Filling the Gap

MARCH 2014

I am so excited to be able to share an email with you that I received from our Cambodian radio producer just the other day. Pastor Sophat Sorn lives and works in California where he produces a radio program in the Khmer language called The Voice of Love. Through AWR, his programs reach across all of Cambodia. There are only 6000 or so Seventh-day Adventists in all of the nation’s predominantly Buddhist population of 15 million people – and just 6 churches!

Currently short wave (SW) radio is the only tool available to speak to the hearts of the people in that country. We are not permitted to broadcast via local FM radio but I’m happy to tell you that AWR’s broadcast fills that gap effectively!

It recently worked out for Pastor Sorn to travel to Cambodia, between times of political unrest. After a safe arrival and some wonderful meetings, they barely made it out of the country! In his own words,

“About 2 hours after our departure from Phnom Penh International Airport, roads leading to the airport were closed due to rising security tension and clashes between demonstrators and military police.”

Praise God he made it home! Here is his brief but thrilling report:
“At around 7 p.m. we finally arrived in Svay Rieng Seventh-day Adventist Church, where Pastor Phally and some of his members were waiting for us. This group, and Pastor Phally, were converted from Sunday-keeping and have kept the Sabbath over a year because of our SW radio program, The Voice of Love. We had special prayer for them the next morning – the opening of our First Bible Conference.

“The conference hall belongs to the provincial Government and was the largest meeting hall in the province. It is normally busy but it was available for our conference. “The first day ended with a positive and cooperative atmosphere. 295 participants filled the 250 capacity hall. Attendees longed to hear more on the second day. Some people traveled over fifty km by bicycle from areas close to the Vietnam border.”

Remember, these people were not Seventh-day Adventists; most were pastors and leaders of other denominations.

“On the final day,” Pastor Sorn said, “I could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit moving their hearts and minds. I knew it was time to make an appeal. ‘Who want to follow Jesus’ footsteps all the way, please show your hands?’ All hands were up with joy! ‘Who wants to follow Jesus Christ including the keeping of the Sabbath day holy, please show your hands?’ Again, all hands were up. God be praised! ‘And who wants to give your life to Jesus unconditionally, please come up to the stage.’”

What followed touched Pastor Sorn’s heart deeply.

“With joy and reverence,” he shared, “Twenty two Sunday-keeping pastors humbly came to the stage and knelt down for special prayer. After the prayer, thirty more pastors and leaders rushed forward requesting baptism and desiring to study Adventist doctrines. They said they could not hear the appeal from the back of the room because the PA system was not working properly – or they would have come forward sooner!”
On that Sabbath, ten people were baptized, two more joined by profession of faith. Thirty others are preparing for baptism!

There is much more that the Holy Spirit is doing in Cambodia – and we’d love to share the details with you but we can’t because it would jeopardize the work. Please keep them in your prayers.

I looked at the Internet and viewing statistics for Cambodia, and came across this sad statistic: Today, 191 people died in that small nation. I can’t help but think, “Did they know Jesus? Were they able to listen to The Voice of Love and discover that God loves them, before they died?”

Of course, I can’t answer that question, but I do know that AWR cannot give up! We must keep broadcasting; we must keep sharing the good news before it is forever too late.

Many people are responding, and you make it possible! Your generous gifts – small or large – keep us on the air.

I thank you and ask you to please continue supporting this important work as the Lord has blessed you. Every person is precious and we must reach them while there is still time!

In His Service,

Dowell Chow

AWR President