

From Timothée in Cambodia

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I'm trying to send this to you before you get overwhelmed with an avalanche of other Newsletters and Christmas cards. It would take too much of your time to tell you all about the 4 weeks of meetings in the UK, so I will give you a few highlights.

As you probably know, the reason for going overseas is not for a furlough, nor do I go to specifically speak about Cambodia, but most of all I go to share the needs of the great Commission, preach from God's Word and call people to respond publicly to the Call to mission. I give an invitation at the end of each meeting as an evangelist would do at the end of a Gospel message. I am not concerned whether those responding end up in WEC or not. I am concerned that they leave the comfort of their church and move out into mission. I was told recently that 23% of the world today has still not heard the Good News once.

In Northern Ireland, I was stunned to see how many churches there are. (I remember preaching in Belfast 15 years ago and giving up counting how many churches I could see along one of the main streets). I wish thousands of believers from Northern Ireland could be sent out to all corners of the world, where people do not have access to the Gospel.

The very first meeting of the tour was down in England, by the sea. 450 students filled the Auditorium of Southampton University. I preached my heart out challenging as many as possible to go and serve God.

At a church near Birmingham, 29 teenagers fasted for 30 hours. They used that time to do practical work in the community and get money which would go to help street children in Cambodia. (A cheque of £900 was handed to me after the service).

At the Christian Life Center, also in the Birmingham area, (next to the famous Cadbury chocolate factory) the assistant pastor and his wife (I knew them when they served as missionaries in Cambodia) organized their first Mission Conference. They invited WEC and 7 other missionary agencies to put up their displays. I preached that night on Peter and John who saw a cripple man at the Temple gate. ***Have we seen the crippled men, women and children sitting at the door of God's Kingdom? Do we see the people groups of the world begging for hope and new life?*** (I used the story of Helen Cadbury, the daughter of the famous chocolate maker, who when she was a little girl gave her life to Christ and then went on to start the New Testament Pocket League, working now all over the world. I had brought this story with me, not knowing the church would be right next to the chocolate factory!) The church prepared special 'Follow-up Packs' to be given to those who would respond to the call for mission.

Hubert and Theresa Message, WEC coordinators for Wales, put on a special mission week-end in their church. The Conference started with a big Cambodian meal.

At the meal, I bumped into an elderly gentleman who mentioned meeting my dad many many years ago at Bulstrode, the WEC Headquarters, when my dad was still single. He actually encouraged my Dad to marry a certain Miss Margaret Jones! I made sure I thanked this old man for encouraging my dad to marry the one who became the best Mum in the world!

Unfortunately on the Sunday morning, as I was preaching, Theresa had a heart attack and was rushed to the hospital. She is now back home. Do pray for her as she recovers.

Before the attack, Theresa had written me a card. In the ambulance taking her to the hospital, Theresa called her daughter to make sure I was given the card. Theresa wrote: ***"Sam, our 7 year old grandson, sat in the meeting last night and listened so intently and afterwards spoke in tears of the street children in Cambodia. 'One day,***

he will go to them' he says. He gripped the pastor's hand hard and prayed from his heart for them''. (If you're reading this Sam, remember not to stop praying for the children of Cambodia!)

Half way through the tour, I was able to take the Eurostar train across to France. My parents picked me up in Calais, then we went to my brother and his family's place. We then all drove to the French WEC Conference (in Germany!). On the first night of the Conference, a special celebration was given for Mum and Dad, retiring from WEC after 45 years of service.

They were given a book full of stories, testimonies from friends all over the world. (If you're one of those who wrote a mail for my parent's retirement, you should have received a thankyou mail from my Mum. If not, your email probably did not make it... please send it again!).

The next day, Mum, Dad and I headed back to France where we spent two wonderful days together at their home in Dunkerque, before I crossed the Channel once again and flew out from London to Belfast.

The first meetings in Northern Ireland were held at a Christian Guest House and Conference Center, where I met some wonderful prayer warriors. Two sisters have been running a 'prayer battery' every week, for 60 years! And it's still going!

About 900 young people packed the very modern Green Pastures church where I was given almost an hour to preach.

At Belfast Bible College (BBC!) students from 35 different nations attended the College Annual Mission's Day. I managed to pack the sermon in 20 minutes.

At the Monaghan Missionary Convention in the Republic of Ireland (where all men wear ties and ladies wear hats) I felt very privileged to speak at a Convention that has been going on every year since 1953!

In Cookstown, the 'First Harmony Orchestra' that performed before I spoke, was given a cheque by the church who organized the event. The members of the band, at the end of the service, felt they couldn't keep the money and handed it to me to be used to help street children in Cambodia (God bless you guys for your generosity! Hope you'll come and perform one day in Phnom Penh!)

The last week-end was like the icing on the cake: I was speaking at Ballynahinch New Testament Church. The pastor, Tim, and I were in the same year at Elim Bible College in England, back in 1993! It was so great to meet up with him after so long, and meet his wife and their 3 boys. Here's a family completely dedicated to Jesus!

All together, in Wales, England and Ireland, around 340 folks responded publicly to the call of mission. Do please bring them to the Lord in prayer.

Now back in Phnom Penh, its back to preaching in churches, encouraging Cambodian believers to reach out into the streets and the slums in town where many children are still in great need of Jesus.

Many Blessings!

Timothée