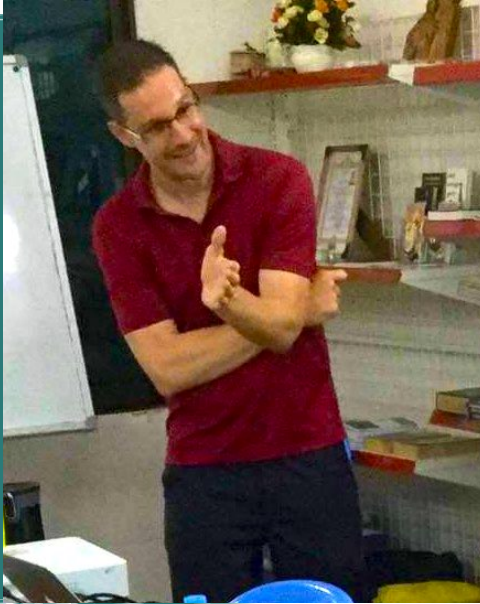


Come → Follow → Me!

Mark 1:17; 2:14; 8:34; 10:21



With the words above, Jesus calls each of us to a life of discipleship. For Cambodian Christians, the call to follow Jesus takes on new contours in this COVID-19 season. Though Cambodia has only had 125 cases, it will experience the worst economic impact in the ASEAN region. Jesus' exhortation to "take up one's cross" (Mark 8:34) will ring truer than ever, but will also require great sacrifice. For 3 days in May, J.P. had the opportunity to explore these themes in another seminar (hosted by Lutheran Hour Ministries' office) on discipleship in Mark's Gospel, with 8 young Cambodian Christian leaders. We discussed what it means to be cross-bearing disciples of Jesus when facing typical Cambodian challenges, including economic depression, estrangement from family, public ridicule, and cultural tensions.

Those who have ears to hear, let them hear!

Mark 4:9, 23

As we discussed Mark 4, where Jesus repeatedly exhorts his followers to listen, we discussed how having "ears to hear" means letting go of our own pride and agenda and letting Jesus open our ears. One participant, Ms. Kunthea, shared through joyful tears how God used one Khmer pastor to truly open her ears to Jesus' saving message even after years of being in a Christian dormitory community and going through the motions of Christianity. After the seminar ended, one participant, Mr. Bethel, texted to J.P., "The Gospel hit me really hard these three days. I burst out tears after the lesson on the way home." What an amazing example of how God's Word not only calls us to discipleship but empowers us to do it! Bethel also made [this video](#) to express his thanks for the course.



For prayer...

- For all those in Cambodia facing material hardship in the wake of COVID-19, and for government leaders as they consider appropriate responses.
- For Christians who are struggling with spiritual isolation, and church leaders as they do their best to provide spiritual care.
- For the resumption of church gatherings.
- For the youth group of Christ Lutheran Church, as they seek fresh vision after a long absence due to the virus.

- For J.P.'s intensive PhD class in June, which has been moved online.

For praise...

- In partnership with the LCMS, the Lutheran Church—Canada, and Garuna Foundation, the Cambodia Lutheran Church has begun food aid distribution for 240 families hit hard economically by COVID-19. (Another newsletter will highlight this work. In the meantime, see some initial pictures [here](#).)

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Square Two
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Wanna help us impact the people of Cambodia? Give online [here](#), or mail a check to 1) P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 (payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod), OR 2) 40718 Highway E-16, Mapleton, IA 51034 (payable to Mission Central). For ALL checks, in the memo line write "Cima family-Cambodia."