

Pray for Laborers

by Mrs. Debbie Board, Cambodia

At the time of this writing the Board family was on deputation as missionaries to Cambodia. They are now in Cambodia. You might pray that the Lord would bless their ministry, give them wisdom as they present the gospel, help them as they learn the language, and give the Cambodians open hearts to God's truth. - M.B.

“Where in Africa is Cambodia?” This is a commonly asked question we hear as we travel from church to church! Cambodia is actually a country in Southeast Asia, located between Thailand and Vietnam. The population is over 13 million, and the size of the country can be compared to the state of Missouri. They have their own language which is called Khmer. It has the world’s longest alphabet, containing 74 letters. Imagine trying to make it through kindergarten over there!

Most Cambodians are Buddhist. In fact, a common saying of theirs is, “To be Cambodian is to be Buddhist.” The type of Buddhism they practice is a mixture of Buddhism, Hinduism, and spiritism. To put it simply, they worship almost everything. They are very superstitious people and spend much time and energy trying to appease the evil spirits that oppress them. The very sad part of their religion is that they view life as suffering, and so their ultimate goal is to eventually cease to exist, so as to end their suffering. They believe that they are reincarnated over and over until they’ve finally lived a good

“The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into his harvest.” Matthew 9:37-38



enough life to enter “nirvana,” a state of nothingness. Can you imagine anything more hopeless than striving to be annihilated?

Cambodia has been open to missionaries since 1996, so it is a relatively new mission field. However, Cambodian refugees who were fleeing the communist Khmer Rouge soldiers actually started arriving here in the United States in 1979. This is how my husband and I were first introduced to the Cambodian people.

When we were teenagers, our pastor had a burden to reach the inner-city of Des Moines, Iowa. He wanted to start bus routes to bring children in



on Sunday afternoons for Sunday school. My husband, as a 16 year old teen (who was not my husband yet!), was recruited to go door to door, inviting children. As God would have it, the very first door he knocked on was that of a Cambodian refugee family. God used that first contact to grab hold of my husband’s heart. Within a month he had 100 Cambodian children and teens riding

his bus to Sunday school. He would spend hours in their homes on Saturdays playing with the children, learning the Cambodian language, and eating their food. God used these teenage years in the bus ministry to guide the direction of our lives.

As a young married couple, God led us to move to Long Beach, California, where there are 80,000 Cambodians. We were part of a church planting team there for 15 years, reaching Cambodians as well as other nationalities around us for the Lord. It has been exciting to see God working in our lives all of these years. Now God has led us to be missionaries overseas to the Cambodian people.

Cambodia is in great need of missionaries. Up until 1996, the people there had been without the gospel for decades. Now there are many religious groups there such as Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses, and charismatic groups that are very radical and do not preach the true gospel. There are several fundamental Baptist missionaries there, but for a population of 13 million, it is not enough!

Cambodia is heavily populated with young people. Forty-five percent
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“You can’t spell ‘gospel’ without ‘go’ first.”

All These Things...

by Monica Bass (21), Armington, IL



Have you ever felt like you were in a tug of war game with life...and you were losing? Like everything and everyone was against you? You are not alone in your struggle; Jacob expressed that exact feeling in the middle of an extreme situation.

“And Jacob their father said unto them, Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away: *all these things are against me*” (Genesis 42:36—emphasis mine).

Sometimes, I too, have felt that “all these things are against me.” It’s easier, however, to see Jacob’s faulty understanding as we look at his situation in hindsight than it sometimes is to see ours when the victory has not yet come.

Let’s consider Jacob’s trouble. What were these things that were against him? The three specifics that he mentioned seem to make nice team slogans for our tug of war opponents.

1. “*Joseph is not.*” Sometimes what we think we know, we don’t really know. What Jacob *did* know was that his sons brought him Joseph’s coat soaked with blood. He


inferred the rest. What Jacob did *not* know was that Joseph was second in command in Egypt, and God was using him to eventually save his entire family from starvation. Misinterpreting even obvious facts can lead to discouragement. We feel that something is against us when in reality, that “fact” never even happened.

2. “*Simeon is not.*” Well, let’s not give up on a situation that still has hope! Simeon was in prison in Egypt. The situation *looked* hopeless, but Simeon was still alive. Again, God was using this situation for good. He was using it to work whatever repentance there was to be had in the hearts of Jacob’s sons. Without some amount of repentance, there could not have been any amount of true restoration. We, too, must be careful about declaring a hopeless end. What we think is an end is really often a whole new beginning in God’s plan.

3. “*And ye will take Benjamin away.*” Here is an example of borrowing tomorrow’s assumed trouble. To be sure, Jacob did have reason to fear sending Benjamin with

these men, but what actually happened did not have the consequences he had feared. This circumstance was used by God to reunite Jacob with Joseph and also with Simeon. We are quite wrong to feel that circumstances of the future are against us, for we can always trust the future with our Heavenly Father.

Whether we are interpreting the past, understanding the present, or concerned for the future, or all of the above, we would be better off quoting Romans 8:31 than Genesis 42:36. “If God be for us, who can be against us?” Notice the verse does not read “Who *wants* to be against us” or “who *tries* to be against us.” These happen. But no one and nothing can prevail against me when God Almighty is for me.


Can I really say “All these things are against me”? No, for God will use these very things to work a great victory. When God is allowed to work, these things are not *against* me; they are *for* me. How could I win the game of tug of war without an opposing team? And how could I win without the Lord Almighty on my side? 

Unless there is within us that which is above us, we will soon yield to that which is about us.”

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of the people are under the age of 15. Twenty-five percent are between 15 and 30 years old. Their average life expectancy is only 58 years, compared to 77 years here in the United States. We must reach this young generation of Cambodians while there is time! We don’t know how long the door will remain open.

There is a mission field right in front of you. There are people of many different nationalities surrounding us. What people group has God placed in your path whether at school, at work, or in the bus ministry? The people He gives you a burden for now could very well shape the direction of your future!

Please pray for the Cambodian people to open their hearts to the Lord. Pray for laborers to be sent to this needy mission field. And don’t forget to tell the Lord you’ll be willing to go to Cambodia yourself if He calls you there! 

The Boards are sent out by Pacific Baptist Church, Long Beach, CA. Pictured (left to right) are Jeremy (9), Mr. & Mrs. Board, Jason (4), and Joshua (11)

