

The Curse or the Cure



By Ron Coale

Genesis 3:17... And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

Because of mans disobedience to God, man fell under a curse. It is essential that we remember that God not only cursed the serpent (Gen. 3:14), but He also cursed the earth as well. Since that day until now we all live on a cursed earth, and it was cursed because of mans disobedience to God. All the problems and trials that man e3periences are because of this curse.

The curse that God placed on the earth is not whimsical. He told man that his disobedience to only one rule would result in man having the knowledge of both good and evil. It is the knowledge of evil that brings on the curse; not because God arbitrarily decides to punish man. The curse is the result of having knowledge of evil.

All the days of mankind have cumulated in an increasing amount of evil. Old timers speak of the days when they didn't need to take their keys out of the ignition, nor lock their doors. This doesn't mean that they didn't have trouble in their day. Look at prohibition for an example. If people of that day didn't have a problem with booze, then there would never have been a period of prohibition in our history. They had problems as did their fathers and their fathers before them. The curse has been working on man for a very long time.

In this light, there are those who blame God for the curse. After all, it seems like He is the one who did it. WRONG! God warned man that he would die the day he ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Man had ample warning. It wasn't complicated. It was simple. One simple instruction for man to follow. One thing man was told to not do, and man could not do it.

Man brought the curse upon himself. It is not God's fault that man disobeyed. It's mans fault. God did everything He could to make it easy for man to succeed. Unfortunately, man failed. The curse that God put on the earth is knowledge of evil. And, all the

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THE KEO FAMILY

MISSIONARIES TO CAMBODIA

MAILING ADDRESS:
3332 MAGNOLIA AVE.
LONG BEACH, CA 90806

CONTACT INFO:
CELL#: 562.972.5873
TOUCH RAKEO@GMAIL.COM

Finished Wall & Dirt



Outside of the wall and electrical poles



Yeak



Vuthy and Sokha



Ondong Village



Choeung Ek Village

Dear Pastors and Friends,

January and February 2019

We hope that we find you all doing well in this new year! We are grateful for the opportunity to report to you what the Lord has been doing here in the ministry of Cambodia.

We are excited to report that we have completed the process of building the wall around the church property and pouring the dirt to raise the elevation of the land! The reason that we need to build a wall around the church property is so that other people won't be able to encroach on our land and the reason for pouring dirt is so that it will protect our land from being flooded during the monsoon season. Thank you again to all of you who have given and prayed towards our building project! **Please pray that the necessary funds will come in so that we can start construction the church building as soon as possible.**

Bounna is a faithful young man who is a part of our ministry in Romdeng village. He has been saved for a few months now and since then, he has been faithful and has led several members of his family to Christ. A few weeks ago, his brother, who was only 32 years old, died without Christ in a freak accident. Our church was able to have a part in helping his family with the funeral costs. We are thankful that even in the middle of hardships, Bounna's father, Thuan, has started attending our Bible study the last couple of weeks. Bounna and his family members who are already saved were ridiculed and blamed for his brother's death because of their faith in Jesus. **Please pray that Bounna will continue to be faithful to God during this hardship and for his family member's spiritual growth.**

Yeak is the mother-in-law of one of the faithful men in our church. She was able to attend our small groups a few weeks ago. We have witnessed to her several times already but she is still counting the cost of accepting Christ. She still fears what her neighbors and family will think of her if she decides to trust Jesus as her Saviour. We are grateful that her heart has softened greatly compared to the past. Her daughter and son-in-law have been great testimonies towards her and she is willing to attend church services whenever she comes to visit them. **Please pray that she will have the courage to believe on Jesus!**

Vuthy, his girlfriend Sokha, and her two sons visited our church for the first time two weeks ago. They are not yet saved but they seem very open to God. Vuthy is a deportee who was deported to Cambodia last year. I plan to follow up on them weekly. **Please pray that they will get saved.**

Our oldest son, Justin, has been helping with the ministry in Ondong village for four months now. We are thankful for the faithful children there who attend every week and have a desire to know the Lord. Last week, a little girl named Kim Eng accepted Christ as her Saviour! **Please pray for Ondong village and all who labor to go there every week to show the love of Jesus.**

Justin also has had a part in Choeung Ek village for several months. The children's ministry there is divided into two groups: teens and small children. They also split the teens into several small groups so that the workers will be able to connect with them more personally. We are thankful for all of those who are faithful in having a part in Choeung Ek. **Please pray that the ministry in Choeung Ek will continue to grow.**

Our family did a 2018 end of the year ministry update video that we sent to churches who we have email address. If you would like for us to send it to you, please contact us via email.

In Christ,

Touch Keo and Family

Touch, Debra, Justin, Andrew, Lynn, and Sophia



January/February 2019

“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:17. “But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.” Galatians 3:11. “Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” Hebrews 10:38.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I guess you could make a decent three point message out of those references, perhaps the provision, the decision and the vision. We try to make the message “clear and plain” so that when salvation is presented it will be recognized and received. In the end, someone needs to see their need and want to do something about it.

I did something a little out of the norm this past month by trying to help a family with a great need by “going the extra mile.” Sometimes things you do can show much more than what you say. In the end our help was rejected, but we endeavor to walk in the Spirit and trust the Lord in how He chooses to work in peoples’ lives. We met a family while we were out witnessing who has a boy that fell out of a tree almost a year ago and is now maimed. At the time of the accident they went to the hospital, had x-rays done and he was put in a torso cast. As I understand it, after the cast was removed there was no more follow-up and the boy is really suffering. I decided to take them to the clinic and have a doctor that I know give him an examination. When the examination had started, my doctor friend told me that the neglect in this case was a crime, but it’s very typical of what a family could experience here. These were rural folks. New x-rays showed the back had been broken and had healed crookedly. He also had a tumor growing in his back, was low on blood and had malaria. The doctor was very good mannered with the family, but in the end the father became overwhelmed by everything that was presented and demanded to go home with his son, refusing any treatment. A specialist we brought in figured he probably wanted to go

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the route of traditional treatment (called the "curandeiro," i.e. witchdoctor) so we protested but in the end agreed.

