is to transform the lives of people so that they live God’s way. Therefore we need to help our students to emphasize making God’s presence real in their lives; to make correct choices; and be able to relevantly present Christ alone, as their basis for salvation and transformation in their mission fields. It is necessary to understanding their people and use methods that motivate them to change. We at PPBS must continually help our students to be effective in their mission.

These are three points we must impress upon our students. Most people never plan to fail, but they fail to plan. You cannot be a success by hoping and wishing to be different. It takes a plan—first discovering God’s plan-- then hard work, study and applying God’s Word daily. PPBS is the place where you can send your students to make a difference in your ministry and the life of your Church. Plan to send more of your people to us. And to those who have sent us students, please plan to allow your graduates to put into practice what they have learned at the Bible School. Please test them, but give them your support in words of encouragement, finances, and counsel them when needed.

In our Lord Jesus Christ.
Timothy Ith,
I have spent a long time studying God’s Word but the years seem to be very short. I can say that it is God’s wonderful grace in my life that has allowed me to study here and to serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

What I receive today is the fruit of the courage and vision of Mr. Daniel Lam, the Founder of Phnom Penh Bible School. I expect and intend to bear more fruit for Our Lord wherever He sends me. My study is a very small step in the process of my serving ministry for God. I know this is my finish line of studying here but it is the beginning of my spiritual warfare to finish running race which God has put before me in serving Him in Cambodia. I will need to work very hard along the step.

I keep praying that my spiritual practice can stand firm against my spiritual enemy until I finish the work which God has given me to do. I just need to finish running my race well. I will not take pride in past achievements but I will look toward what is ahead of me (Philippians 3:13). I am learning to live by intentionally looking forward to build a church and sow seeds in the provinces of Kompong Speu; Koh Kong; Preah Sihanuk; and Kompot province.

Those are places of battle at the beginning of my ministry. I expect to do more battles than in just those places but I will start small. Jesus is the ONE who gives me strength (Joshua 1:9). He will fight my spiritual battles with me wherever I go.

It is really a great blessing that God answered my prayer to study at Phnom Penh Bible School for 4 years. The school has provided the knowledge of God’s Word, Christian living, Counseling and Peacemaking, which are really important to help other people know how to solve their problems. Four years of study at Phnom Penh Bible School is not an easy thing to cope with and Satan is not happy with me getting to know God. Obviously many problems continued to happen during these years but God has always taught and helped me to be patient, faithful and look to Him to solve them. Finally, I have come to the end of my studies, here, successfully. It is His blessings that have provided and supported and given me strength and encouragement. I have also received great encouragement from my church, family and friends. My God is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. I have abundant joy and hope in Him. To answer His calling, I commit myself to serve Him from now onward. I have an important word to share: The closer you draw to Him, the more you get to know His will. He is your shepherd who knows your heart.

May God bless you !!!
Five years ago, God called me to study here. I had joy in studying but I also faced many struggles. However, I have received a lot of encouragement and have gained knowledge and how to relate well to other students during these years. The school has a very good curriculum and provides fair examinations and scores.

Living in the school dormitory is one of the biggest challenges because the students come from different places to live as one community. However, living in the school is great because we have more time to study and do homework. The school provides good living spaces, teaches good habits, provides healthy food and a clean environment for our living and studying. I have gained a lot of biblical knowledge which is absolutely necessary for serving my Lord in the future.

I am grateful to God who has given me a special privilege to successfully finish five years of study at Phnom Penh Bible School. Although studies here are very difficult I have been motivated by God’s grace to keep going forward.

I have not only received a knowledge of the Bible, but have also improved my abilities to serve the Lord in the future and have been helped to develop my character. I am so delighted because the teachers at PPBS have loved me, strengthened, and taught me clearly the Word of God. Certain courses have taught me to know myself and how to relate to others. All students come from different villages and provinces but we have learnt to adjust and build up good relationship with one another quite well because of what we learn here.

I believe that God prepared an excellent plan for my life when He sent me to study here so that I can work according to His will. I will share my experiences and learning here, to church people and to bring other people to Christ.

May God bless Phnom Penh Bible School.

