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Cambodian Methodist Bible School

"Equip God's people for His Mission" Ephesians 4:12

Newsletter

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*The Lord is Looking for One Person	1 - 2	 <p>Rev. Song Jin Sup</p> <p>Recently, we have been earnestly discussing the future of CMBS as the number of applicants is getting smaller year by year not only in our school but also in most other Bible seminaries. We had only 5 applicants for the academic year 2018/2019, out of whom only 2 or 3 passed the entrance exams and interview. As such, what will happen in the new academic year this October? Some of us worry very much that there might be no applicants at all.</p> <p>If we compare the present time to the period of one or two decades ago, we can see that things have completely changed. Back then, there were applicants queuing up to enrol in our school, and the faculty had to spend between two and three days to interview them. Nowadays, however, things are different, causing concern and worry to those who place great importance on numbers, who think that 'more is better'. They forget that man's thoughts and strategy are different from God's (Isaiah 55:8-9). People think and worry about quantity, quality and history, all of which they consider most important.</p> <p>How about God? What is God's will? Does God have the same views and strategy as man? I don't think so. Actually, God has very different ideas from man. One critical point is that God does not care about quantity at all. For instance, when God</p> <p>called Gideon to lead Israel to fight against the Midianites, 32,000 Israelite soldiers decided to follow Gideon. In Judges 7:2, God told Gideon: 'Israel has too many soldiers.' At this point, one may think that God's calculation was wrong because Israel had to fight against 135,000 Midianites. If that was so, surely Gideon had to gather more soldiers. In the end, God told Gideon to keep only 300 soldiers, and God enabled Gideon to defeat the Midianites easily.</p> <p>In another instance, God chose Moses for a great mission when he was 80 years old, not 40, and at a time when he was feeling depressed, in the desert, not in the royal palace. What does that mean? If God is concerned about the number of people, their age and background, I think CMBS has little hope for the future. But God has different views from men. Therefore, we have to ask and ascertain what God's will is with regards to the selection of servants for the future. Several Bible verses give us the answers to the question, and I believe that God is right now choosing his servants accordingly:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God chooses those whose hearts are fully committed to Him. (2 Chronicles 16:9) 2. God seeks true worshippers who worship in spirit and in truth. (John 4:23) 3. God looks for one person who deals honestly and seeks the truth. (Jeremiah 5:1) <p>These verses show us very clearly what God's will is. As such, CMB will focus on these three points to train the people whom God is seeking</p>
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Editorial Team

Editor and Designer:

Mr. Saly Nareth

Advisor and Publisher:

Rev. Prak Vuthy

Member:

Ms. Suzanna Lee

Announcement

The Cambodian Methodist Bible School would like to announce to all local churches that the selection of students into the Diploma and BD courses for the 19th cohort will be based on various criteria such as candidates having attained the minimum age of 18 (which was implemented wef 1 October 1996). For those who are interested, they can contact our office directly or through their pastors. Notice: Registration will be open from May 2019.

For more information, please contact us at (+855) 23210031 / 92393314 or in person during normal office hours.

Email address: methodistbibleschool.cmbs@gmail.com, vuthysoklim@yahoo.com

Address: Building No. 124, St. 17BT, Group. 6, Phum Sansamkosal 1, Sangkat Boeng Tumpun, Khan Meanchey, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Telephone: (+855) 23 210 031, 92 393 314 **E.mail:** methodistbibleschool@gmail.com, vuthysoklim@yahoo.com

Facebook: www.Facebook.com/CmbsCambodian

Bachelor of Divinity Students

and will place in the school for training as true leaders and servants. So, I think we should not feel discouraged or pessimistic with the situation we are facing. Our responsibility is to train properly the people whom God entrusts to us, according to God's standard. Then God will do many wonderful things through just one person or more. Church history over the last 2,000 years is a testimony of God calling the right people who served him vibrantly.

