

# CRUZ JOURNAL

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## MISSION AS TRANSFORMATION

*"But you receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"*  
- Acts 1:8 (NIV)

Looking back on our accomplishments in 2014 through the lens of Christ's death and resurrection and the Pentecost, I realize how privileged we are to be invited by God in his redemptive work. It is amazing how every situation of need encountered in the communities showed us our inadequacies as agents of transformation. These experiences echo loudly the words of the Bible, "apart from Me you can do nothing."

The more I see the communities work to free themselves from poverty and a dependency mentality the more I've come to understand the deeper meaning of being dependent upon God. To accomplish great things for God we have to abandon our self-sufficient attitude and embrace a spirit of dependency on his Spirit. Very often our development strategies or ministry programs fall short of the complex needs and problems in communities. We have to humble ourselves in every situation to ask God and pray for his Kingdom to come.

As I mentioned in my last letter to you, embracing a "kingdom mindset" is necessary to liberate us so that we can be led and continually filled by the Holy Spirit. It is through the ministry of the Spirit that we can experience the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God is manifested wherever the Spirit is at work because God is sovereign. The deeper we embrace this truth the deeper we can allow the Spirit to take initiatives through us to do his will.

I have observed that embracing a kingdom mentality will always show us that our efforts are inadequate. However, the same mindset will challenge us toward greater wholeness in our practice of community transformation. Such an understanding of God's rule over the whole of life will help us to see every human need as an area for the Spirit to demonstrate God's healing and transforming power.

That is why it is important to make sure that the gifts of the Spirit are not only practiced for building up the church, but are also exercised in partnership with others in the community as a release of God's reign for the redemption of our world. Only then, perhaps, our participation in the work of the Methodist Church in Cambodia in advancing God's Kingdom will become effective, sustainable and transformative.

It is God's will to redeem our broken world. Thus, only He can produce the true and lasting transformation that we desire to see in our lives and the lives of the many people we are called to serve.

## CELEBRATIONS & PRAYER REQUESTS

Praise God for a meaningful and fruitful year in 2014.

Praise God for the covenants, partnerships and relationships that sustain my work in Cambodia.

Praise God for the transforming lives of many people that the CHAD has privilege to serve.

Praise the Lord for the growing number of churches expanding community development work with their communities.

Praise God for the growing number of church leaders engaged in holistic mission & evangelism in their respective communities.

Praise God for UVMIM teams that strategically enhanced CHAD's ability to bring healing in the communities.

Pray for God's wisdom and guidance as CHAD introduces new interventions to help communities become more resilient to the effects of global warming.

Pray that God will open more funding and strategic partnership to support the expanding program of CHAD in water and sanitation.

Pray for God's protection for the CHAD team members as we travel to visit projects and churches.

## PERSONAL NOTE FROM THE FIELD

Dear fellow laborers,

Looking ahead to 2015, we are excited for the new opportunities to serve God through the church's work in community transformation.

Knowing that you are with us in this journey gives us the courage to face the unknown and the humility to be the channel of God's wonderful and mighty acts.

We are deeply grateful to each of you for sharing your lives with us and for trusting us with your commitment to further God's Kingdom in Cambodia.

May our Almighty God be with us always this year.

Your partners in Christ,  
Ken and Jomil Cruz



Ken with UVMIM Team from Rocky Mountain and Health Center Staff in Kratie province.

## SUPPORT OUR WORK WITH A DONATION THROUGH:

Missionary Advance # 3019583  
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