

The Farmers



*on Mission in
Cambodia*



SolidJoys@gmail.com

www.SolidJoys.org

864 • 979 • 4773

July-September, 2009

There and back again

On September 16, 10,000 miles and 3½ months after departure, we returned for the first time to our home base in northern Wisconsin. Our experiences so far in this pre-Cambodia phase of our mission have been consistently positive – we’ve yet to face any of the legendary “deputation horror stories,” and this is due largely to the health of the churches we’ve served. Nearly every week, we come away from a different church encouraged, in regard to both our own mission and the prospering of the gospel in the church we’ve just visited. The fellowship with God’s people is enriching us spiritually. Many of the churches we’ve been in are pastored by old friends from college days; and reconnecting with them and seeing the work of the gospel in and through their lives has been one of the most enjoyable benefits of our ministry thus far. We’ve also enjoyed visiting with some of my old students in almost all of our churches. Financially, the Lord is providing abundantly through the generosity of His people. He is emphatically answering your prayer for our material needs; please continue praying that the churches of Christ would be able to commit to a long-term partnership with us in our mission.

What do we do all week?

Before we started travelling, I couldn’t imagine what I would be doing Monday-Saturday of every week. Well, nature hates a vacuum, and our weeks have been

anything but boring or leisurely. For those of you who are curious, like I was – my average week is taken up with a variety of tasks. I spend a nice chunk of my time contacting pastors in order to communicate our philosophy and vision for Cambodia. This takes the form of phone calls, emails, letters, and most enjoyably, eating out. The churches are indeed excited about God’s mission in Cambodia; please pray that He would enable them to partner with us long-term in this mission. I’ve also needed to spend some time preparing for various teaching/preaching opportunities. Just last night, we finished a four-day Bible conference at Faith Baptist of Wisconsin Rapids, where I had the opportunity to speak six times on the message of the Old Testament. This is our second such conference so far, and we have at least two more in the coming months. Extended meetings like this are ideal for several reasons – they give us the opportunity to minister the gospel more effectively, one of our primary requests during our travels, and they provide maximum opportunity to build strong relationships with potential partner churches. These conferences require a lot of prep time, which I thoroughly enjoy. Next week (Oct. 5-9), I’ll be teaching a block course at Northland – this too has taken some time, but I’m very thankful for the opportunity to keep an academic iron in the fire. Then, there’s the occasional opportunity to preach in a church that has already heard our presentation of our mission (i.e.,

209 Roberts Rd.
Taylors, SC 29687



www.emuinternational.org

864 • 268 • 9267

July-September, 2009

time to come up with something new!). Last week, we were so glad to rejoin our sending church in Norway, MI. They've heard all of my silver bullets, so it was back to the drawing board for me! Our time with them was sweet; the Lord is working among them in very evident ways. Finally, I love to spend any extra time I get reading. This week, I've done a quick read of *The Indigenous Church* by Melvin Hodges, a practical guide to cross-cultural church planting; maybe I haven't read widely enough on this topic, but this seems like a must-read for anyone going into missions; my time with J.D. Crowley has prepared me for it—I feel like I'm reading J.D.'s biography!

So, that's more or less how I'm whiling away my time these days. As for Bonnie Ruth and the girls, their lives are fairly normal, whatever normal is when you're living in a trailer in a different city every week. The girls enjoy conquering a new playground and church nursery every week, as well as meeting a new batch of friends in each church. Next week, we begin school with Abigail and Isobel; they're both excited, and so are we.

Man child to be born

For those of you who haven't heard yet, Bonnie Ruth is expecting (Feb. 14), and we're stocking up on trucks, guns, and footballs to go with the hair bows, dress-up clothes, and Polly Pockets. The girls can't wait, and neither can we. Bonnie Ruth is in good health, and we're thanking the Lord for His goodness to us.

Pray for us

Thank you again for your partnership with us in the gospel. We would really appreciate your focused prayer for the following:

- Pray for the **92,000 unreached Laotians** of northeast Cambodia. Just yesterday, J.D. Crowley sent me a quick email saying that

people are coming to Christ every week in the northeast. We praise the Lord for this work among the tribal peoples, and we long to see it happening among the Laotians too.

- Pray that the Lord would enable His churches to **speed us on our way** to Cambodia.
- Pray that the Lord would make us **wise in the use of our time**, especially as a couple and as a family. Though we have plenty to do while travelling, the irregularity in schedule from day to day requires flexibility, wisdom, and grace.

Please keep in touch. We would enjoy hearing from you.

Grace and peace,

Jeremy, Bonnie Ruth, and the girls

