

CAMBODIA

God-given gifts

Read Matthew 25:14-30, *The parable of the talents*.

Mây Huyén lives in a fishing village along the coast of Cambodia with her two sisters, Mây Niéng and Mây Ngoc. Every day they race to the Peniel Learning Center where Yuliana Handoyo works.

In Cambodia, school can be expensive for families like Huyén's. For other families, school is impossible to afford, since the average Cambodian earns just \$2.00 a day.

Many times, students pay for tuition and uniforms. But at the Peniel Learning Center, students can learn for free. They learn to read, write, and speak three languages: Khmer (Cambodia's official language), Vietnamese and English. On Saturdays, Huyén and her sisters can come and listen to Bible stories and sing songs about God.

When children like Huyén and her sisters can get an education at Peniel Learning Center, they develop their God-given gifts. This gives them opportunities to find a respectable job in the future.

Questions for discussion

1. At the Peniel Learning Center, students can explore things they are good at. Often we call these things "gifts from God." What is one thing that you think you are good at? (Teachers can also organize this into a circle setting, where children can recognize the gifts of others.)

2. While all people are born with God-given gifts and things we are good at, those gifts develop and get stronger when we use them. What are some ways that you have used your gifts in school, in church, or at home?
3. School is a great place to develop your gifts. But what if you didn't have the opportunity to go to school? How would your life be different?
4. Since you have the opportunity to go to school, how will you choose to use the gifts God has given you?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you for the learning center in Cambodia and for the opportunity to go to school. Help us to use our gifts to help others. Amen.

Lights, camera, action!

Act out the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). What are modern-day talents that can be substituted for the money the workers were to invest?



Photo by Kelsey Hochstetler

Learning is a gift from God—Mây Niéng, Mây Ngoc, and Mây Huyén study at the Peniel Learning Center in the fishing village of U-Vietnam, along the coast of Sihanoukville, Cambodia. Photo by Kelsey Hochstetler.

Our gifts can help support mission in Cambodia.

\$100 helps to teach students at Life University about Jesus.

\$50 helps to provide one month's rent for the Peniel Learning Center.

Gift designation. All gifts to support ministries in Cambodia should be sent to Mennonite Mission Network, PO Box 370, Elkhart, IN 46515-0370. Please indicate that the funds are for "**Mission Banks: Cambodia**" or "**Project #1507.**"

▶ For more activities and stories, visit www.MennoniteMission.net/CambodiaMissionBank.

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A day in the life of Hizkia and Yonas

Hizkia and Yonas’s parents (Petrus and Yuliana) are Mission workers. They are Indonesian, but have lived in Mongolia and now live in Cambodia. As they tell us about a normal day in Cambodia, pay attention to the similarities and differences between Hizkia and Yonas’s lives and your own.

Get to know Hizkia Handoyo

Age: 11

Favorite subjects in school: music, science

Favorite color: blue

Favorite foods: eggs and noodles

Favorite activity: playing tag with his friends

Favorite animals: dogs, hamsters, cats, and turtles—“They are cute and sometimes they make people scared!”

Get to know Yonas Handoyo

Age: 6

Favorite subject in school: art

Favorite color: red

Favorite food: meat dumpling and crumbled eggs with rice and tomato sauce

Favorite activity: riding bicycle after school on the dirt road

Favorite animal: fish—“They are colorful and I like to see when the fish dive!”

A normal day

6:00 a.m. Yonas normally wakes up first, then Hizkia.

6:30 a.m. Breakfast time! “Normally, we eat bread, cereal, milk, as well as noodles,” said Hizkia.

7:20 a.m. Hizkia and Yonas will hop on the back of their dad’s motorcycle (called a *moto*) and he will drive them to school. Like in the United States, people must be careful when they cross the streets in Cambodia. There are not always stop signs, and people, bicycles, motos, cars, and trucks all cross the street at the same time!

8:00 a.m. Hizkia and Yonas arrive at Life International School and slip into their classrooms. Hizkia is in sixth grade and Yonas is in first grade. They call their teachers by their first names: Mr. Tetso and Mrs. Ester.

12:25 p.m. It’s lunch time! Hizkia and Yonas open their packed lunches and find eggs with tuna and rice, vegetables, and cuttlefish (similar to squid or octopus). Other times they will have chicken soup with rice. “We eat rice twice a day,” said Hizkia. “But most Cambodians eat rice three times a day—for breakfast, lunch and dinner.”

3:00 p.m. School ends, and sometimes Hizkia and Yonas walk home, but normally, one of their parents will pick them up on the moto.