I hope and pray that CMBS will be like a plant nursery that trains and nurtures servants who have many good qualities and whom God is looking for. Then God will spur each of them to go and accomplish His mission through His almighty power both in this country and all over the world. A great awakening and spiritual revival movement will happen and God's Kingdom will be expanded and strengthened in Cambodia as well as in the whole world through them. Amen.

May God bless all **By Rev Song Jin Sup, Founder of CMBS**

Bachelor of Divinity Students

In his book, "Developing the Leaders Around You" John C Maxwell states that the life-long commitment of a leader is to 'continually develop oneself in response to God's calling.' In Romans 2:21, the question is asked: 'You, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal?' Therefore, as God's servants, we must develop ourselves continually; otherwise we cannot lead others. The pictures below show some activities of some members of our alumni who have returned to further their studies at the Bachelor of Divinity level in order to increase their understanding of God's Word to respond to God's calling and to help their own church members to grow.



Closing Ceremony Semester One 2019

For these reasons, CMBS can be described as a plant nursery that encourages and spurs the development of our students, helping them to achieve their full potential in the Lord.

By: CMBS

Closing Ceremony Semester One 2019



At the end of Semester One, on 25 February, all the students met with the school's Management Team to assess the progress in their studies, conduct, leadership skills and weekend ministry. It was also a joyous occasion for the students and faculty members as they prepared a thanksgiving-cum-closing ceremony.

At the ceremony, we spent some time thanking God for blessing all the students, lecturers and staff members with wisdom, with good health and with the sense of unity as we live together, exhorting one another to grow in God's love. We also prayed for God's continual blessings on the students in their study of His Word. As Psalm 100:4 says: 'Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.'

By: CMBS

Certificate of Ministry

The Certificate of Ministry is another program of CMBS. The school started this program in 2015, holding it first in the province of Svayrieng and then later in Banteay Meanchey. The objectives of this program are:

One: To train more disciples from the various churches to share the gospel and serve God more effectively.

Two: To empower disciples to participate in the Great Commission

Three: To encourage believers in the churches to serve effectively through the knowledge gained in this program.

Four: To enable all the students to understand God's will and purpose, and to encourage them to venture further into new ministries in the future.

The value of studying in this program is that, if the students think and do according to the Word of God, they will become living testimonies of God. (To live according to God's Word is a life of holiness) This year is the second and final year for the 23 students on this program. Some of the students are evangelists, some are youths with a strong faith, and some are businessmen while others are members of the LCEC. All of them have taken time to study the Bible in order to increase their faith, to make disciples and to grow in their understanding of God's Word so that they can assist their respective pastors in building up the members of their respective churches.



Other Activities in CMBS



Other Activities in CMBS



The school has a wide range of activities and programs that will enable it to fulfil its God-appointed mission. As the school does not only want to increase the students' knowledge of God's Word, it therefore also offers other courses and programs such as Music, Listening Skills, Conflict Resolution, Computer Skills, English Language, Peace Bridge, Community Development, Outreach to Children, Christian Ethics, etc.

The school also provides training in life skills that pertain to both the spiritual as well as the recreational domains such as skills in teamwork, leadership skills, prayer and fasting, and mutual encouragement through the celebration of birthdays. All these serve to encourage and spur the students to greater heights in their service to God. I believe that our students will develop their skills, to keep them up-to-date, in order to fulfil God's ministry in the future ahead.

By: CMBS

Testimony of a Third Year Student

Greetings to all my teachers, brothers and sisters in Christ, united in one faith and beloved of the Lord.

My name is Moeunda; I am a third year student of the 16th cohort of CMBS. I was born on 19 September 1993 in the village of Ong Krawsang, commune of Prey Lvia, district of Prey Kbah, province of Takeo. I am the second child among three siblings of two boys and one girl. When I was young, my dream was to become a police officer as I wanted to help maintain the security and safety of our fellow citizens. I also wanted to become a judge in order to render judgment and justice to our citizens. After I had completed my Grade 12 exams, my aim was to study Law and Political Science in the university because I thought that if I could master these two subjects, I would be able to help the people to solve many problems. However, due to my family situation, I was unable to fulfil my dream, so I decided to study Korean language and to start working at a factory.

