



The Farmers



*on Mission in
Cambodia*



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And none can stay his hand . . .

Recently, while reading Matthew's account of Jesus' birth, I was again struck by the clear parallels with the birth narrative of Moses in Exodus 1-2. From the earliest pages of Scripture, mankind's hope rests with the woman's offspring who will restore the order and dominion which the serpent spoiled (Gen 3). This hope gradually unfolds through Abraham and his offspring, as they multiply into a nation whose size and might strike fear in the Egyptian king's heart. He therefore embarks on a ruthless infanticide guaranteed to stop the growth of the nation (and by implication, God's plans for the world) (Ex 1). Instead, the next 14 chapters, thick with irony, relate not only his utter failure, but his (unwitting) abetment of his own downfall – don't you think we're probably supposed to smirk when Moses' parents indeed place him in the Nile (this was, after all, Pharaoh's order), Pharaoh's own daughter saves him, and Pharaoh himself shares in the responsibility of nurturing the very child that would effect his demise? The lesson? God's plan for his people (and the world) will not fail: the mightiest of earth's kings (along with his gods) are powerless to stop it and may even become instruments to advance it! Fast forward 1500 years, and Abraham's offspring, against the most unlikely

odds, have continued to multiply. And this multiplication is about to culminate in another deliverer (Matt 1, especially v. 21). But Pharaoh's spiritual lineage continues in a king named Herod, whose obsession with his own dominion incites him to eliminate Rachel's offspring as potential contenders for the throne (Matt 2, especially vv. 17-18). But again, God's mission cannot fail. For not only is Herod duped by his informants (thanks to a dream from God) (Matt 2:12, 16), his hideous plan is stillborn thanks to God's preemptive warning to Joseph who flees for safety to Egypt (of all places!) (Matt 2:13-15). Thus the Lord reassures His people that

*His Kingdom cannot fail,
He rules o'er earth and heav'n.
The keys of death and hell
Are to our Jesus giv'n.*



And so Wesley concludes by exhorting us to

*Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice;
Rejoice, again I say,
Rejoice!*

May your reflection on the first coming of the Christ increase your faith in God's irresistible power to accomplish his plan of salvation for his people.

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Current events

The Lord continues to encourage our hearts through his people in the many churches we are visiting. Thank you for your support both in word and deed.



- Related to our (contingent) departure date ... please pray for God's grace **that we might remain joyful** in our present situation as we continue travelling to enlist partners.
- Please continue praying that the Cambodian government would indeed follow through with their earlier assurance to **give EMU a Memorandum of Understanding**. This Memorandum is a key prerequisite for our future residence in Stung Treng province.

Goodwill henceforth from God to man begin and never cease . . .

Jeremy



Please continue praying for us and for the Laotians of Cambodia. More specifically, please remember the following:

- We are praying earnestly that we could leave for Cambodia by the end of **May, 2011**. We are very encouraged to have **63% of our needed support** and are asking that the remainder would arrive shortly.

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