

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

*in the Kingdom of Cambodia*

Spring, 2021

## But the word of God is not bound

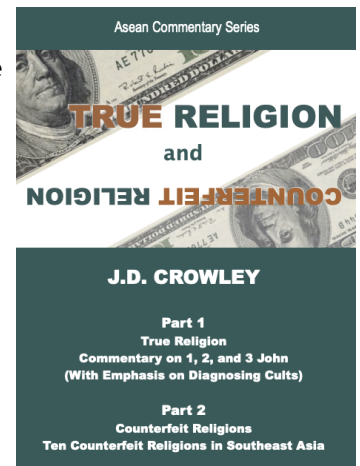
This truth from 2 Timothy 2:9 is being confirmed all over the world as Covid shuts down normal avenues for gospel ministry and God opens up new ones. We've been frustrated as our Ratanakiri Pastors School has not been allowed to meet for over a year now, but then other opportunities have



arisen. This winter JD and his local partner Pastor Rith taught two seminars in Phnom Penh to a total of around 100 pastors and church workers on how to preach the gospel from creation to Christ. The banner above says, "Making God Famous by Telling God's Story."

**Commentary on 1 John.** The Covid slowdown has also allowed JD to get close to finishing his small commentary on 1 John with an appendix on 10 cults in Southeast Asia. The Apostle John wrote his letter to a church that had just won an unlikely victory against false teachers. That's why nearly half the verses in 1 John contain diagnostic statements that begin with phrases like, "If anyone says..." and "Whoever claims..." A sister mission board is underwriting the cost of getting a copy of the book to every pastor in Cambodia. We also plan to teach from 1 John at the next pastors school, if things normalize in Cambodia.

**The first hardcover Tampuan Hymnal.** The slowdown also gave us time to typeset the new hardcover Tampuan Hymnal and arrange for its printing. Two key young church leaders from Sakrieng Village Church, Yet and Rith Kvas, are the brilliant minds and hearts behind the new Tampuan hymnal. They were presented with their own copies at the dedication on January 31 (Yet is pictured below). Besides



*The English version*





100 translated and original hymns, the hymnbook contains worship helps such as scripture portions, the Lord's Prayer, and the Apostles Creed. (A gong is pictured on the cover as it is the most important musical instrument in the tribal cultures.)

### **A church planting venture in Big Sakrieng Village.**

It seems like an inauspicious time, but Sakrieng Village Church believes that God wants them to plant a church at nearby Big Sakrieng Village. For around 4 weeks now, church leaders have led small gatherings for prayer, worship, and teaching at the new church plant. There are a few believers and proto-believers who participate, along with some curious kids and teens. As if on cue, Satan attacked a young lady at Big Sakrieng Village (a sister of a Christian at Sakrieng) who then showed signs of demon possession. Church members from Sakrieng visited her and prayed for her over the course of a few days, and she seems to have been delivered. Pray with us that God would use this Satanic attack for his glory and purpose (and for the young girl's salvation), and that a strong church would be planted there.

**Teaching 1 and 2 Peter to ladies at Hyoen Village.** Kim finished teaching the book of 1 Peter to a group of 14 hungry women at the Tampuan village of Hyoen and has now begun 2 Peter. She would appreciate your prayers.

**Church Building and Pastors School Venue.** We've also spent the slowdown drawing plans and helping oversee the building of the Labanseak Church building and Pastors School venue that we mentioned in December's letter. God bless you for giving over \$30,000 to this project, making it fully funded! (Photo to the right)

**First major community spread of Covid.** All of these situations will be impacted by the "February 20 Event" in which visitors to Cambodia bribed their way out of a quarantine hotel and left a trail of Covid through multiple cities. Total cases spiked from 200 to 2000 (so far) and the nation experienced its first Covid deaths. The government closed schools and churches temporarily. If this outbreak is not contained (and things don't look good) church gatherings will continue to be banned, and we will not be able to hold the Pastors School.

**PRAISE:** •Individual discipleship is still allowed. •Churches are still meeting in small groups.  
•The Labanseak church building is progressing.

**PRAY:** •That the book on 1 John and cults will be a clear, concise, and powerful tool that God will use to protect and edify the Church. •That Big Sakrieng Village will have a true group of called-out ones who worship God in Spirit and truth. •That the leaders of Sakrieng Village Church will faithfully teach and shepherd and evangelize in both villages. •That the believers in Hyoen and Kok villages will grow in faith and obedience, and that God will open the hearts of other villagers there to believe.

Thank you for sharing with us through prayer. May God bring a great harvest. -JD and Kim



*Sakrieng Church youth sing from the new hymnbook. Some of these youth are involved with the new church plant.*

