

Believed In Jesus Through the Christmas Ceremony



I am **Mang Lath**, was born in 1955 in the Kompot province which I am currently living in Teuk Tlar Village, Teuk Tlar Commune, Reossey Keo District in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

In the past, I had been in Buddhism. I used to live in Koh Kong province and had learned a lot by the ways of Buddhism and I had worshipped my dead ancestors altar of many generations (the alter was very expensive). The reason I worshipped the alter was because I thought the dead ancestors altar could help me to be prosperous.

One day on December 25, 1997, there was a pastor whose name was Sok Monou, came to rent my vehicle to pick up the church members to join the Christmas party. At that time, I thought: "Those who believe in Jesus has a lot of money, this time, I will be able to charge them a lot of money". "How much do you charge me?" Mr. Monou asked. I said: "I'll charge you 100,000 Riels (US\$25) and plus 30 liters of diesel." And Mr. Monou replied: "But we only have a little offering." I didn't understand at all of the word "offering". So I responded that: "I will not go."

In the evening of the same day, he came back and begged me to low down the price but I still said "NO". The next morning had come, he returned and begged me again but I said "I will agree with you, if you give me 60,000 Riels (\$15) and 20 liters of diesel and let my whole family (5 family members) to go with you too. And he agreed. We went to a place where they held the Christmas ceremony. When we arrived the church, my family and I went into the church to listen to the Word of God.

At that time, I felt shocked in my heart, so I decided to go down the church. I went into the vehicle and I saw a Bible on there! I stole a Bible (New Testament) and I went into the church to listen to the sermon again (the preacher was Pastor Ouk Buntheoun). Suddenly, there was one person came and gave me a Bible. And after the sermon, I asked for a Bible from Pastor Ouk Buntheoun. Then, I really wanted to know about the Bible. I wondered why this book was different from other religious books? (I already had 3 Bibles in total).

When we got back home, I asked Pastor Sok Monou that I wouldn't charge any money from you but just the 10 liters of diesel. Then I asked him if he could teach me on anything out of this book and Pastor Monou was very happy when he heard this, so he said "Yes, I could." And he told me that: "God has chosen you & from now on you would be saved." I didn't understand what he said at all and I started to study the Bible for many days. Therefore, I decided to let go of my family to receive Jesus into their lives, but not yet for my life. For me, I would see first of what's going on in their lives?

Three months later, I had tried to study the Bible and had gained a good knowledge out of the Word. I then have made my own decision to believe in the Lord **Jesus** since that moment on.