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Greetings from South-East Asia!

Please take note of my new email address: timothee.paton@gmail.com

I am writing this Newsletter on my last evening of an 8 days' holiday in Thailand at one of the nicest spots I have ever been in my life.

I flew out last week from Cambodia with a cheap flight to a small town of the Thai Coast. When I landed I had no idea where I was and where I would be heading for this much needed break. I got a taxi that took me to a Guest House with beautiful bungalows along a white sand beach surrounded with palm trees and mountains. (Better than what you see on postcards!)

And there was nobody. Empty beach, empty bungalows. I had the whole place to myself! When I didn't see anyone I thought a civil war had broken in Thailand and everyone had vanished! It cost me only 10 pounds a night. (You can't get a cheaper holiday!)

I took along with me my Bible and two books on mission that have fuelled in my heart a new passion for reaching out to the poor.

When you read this I will already be back in Phnom Penh, refreshed for ministry.

The 4 weeks tour of meetings in France and England in June/July was very blessed. A lot of traveling, mainly by train (France still has the best trains in the world!) to churches I have already been to in the past but also new ones.

One of the highlights was to speak at the small evangelical church in Gannat, in Central France, the very first church my Mum and Dad planted back in the 60s. The place was packed. Before I shared about the work in Cambodia and brought a Word from Scripture I gave my testimony of conversion. *'I have shared all over the world how the Lord saved me as a little boy at the age of 4'* I told the congregation *'but tonight my testimony takes a special meaning'*. Then I pointed my finger to the ceiling and said: *'Just above this meeting place where you have your Sunday school classes was, back in 1977, the bedroom my brother and I shared. And it was there, 32 years ago that one night just before going to sleep, I gave my heart to Jesus!'*

Two days after coming back to Cambodia, my brother and his two older boys (he and his wife have 4 children) flew to Phnom Penh. My nephews Jonathan and Samuel had never taken a plane before!

We had 12 great days! From performing magic tricks for the children in the slums, taking orphans to the swimming pool, teaching guitar to youth, going for a boat ride on the Mekong River, and so much more ... (and eating big black fried spiders!) ...we had no time to be bored!

We were also able to go down to the port of Sihanoukville and spent two nights on board the Doulos ship. The Doulos is the oldest ship (built before the Titanic) still sailing on all the seas of the world. I got sick during those two days. The doctor on board the ship thought I picked up the swine flu! On the second night, I was asked to speak to the 350 members of the Doulos... feeling terribly weak and wearing a mask!

The Lord is continuing to open doors, mainly in Phnom Penh, to encourage local believers as well as missionaries to 'Keep on reaching out to the poor in Cambodia'.

Please pray for God's anointing each time I stand up and preach.

In a few weeks I will celebrate my 10 years of service in Cambodia.

It was on the 24th of September 1999 that I landed with my two suitcases in Phnom Penh. I didn't know anyone, had never been to Asia before and couldn't speak a single word of the Khmer language.

I felt like in a little boat in the middle of the wide ocean. Over the years there have been times when the boat was tossed about by the waves and even at times water got into it. But the boat never sunk. The One who called me to Cambodia also came along with me.

There has been hard times. Discouragement. Heartbreaks. Disappointments.

In February this year I got shocking news .One of my best friends, Yves, 47 years old (he and his family served as missionaries to Cambodia for over 5 years before returning to France) took his own life. I don't think I knew someone who loved the Cambodian people as Yves did. I was on the phone with him 3 days before he killed himself. I am still recovering from such a tragedy.

No it has not always been an easy ride. There has been some tough times over the years.

But I don't regret the day I left France to come and serve the poor in Cambodia.

On October 15th I will fly out (again!) to the UK for almost 4 weeks of meetings.

As in previous tours, I will be calling people to respond publicly to the Great Commission.

Please pray that dozens of believers will say 'yes' to the Call to move to the unreached peoples of the world.

Friday 16 Oct: Southampton University Christian Union, 7.30pm (contact Mary Smith: gmacsmithfam@bluevonder.co.uk)

Sunday 18: Cotton Green Church, Tamworth, 10.30 am (contact Francis Blackmore, 0121 352 0256: midlands@uk.wec-int.org)

Knighton Evangelical Free church, Brinsmead Rd, Leicester, 6.30 pm (contact Francis Blackmore)

Tuesday 20: Pheasey Evangelical church, Birmingham, 10.30 am (contact Francis Blackmore)

Christian Life Center, South Birmingham, Selly Oak, 7.30pm (contact Neville Walker: walkers420@btinternet.com)

Wednesday 21: Aston University Christian Union (contact Francis Blackmore)

Thursday 22: Bath University Christian Union, 7.30 pm (contact Mary Smith)

Friday 23: Cardiff University Christian Union, Wales, 7.30pm (contact Mary Smith)

Saturday 24: Tabernacle Baptist church, Llandrindod Wells, Missionary week- end, evening (contact Hubert Message, 01597 851051, Hubert@themessages.co.uk)

Sunday 25: Tabernacle Baptist church, 10.30 am (contact Hubert Message)

Thursday 29: Fly to Belfast

Friday 30: WEC week- end, Newcastle, Northern Ireland, 8pm (contact Norman Cuthbert, 028 3833 9329, northernireland@uk.wec-int.org)

Saturday 31: WEC week- end, Newcastle, 10 am & 4.30pm

Youth Meeting, Newcastle Baptist church, 8pm (contact Norman Cuthbert)

Sunday 1 Nov: WEC week- end, 10am

Green Pastures church, Ballymena, 6.30 pm (contact Norman Cuthbert)

Tuesday 3: Belfast Bible College, 10 am (contact Norman Cuthbert)

Monaghan Missionary Convention, Republic of Ireland, 8pm (contact N. Cuthbert)

Thursday 5: WEC Annual Meeting, Molesworth St, Presbyterian Cookstown, 8pm (contact Norman Cuthbert)

Saturday 7: New Testament church Mission week- end, Ballynahinch, 7pm (contact Tim McIlwrath, tim@ntchurch.plus.com)

Sunday 8: New Testament church, Ballynahinch, 11 am (contact Tim McIlwrath)

New Testament church, 6.30pm (contact Tim McIlwrath)

Blessings,

Timothée