I say all of this just to give you a feel for some of the influences in this country that hold these people in bondage. They really have some peculiar practices, many of which we will never begin to understand. Culturally they are steeped in superstitions, they lack resources including education and very often are just content to live their lives in mediocrity "by faith." When opportunity passes them by, they might miss it unless we can work with them to where they see their need. Then growth afterwards is a whole other challenge.

We are continuing with the work. The institute has finished 2.5 years and I can say we have a small group of young guys that can now handle the scriptures much more skillfully than before and have a burden for souls. This is in Chimoio where we work directly with these folks. I had a chance in January to go north to a small village church just outside of a city called Alto Molócuè. This was a little farther than I've been recently, just getting into the heavily populated Moslem region of Mozambique. We got a contact through a church I've tried to help for about 3 years. One of their members was working up in that region and met these folks. We made the trip, presented salvation and had a very good response to the message. We're thankful for that but really my hope is that we can have enough influence with some of these folks outside of Chimoio that they will "save us a trip," so to speak. I had a similar experience with a church about 1.5 hours outside of Chimoio in a village called Nhama-tanda. They have a couple of young folks in that church that responded to salvation and seemed to be excited about what was presented. At the work in Gondola, we have had several folks call on the Lord for salvation, including some new interns that just arrived for the school year. Some of these have started coming to church. Please pray they will continue.

The family is well. We are very thankful for our salvation and that the Lord has given us an opportunity to redeem the time here in Mozambique. Thank you for all your prayers and support.

The Dunlaps

PRAYER REQUESTS

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| 607. | Pastor | Souls saved in Shelton. |
| 680. | Matt | Savings Account (Building fund) to reach —(\$10,000). |
| 973. | Dee | Protection for Stephanie working as a nurse. |
| 1040. | Pastor | Judy Carr's quick healing from back surgery. |
| 1042. | Pastor | Michael, whom I witnessed to, mother would recover from stroke. |
| 1043. | Pastor | 2 Jehovah's Witness, whom I witnessed to would see the error of their "gospel" and get saved. |
| 1044. | Pastor | God's will for his life. |
| 1045. | Pastor | Thanks to God for taking 90 year old saint home. |
| 1046. | Larry | Jane's traveling mercy to Seattle |
| 1047. | Dee | Clear vision to make the game for kids on her heart. |
| 1048. | Wally | Shirley healing and peace. |
| 1049. | Matt | Brother in law Tim healing from brain surgery. |
| 1050. | Matt | Sister Amanda healing from pulmonary embolism. |
| 1051. | Sally | Sister in law Stephanie has successful delivery. |

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problems that man faces is because he knows about evil.

Man faces a never-ending list of evil that he knows about: divorce, adultery, finances, drugs, booze, child rearing, health... the list goes on and on. It is all because of the curse on the earth that man brought by opening his mind towards evil. Certainly, this is a hopeless and dismal thought, but there is a cure.

The cure that God offered to man in the garden was several fold. First is that man was never restricted from touching the tree of knowledge of good and evil. He was only restricted from eating from the tree. If he wanted to, man could have chopped down, dug it up, set it on fire or any

number of things to remove it from his presence.

Secondly, the initial cure was the warning of God from His very own lips. Speaking about fire prevention, Benjamin Franklin said, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." This is so true in many cases, especially here. God gave them the warning first so that, if heeded, it would be a cure. This can be compared to a vaccination for yellow fever. A traveler to certain countries of the world that are not native to him is warned to get the vaccine in order to prevent the sickness.

Thirdly, God did not leave man to his own devices. He told man what he would have to do. He

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prepared man for the life that He would now live. He gave man clothing and instructions for how to survive. Man would have to work. He gave man a course in working and sweating to make a living.

Fourthly, God provided His Son so that man, once finished with his time on this earth, could be free from the curse of the earth that man caused. The cure is the Lord Jesus Christ, that any man can accept at any time, that is, if he is not ignorant of it. This is called salvation and it provides a way for man to permanently escape the earth's curse.

Finally, God will end the curse (Rev. 22:3) when He ends the world. He will make a new, uncursed world where man doesn't suffer from His choices.

God didn't allow the curse of the earth to fall upon man without any hope for overcoming it. He offered several avenues of cure with the ultimate being the death of His only Son. It's not God's fault if there is a curse. It is man's fault. We brought all our problems upon ourselves. God gave us a way out.

What sounds better to you: a curse, or a cure. When we go to a doctor to be seen for some ailment that we have, the doctor most often prescribes medicine for a way out of our ailment. Without much thinking we simply take the medicine and don't really question what was in it. We just take it. As it is with medicine and ailments, so it is with Jesus' shed blood and sin. God says "take the Son's sacrifice to be rid of the ailment of sin. The choice is yours. ~

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| Mailing address: | PO Box 1025, Shelton, WA 98584 |
| Email address: | pastor@gbcshelton.org |
| Internet address: | www.gbcshelton.org |
| Face book address: | https://www.facebook.com/GraceBaptistChurchOfSheltonWa |
| Office Address: | 1701 E. Agate Loop RD, Shelton, WA 98584, 360-462-1611 |
| Meeting Location: | Agate Grange Hall, 1631 E. Agate Loop Rd, Shelton, WA. |