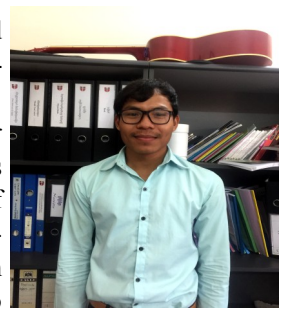
In the church which I attended, many of the worshippers could speak eloquently just like the pastor. As for me, I was a person of few words, and from a young age, I had never considered becoming a teacher or pastor. At my church, the pastor taught the Word of God every day and even conducted Bible quizzes for the region. At these quizzes, I always won a prize for being among the top three participants. One day, Pastor Piek Proh asked me: Would you like to study at Bible school in order to serve God? At that time, I was hesitant to give him an answer because I already had other plans. I wanted to go and work in Korea and Japan; never had I considered going to Bible school. Then I prayed and also asked my church members to pray for me. Thanks be to God that, one week after I had applied to the Bible school and sat for the entrance exams and interview, I received a call from the school saying that I had passed the exams and interview. Later, I received a call from the Japanese company that my application to work in Japan was successful. At that juncture, my mind was made up and I sent my apologies to the company, saying that I had decided to study at a Bible school instead. I was filled with excitement and gratitude to God. I was further encouraged by these verses from

i) Exodus 4:10 – 12: 'Moses said to the Lord, "O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." The Lord said to him, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? Now go; I will help you speak and will teach you what to say."

ii) Jeremiah 1:5 – 8 : "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations." "Ah, Sovereign Lord," I said, "I do not know how to speak; I am only a child." But the Lord said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a child.' You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you."

Today, I would like to give all of you a word of encouragement that when God calls us, he will convict our heart to make the right decision to serve him.

By Moeun Da, Third Year Student



The School's Annual Outing



Ecclesiastes 3:1 – 5 state that *'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain...'*



Thanks be to our God, the God of CMBS; we do not spend time only on spiritual training, always thinking of study and work, but we also make time for the building of good relationships

between students, lecturers and staff so that we may all enjoy doing God's work together as a team. As such, all of us together went on a trip to Kampot Province and the town of Kep at the end of Semester One. The outing was an occasion of great joy as we were able to take time to relax after a semester of hard work and study. Not only that, we also took time to worship together, to play games together and to forge close relationships with one another through love as brothers and sisters and co-workers in Christ.

All this reflects our unity as members of the body of Christ, our Saviour, just like how John 13:34 – 35 enjoined us: 'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.'

By CMBS



Do Christians Celebrate the Khmer New Year? Testimony of the Calling of God



In the beginning, Cambodia was a vast country, a great civilisation that was rich in culture, and whose people lived in peace and unity, having unique customs and traditions. Our forefathers had left behind a glorious cultural legacy for us, the present generation. However, they did not know Christ, unlike us who know the Lord, who have repented and received him into our lives and our families. Do we then continue to keep the glorious culture of our forefathers or do we discard it?

As Khmer people, we should keep certain traditions such as the Khmer New Year since being Christians does not imply that we should discard our culture or all our customs and traditions. Instead, we should discard only those things that are in conflict with our faith. We ought to let our children play and remember our traditional games and dances, as well as to guide them in honouring their parents and village elders as instructed in Exodus 20:12: 'Honour your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.'

However, we cannot worship angels, because, as revealed in Revelation 19:10, an angel told John not to worship him for 'I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers.....Worship God!' For this reason, we can celebrate the Khmer New Year but, in line with our beliefs, we do not worship angels; we only worship the true God who created the heaven and the earth.

By CMBS

I am Them Chhuy a first year student at the CMBS. God first called me to study at the Bible school in 2016.

The reason why I enrolled in CMBS is so that I could be trained to be a servant of God in his mission and to be a spiritual leader. God called me during the time when I was attending a seminar on the topic 'Praying for a Word of Prophecy'. At the seminar, God spoke to me through a lady missionary pastor. Laying her hands on me, she prayed for me and then told me: 'God has told me to tell you that he will make you a great leader. I saw you in a vision, standing on a large stage, proclaiming the Word of God and leading many souls to receive the Lord.'