I am from a small house church in Preah Vihear province. I have spent five years studying at Phnom Penh Bible School and I thank God for giving me this privilege of sharing my testimony with you. I do not have a father or any siblings, but only my mother who is quite old now and very poor as she is a farmer. During these five years which I have spent studying at Phnom Penh Bible School, God has taught me and changed my life in many areas. He has strengthened my faith, given me Biblical knowledge, and changed my attitude. He has changed me. He has taught me to love, to be faithful and to trust Him. I know that all I have comes from His grace and love. I believe He has His great plans for my life to serve Him to bring people into His Kingdom. I am going back to my home church in Preah Vihear Province to serve as a pastor, a teacher and an evangelist after my graduation.
My name is Nass Sowannia, one of the PPBS graduates this year. I am so delighted in Christ’s wonderful grace. Although I finished my study at PPBS successfully, but this is only the beginning of my ministry for God our Lord Jesus Christ. To serve the Lord is not an easy task. School is place to learn theories to be trained and equipped, yet I will face many obstacles in my real service for the Lord. However, I have already prepared my heart to fulfill the service for God in the church, to take my stand against flesh and the power of darkness. Therefore I need to put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, I may be able to stand. I want to stand firm, with the belt of truth buckled around my waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with my feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace to take up the shield of faith with which I can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one, take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. I must pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayer and requests. I also must be alert and always keep on praying in service (Ephesians 6:11-18). I just want to gain Jesus Christ and consider anything a loss because Christ is my hope and I trust that He has prepared an everlasting reward for me in heaven which is so much better than everything on earth. I have already offered my life to Him before I came to Phnom Penh Bible School for I intend to bring people to Christ.

I am grateful to our mighty Lord Jesus Christ who has given me the very special privilege to serve Him in His church, so I will serve Him with a humble and faithful heart and let Him alone lead in all circumstances in my life.

Announcement from Extension Education Program

Extension Education Program will hold three courses during School Break and Water Festival in Phnom Penh and Battambang:

1. Battambang:
   - 27-29/7/2011
     Subject: 1,2,3 John
     Teacher: Eap Srey
   - 7-9/9/2011
     Subject: Hebrews
     Teacher: Thong Leang

2. Summer Course at Phnom Penh Bible School
   - 8-19/8/2011
     Subject: Acts, 1Corinthians, Hebrews
     Teachers: Eap Srey, Chay Hak, Thong Leang

3. Water Festival course:
   - 9-11/11/2011
     Subject: Genesis
     Teachers: Eap Srey

Please contact Eap Srey for further information Tel: 023 880771/012 939 504 Email: extedu@ppbs.edu.kh
“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! ”

_Psalm 133:1_

The Alumni Committee of Phnom Penh Bible School celebrated the 16th Phnom Penh Bible School Alumni Birthday at Kirirom National Park in May 13, 2011.

This was the first celebration in these 16 years. 65 PPBS alumni from all batches 1-16 attended this celebration. “The Calling” was the theme of the speech given by Mr. So Nak in this program. Mr. Pheng Chandara and Mr. Khon Pisith (batch 5) and Mr. Chan Sarun (batch 3) also shared their experiences of serving with us, which were words of encouragement to all of us.

All our alumni agreed to celebrate the Phnom Penh Bible School Alumni Birthday every year on May 13th. The Alumni asked to have fellowship as a family, and also requests Phnom Penh Bible School to offer them different kinds of skills training.

It was decided to have Phnom Penh Bible School Alumni Birthday fellowship in a family setting and also offer a skills training of some kind, May 13, 2012.

Thus Phnom Penh Bible School would like to announce to all the alumni to take note and join our celebration on that date. Meanwhile, Phnom Penh Bible School would like to announce to all the alumni that the Alumni Committee is preparing to have an election to choose the next Head and Committee of the Alumni of 2011-2015. Please contact the Alumni representative for each batch.

We are grateful to God who has led and provided this wonderful celebration, and he also protected us in our journey in coming and going. We thank all our alumni who joined our celebration. To God be the glory.

_Phnom Penh Bible School Alumni Committee_
On behalf of the 17th Graduating Class I would like to give our respect and gratitude to the Chairman of Phnom Penh Bible School Board, School Board Members, Principal, Vice Principal, Head of Students, Administrator, Faculty, Teachers, Staff, Missionaries, Pastors, Government Officers, as well as national and international guests who are present at this graduation ceremony. It is a great honor and privilege for me to stand before all of you to share my feeling and commitment on behalf of our graduates.

First, we give thanks to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who has always given us strength, wisdom and all the provisions we have needed. To be a student at Phnom Penh Bible School is a high privilege from God. It is a very special calling from Him according to His great pleasure and His predestined desire for us to be like Him.

