

In a country with only 2% believers, Christmas is the single most important time of the year to witness to the “good news of great joy that will be for all the people” (Lk 2:10). Churches expend much time and effort to celebrate and proclaim the birth of Christ. Dormant members suddenly appear, and new guests are welcomed. Christ Lutheran Church in Phnom Penh held its formal [Christmas celebration](#) on December 12 (due to needing to rent space), with over 100 people attending. J.P. was honored to [deliver the Christmas sermon](#). He focused on Jesus as the light that expels darkness, not just for people 2,000 years ago, but even for us today. The light of Jesus shines brightly now, exposing our darkness but also overcoming it with the love of God. Christmas proves that God is with us and He is for us! We then joined together to sing

“[Silent Night](#)” by candlelight (pic a), a first for the congregation. Hearing about and also experiencing light in those sacred moments was further evidence that Jesus is born anew into hearts the world over. A

week later, J.P. traveled, along with Pastor Bun Phanna (Director of Education for the [Garuna Foundation](#) in Cambodia) and Mr. Khorn Sopha ([Lutheran Heritage Foundation](#)’s Director in Cambodia) to Chouk in Kampot Province (pic b). There, Pastor Bun Sopheab of Preach Lutheran Church held a Christmas service at Garuna Christian School (where he is a Bible teacher). Families from both church and school were invited for a program filled with music (from a variety of different groups), God’s Word, and plenty of food. Over 200 people heard the story and meaning of Jesus’s birth. With Cambodia [still reeling](#) from COVID-19, the good news of Immanuel is more pressing than ever. What a joy to celebrate God’s presence with and for His people in Cambodia!



GOD WITH AND FOR US

US WITH AND FOR EACH OTHER



The miracle of the incarnation is instructive for us who are disciples of Christ. Just as He is present with and for His people, so we, as his body, are present with and for each other. This was especially poignant as we gathered on Christmas day with our [youth group](#) (pic c). We began the Christmas party with plentiful pizza. We then chose to postpone our normal



lessons on [whole-person discipleship](#). Instead, we [read, sang, and acted out](#) the Christmas story. A section of Scripture was read while youth acted out the story, playing the different parts. We were most excited to welcome a new youth, a young girl for whom this was her first time hearing the Christmas story! Please pray that God would work in her heart! The following night we were thrilled to have more people in our house (pic d), enjoying a Christmas dinner and fellowship with colleagues and partners. These dear friends remind us how God’s people are with and for us.

SQUARE TWO

THE CIMA FAMILY NEWSLETTER
VOL. 15, NO. 12 DEC. 2021

PRaises: for a fruitful Christmas season; for full [reopening of schools](#) across all ages on January 10; for a restful [post-Christmas vacation](#).
PRayers: for an upcoming program of intentional visitation to all Cambodia Lutheran Church locations; for a training session at the end of January; for the [tenuous Omicron situation](#).

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-116, Mapleton, IA 51034 (payable to Mission Central). For ALL checks, in the memo line write “Cima family-Cambodia.” THANK YOU!