

Cambodian Action

A Beck Family Publication

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"The Child Will Be Called Holy"

"And the angel answered her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son

Even a casual reading through the Christmas story has to make one consider the supernatural nature of the Season. Angelic messengers giving announcements, a virgin birth, magical stars, more angels singing, prophetic messages....and of course the incarnation of God in a stable! Sometimes I find myself thinking and talking about the facts of Christmas as if I were giving a history lesson, and the miraculous nature of the entire Season is lost. Imagine yourself telling the story to someone who has never heard anything about Christmas – no concept of Jesus, Mary, Wise Men, shepherds . . . or anything connected to this treasured event we celebrate. The entire story is supernatural! I'm tied to a scientific world view that allows (causes) me to see everything around me in sets of clinical facts which can be systematically observed and explained. How tragic if I lose sight of the spiritual which is by definition supernatural! My salvation is NOT scientific. Yes, I can understand the facts about it in logical terms (which is important in terms of preserving Truth); but everything about it is very much other worldly. As we share the story of



A Blessed Christmas to all of you from Daren, Jodi, Mikaela, Kamryn, CJ

Christmas here in Cambodia I have been reminded of the glorious nature of Christ's birth here on earth, His treasured life, and victorious death and resurrection on behalf of His own. My prayer this year is that none of us would read the mere facts of Christmas without taking the time to soak in the miraculous events that took place so long ago.

As a time of peace settles here in Cambodia the first hints of a commercial Christmas are beginning to appear. Some lights . . . trees . . . a few Santa displays (with reindeer) . . . even a nativity scene here and there. And, of course, the onslaught of media outlets in hopes of encouraging brisk economic spending. Even though we wouldn't promote the secular version of

Christmas we certainly take advantage of the common ground that it provides in talking to people about Christ! Christmas Day is still not a public holiday, but most churches hold a special service on the Sunday immediately following December 25th. As Shalom Churches of Cambodia prepare for Christmas pray with us that there would be a rich harvest of souls for the Kingdom. Pray that Cambodian Christians would have the courage to share the story of Jesus with those in their families and with their friends. And pray that we would give a good testimony through our words and actions!

As our family reflects on the past year of ministry in Cambodia we're immediately struck by the blessing of your partnership with us. This year was not without struggle, but praise God for his faithfulness! As we look forward to 2008 our hope is that Christ will be at the center of everything. We covet your prayers as we press on in the work God has put before us here among the Khmer people. As we celebrate the Christmas Season may it be a time of reflection, but also a time of inspiration in light of Christ's birth.

On behalf of Jodi, Mikaela, Kamryn, CJ and Drew . . .

MERRY CHRISTMAS from Cambodia!

In His Bonds,

*Celebrating in Cambodia,
Daren & Jodi*