6:30 p.m. Hizkia and Yonas sit down for supper with their parents, Petrus and Yuliana, at the same time as most Cambodians. They eat a meal of fish, shrimp, soup and rice. Sometimes they eat curry and chicken, or vegetables and rice. “I like spicy food, but Yonas does not,” Hizkia said.

8:30 p.m. After supper, Hizkia and Yonas do their homework and watch TV, and then go to bed.

Questions for discussion

1. What similarities do you see between the lives of Hizkia and Yonas? What were some differences?
2. If you were to meet Hizkia and Yonas face-to-face, what questions would you ask them?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you for people like Hizkia and Yonas, and for the similarities we share, and our differences, too. As we go about our week, help us to learn to appreciate people who may share different opinions than we do, and to recognize that we are all children of God. Amen.



Photo by Kelsey Hochstetler

Brotherly love—Hizkia and Yonas Handoyo are the children of Petrus and Yuliana, workers with the GKMI Indonesia Mennonite Church and Mennonite Mission Network.

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Vitou's choice

"Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the river or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

—Joshua 24:15

Have you ever made a choice that was different from the rest of your friends? Maybe your friends were making fun of a classmate, and you chose to be nice to that person. Or maybe you saw a classmate being ignored and you decided to play with them at recess.

Ngeth Vitou made a choice to be different, too. Vitou grew up in southern Cambodia (Takeo province) in a Buddhist family. He tried his best to be a good Buddhist. To Vitou, this meant to learn to meditate, behave well, give to the poor, and worship idols with his family. He looked up to his four older brothers and sisters and tried to be a good example to his younger brother.

When Vitou was young, his cousin, Pho Sitha, came to visit. Sitha is a Christian and told Vitou about Jesus' love. This left Vitou questioning many things he had been taught as a child. Who is God? Is Buddha real? Can we end suffering and sadness through our actions, like Buddhism teaches?

For many years, Vitou wondered these things. He wanted to find answers to his questions about God, so he began to learn about God at Life University, where Petrus Handoyo worked. It was at Life University that Vitou decided to follow Jesus. Vitou realized that only Jesus can end human suffering, not our actions alone. Vitou wants to share Jesus' love with others in Cambodia.

Deciding to leave a way of life and family tradition is not an easy decision and takes a lot of courage. When Vitou told his family that he had left his Buddhist ways to follow Jesus, would his family be hurt? Would they be angry? When Vitou

finally told his family, they respected his choice. But sometimes the differences in the two religions cause tension, Vitou said.

Now, two of Vitou's brothers are Christians, too! He hopes that one day all of his family will come to know Jesus.

Questions for discussion

1. Have you ever made a choice that was different from the rest of your friends? Share about it.
2. How do you think Vitou felt when he made a choice that was different from the rest of his family? Who gave him the courage to make the choice to follow Jesus?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you for Vitou and the courage you gave him to follow you. We pray that you would give us the same courage to follow you and share your love with others. Amen.

Activity: *Bei Daok Mouy* ("three minus one" tag)

This game works best if there are more than eight people playing.

- Each child finds a partner and forms a pair, scattered around the playing area.
- One of these pairs should split (a game of rock, paper, scissors is an easy way to choose), making one child the "chaser" and the other child the "runner."
- The "chaser" tries to tag the "runner." The "runner" tries to escape the "chaser" by running and linking arms with a person who is part of a pair.
- When the runner has joined a pair of two people, they form three. At this point, one of the two "original" pairs is now the runner. If the "chaser" tags the "runner" before they link arms with a pair, then the "runner" is now the "chaser."



Photo by Kelsey Hochstetler

Choosing to follow Christ—Ngeth Vitou (right) with his friend from Life University, Sim Seyha.

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LIFE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE
CURRICULUM
Academic Year 2014 - 2017

Second Year		Third Year		Fourth Year	
Course Name	Credit	Course Name	Credit	Course Name	Credit
Visual Basic 4	2	Hardware System I	2	Management Information System I	2
Mathematic Study III	2	Object Oriented	2	Computer Architecture	2
C Programming II	2	Programming I	2	Mobile Programming	2
Web Programming I	2	Computer Graphic Design	2	AI (optional)	2
Microsoft Access	2	Operating System I	2	Microkernel Hardware System	2
Microsoft Excel	2	Computer Networking I	2		
Algorithm Design	2	Hardware System II	2	Software Engineering	2
Mathematic Study IV	2	Object Oriented II	2	Project	2
Java Communication	2	Programming II	2	Thesis	6
Web Programming II	2	System Analysis	2		
Java Database	2	Computer Networking II	2		
C++ Programming I	2	Operating System II	2		