Studying the Word of God is not an easy task and to be a student at Phnom Penh Bible School is not easy either. One needs to pass a difficult entrance exam and interview to become a student. Life in Phnom Penh Bible School is a highly responsible life; a difficult life; yet a joyful life. We have learnt God’s Word, developed our character and learned Biblical leadership principles. We have also learned very important skills in pastoral ministry focusing on church leadership and preaching. Time we spent studying pastoral ministry is not wasted because of the valuable skills we have been taught in pastoral care.

National and international teachers and lecturers, who have a high knowledge of Bible and Theology, as well as Church Ministry, have spent great amounts of their time to teach us with great love and concern. Their teaching has been full of care and perseverance so that we can understand God’s Word, love and serve Him more, and teach His Word to others.

Living in community in the School Dormitory is also the best experience to teach us to know, adapt, be patient and love each other, for we come from different places with different family and church backgrounds. When we first came to live here we were selfish in many ways. But in school we have been learning under God’s guidance to respect and love the body of Christ, to think of and help others as more important than ourselves.

In addition to the study and life in the school each one of us is also required to serve and practice what we learnt from PPBS in our home churches or any church which we choose to serve, every weekend. There are a number of us who serve at provinces which are very far from Phnom Penh Bible School. Although we are tired physically, still we have joy in our hearts for we know we are fulfilling God’s call to build His church together with other Christian leaders and pastors. We will bring Cambodian people to Christ.

We, the graduates, would like to make our commitment before God, our School Board Members, Principal, Faculty, Lecturers, teachers, families, friends and honorable guests who are present in this graduation ceremony that we will work hard to share our knowledge and experiences we have received from Phnom Penh Bible School to serve the church, community, Christian organizations and other organizations or wherever God sends us to serve. We will not turn back or hesitate in serving Him no matter how difficult it is in (cont. to page 10)
God’s service, because we know that God is with us and His Holy Spirit strengthens our faith. We also know that we have teachers, families and friends to continue to encourage us.

We would like to thank and give respect to all the leaders in Phnom Penh Bible School who have taught and supported all of us with great love, responsibility, patience and care. May God bless our school leaders, teachers and staff to continue to serve God in this school in equipping God’s servants for His ministry in Cambodia. We also would like to say thank you to our churches, pastors, missionaries, families and friends who have been supporting us financially and spiritually during these years of study at Phnom Penh Bible School. And we also thank our government officers at all levels who protect us and allow Phnom Penh Bible School to function, teaching and equipping students from the beginning up to now. May the Lord Jesus Christ bless them all.

Finally, we give glory, praise and thanks to God the Most High, through our Lord Jesus, who has called us and given us the privilege to study and gain great knowledge and experience from the beginning of our studies to the end of them here at the Bible School.

May His Name be glorified and lifted up among the Khmer people so that Cambodians may receive salvation.

Thank you
ANNOUNCEMENT FROM REGISTRAR OFFICE

Phnom Penh Bible School (PPBS) is a four year Bible School that offers a one year Foundation in Christian Ministry Course; a two year Associate Degree and a four year Bachelor of Christian Ministries Degree. The School is located in Phnom Penh Thmey. The Phnom Penh Bible School is presently recruiting full-time teachers, foreign and local Khmer, for the 2011-12 School year beginning in mid-September. Missionaries are most welcome. Interested candidates are requested to please send their CV (Resume) to Mr. Tep Samnang, Academic Dean at the following email address: academicdean@ppbs.edu.kh or call PPBS @ 012 939 504.

Teachers should have at least a Bachelor Degree in Bible, Theology or Christian Education, with a Masters level degree or in the process of achieving a Masters level degree. We are also seeking at least two full-time ESL teachers that have English as their mother-tongue.

Foreign teachers who are not exceptionally fluent in Khmer, teach through translation until they are fluently able. It should also be noted that it is the policy of PPBS that foreign teachers are volunteers, being responsible for their own financial support. Local Cambodians, if unable to support themselves, will be paid according to their qualifications and may possibly become eligible for further academic development through the Academic Development Program of PPBS. All teachers must agree with and be willing to sign the PPBS Doctrinal Statement of Faith. Please find it on the School website: www.ppbs.edu.kh along with other information concerning the School. Please address any other inquiries to the Academic Dean at the email address above or to Phnom Penh Bible School, P.O. Box 1154, Phnom Penh.