Agri-Stewards Update

Cambodia & Asia

God's People

It's time once again to sit and reflect on another trip. As I ponder what to share and how to describe my experience in Cambodia, the memories that continue to pop in my mind are all of God's people I met along the way. Let me introduce some of them to you. First off is Vatanak who was our main translator. He is a Cambodian man with a heart that loves God. He was an excellent host and is working to train as many Cambodians as possible in Farming God's Way.

I also got to work alongside Rob Smucker from Junction City, Oregon. Rob is the one who invited me to Cambodia; he saw the need for agriculture education. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Rob and his family and see their love for the Cambodians. Rob is committed to spreading The Gospel through agriculture and I look forward to working with him in the future.

Before heading to Asia for the first time, I tried to find out if FGW had been taught there before. I emailed the ECHO office in Chiang Mai, Thailand to see if they were aware of anyone teaching FGW. I was directed to Zachary Price, a west Texan who married a girl from South Africa and is

now living in Thailand. We met through email. He was excited to learn about my plans in Cambodia and met up with me and we co-taught the second class together. Zachary has agreed to do some follow up coaching in both Cambodia and Thailand. God provides!!!

Steve Hyde is a 20 year missionary I got to meet as well. He has overseen several agriculture projects and was very excited to learn about FGW. I am anxious to learn how implementation goes for him and hope to see some of his projects on my next trip.

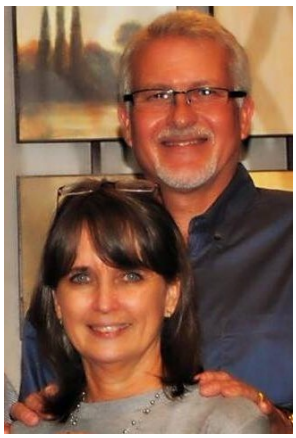
God also introduced me to two Cambodian pastors, But Someday and Sam Thouen. You could see the light come on in these men as we explained the FGW concepts. We planted a well watered garden near each of their churches. Please pray for them to be faithful stewards of what they have been taught. Pray for God to do great things through them.

Finally, I want to mention a couple of young people: Linna and Jonny. Linna is an ag student at the local university in Phnom Penh. She organized for 30 class-mates to come hear me speak one morning. I spoke on the importance of healthy soil and explained the physical, chemical, and biological make up. We ended our time with me introducing them to FGW. Rob and I met with Jonny one evening at the hotel. He is living in the dorms provided by New Life Church. He has a desire to be involved in agriculture. Jonny attended our FGW class. He talked to me extensively about his desire to learn more about the soil in order to train his fellow Cambodians to be more productive farmers and better stewards of what God has given them.

Pretty amazing for an introvert like me to make so many new friends in such a short period of time. Just more proof that God is at work!!

Christian Heritage

The older I get the more appreciative I become of my Christian heritage. One of the legends in my family is Great Grandma Jennie Shockley. I've been told that there were knee imprints in the floor next to her bed where she spent hours in prayer. I've also been told the edges of her bible were worn from being handled so much. What a privilege it was to go spend time in Thailand where my cousin, Kathy Walden (another descendent of Grandma Shockley), has invested 25 years of her life. Kathy's husband Rick met me at the airport and took me to the mountain village of Huay Loam where they had planted some churches. We had a good crowd show up to learn about FGW. These mountain villages were growing corn on steep slopes, their corn was sold to trucks which hauled it to buyers from Japan. There it is used as feed for Kobe beef. Through questioning, we learned they were losing a lot of their nitrogen to evaporation due to their application method. We also were able to teach them the difference between OPV and hybrids and how you cannot save hybrid seed back and plant it the following year. They shared that they bought fertilizer based on the recommendation of a salesman and had never had a soil test. We took some samples and look forward to sharing what we learn with them.



This small Christian community seemed very appreciative to learn some new techniques. Please pray for them to grasp hold of all aspects of FGW; the spiritual, management, and agricultural lessons. My prayer is that God blesses them and the communities around them begin to question them about their new found success. Then they can give God the glory and let others know about God's desire to have a relationship with them.

Rick and I have also discussed future training at the orphanage and at some villages along the Burma border. Let me know if you are interested in joining Agri-Stewards on one of our next trips to Asia!

Thank you Great Grandma Shockley for your faithfulness. May my children and grandchildren continue to live out the blessing.