After the seminar, I continued to ask: Has God really called me to serve him? Thank God that in 2017, when I prayed again, God again showed me very clearly that I would do something for him and he also gave me two signs to show me exactly what I was to do.

The first sign is that God made me dream that I was wandering around and God showed me the way. Then God instructed me to help a couple who were digging a well in the middle of the road. I then helped them to draw three buckets of water from the well, water that was as clear as crystal glass. One week later, my pastor asked me to preach on his behalf, but I declined, saying that I could not preach. My pastor replied that 'God would empower you to do it; don't fear.' Thank God that I was indeed able to do it.

The second sign is that God gave me a 'picture' which showed me preaching in front of a multitude of people so numerous that I could not count them. I was preaching in the power and leadership of the Holy Spirit. I thought that this must be God calling me to serve him, so I decided to enrol in the Bible school to be trained to become God's servant. Has God called you to serve him too?

By Them Chhuy, Year One Student



Spiritual Journey in the Christian's Life and Ministry based on John Wesley's Teachings

As Christians and leaders, we have put our faith in God, some for one year, others for 10 to 20 years. Some of us have studied at a seminary, some have read many books while others have listened to numerous preachers and attended all kinds of training workshops and seminars. We have acquired much learning that can help us grow in our faith and in our ministry.



We may become leaders and commit ourselves to faithful service, but what about our own personal life? Do we know what the lifestyle of a true Christian and leader is like? Do we do what is necessary to grow our spiritual life daily? Do we encounter obstacles in our faith? Do we spend time to pray and have our quiet time every day that we may grow in the Lord? All these are questions that we need to ask in order to grow as Christians. Sometimes, we teach and lead others but we may not know how to lead ourselves, right?

No matter who we are, we need to grow and sink our roots deep in the Word of God. We must allow God's Word to refine our character and to help us build good relationships with other people. Please remember that it is not our faith that is a problem; rather, the problem is when the heart is not deeply rooted in the faith and in the ministry. An African pastor once compared the Christian life to a field where beautiful fresh flowers grow but these flowers do not have deep roots. When warm winds blow across the field, the flowers dry up and wither because their roots are not deep enough to tap moisture from the ground. The Bible gives us a more positive picture of the Christian life in Psalm 1: ***'Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked.....his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.'***

When a Christian has deep roots, he will bear fruit for God.

If we look at the oil palm trees in Cambodia, which are trees that have deep roots, we discover that, whether

they grow near water or not, at times when wind and storm beat against them, their roots act like strong anchors that hold the trees firmly in the ground. Similarly, the life of a Christian and a leader must be deeply rooted in God's Word so that they will be able to withstand adversity, suffering and any kind of attack. Therefore, we need strong roots that grow deeply so that we can bear fruit. St Paul exhorts us in Colossians 2:6-7 thus: 'So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.'

Let me ask you this question: What happens when God dwells in you? It is a difficult question to answer, right? This is because it is the beginning of a long-term growth and a journey of discovery in our life. God has called us to continue in this journey of growth one step at a time.

Today, do you wish to focus on a life of spiritual growth? God wants us to experience the love and grace that he grants us every day so that we can grow deeply through our relationship of love with him; only then will we be able to proclaim the full joy of his love in our life. God first loved me; now I wish to repay his love by sharing about the privilege of being his child who has received his marvellous grace and salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. There are three factors that can help us grow deep roots:

1. The testimony of the Bible which is the Word of God.
2. The life testimony of John Wesley, the father of the Methodist Church.
3. The experience of our own spiritual journey.

John Wesley was a man who had an extraordinary spiritual journey; he said:

We cannot be Christians just by being members of a congregation. We cannot be leaders simply by possessing some knowledge of God's Word.

(To be continued.....)

By Rev Prak Vuthy

