

# MARTELLE CHRISTIAN CHRONICLE

Gather, Engage, Make A Difference



## *Upcoming Events*

**June 30-** Hope2  
Update 9:30am &  
10:30am

**Aug 12-16** - Vacation  
Bible School!

## ***BREAKER ROCK BEACH COMING SOON!***

We are so excited to share this year's theme for Vacation Bible School is Breaker Rock Beach. Kids will be challenged as they discover that God's truth never changes, everyone needs Jesus, and learn to speak the truth in love. Adventure awaits each day as kids explore tide pools, spot orcas, fly kites, and watch the mighty waves crash up against the immovable Breaker Rock!

Vacation Bible School will be August 12-16 with the final showcase on Sunday the 18th. We are looking for volunteers for part or all of the week. There are many ways to help make this successful for the children in attendance. Talk to Tabitha Jeffery to learn more! Scan the QR code to register today!



# SHARED MISSION - VISIT TO CAMBODIA

By Corey McCracken

Earlier this year Maria and I got an amazing opportunity to go back to Cambodia to work alongside some incredible brothers and sisters in Christ. During the seventeen days that we spent on the other side of the globe we found ourselves working in a strangely familiar setting. Dirt roads, cattle in the fields, tractors being worked on, kids fishing out by the lake; you can picture everyone of these back home in Iowa but in Cambodia they are just as common, these things just look a little different. The same could be said as we walked into a steel roofed, chain-linked walled, open-air church building; there we saw rows of chairs filled with church goers in their Sunday best, hymn books being flipped through, moms with their children, and God's Word being shared with people eager to hear the Good News of Jesus. You can picture everyone of these back home at Martelle Christian Church but in Cambodia they are looking to become more common, these things just look a little different.

Even in Iowa, Martelle Christian Church is an old church, our roots stretch back to the 1850's. In Cambodia the old churches stretch back 15-20 years. The Gospel is new in Cambodia, and that is an exciting thing. Since the 1970s we have seen "Christianity" decline from 90% of people claiming to follow Jesus to now falling in at about 63% of people[1]; in Cambodia during the 1970s into the early '80s people were trying to do all they could to survive one more day under the rule of the Khmer Rouge, Christianity was not even in the imagination of 99.9% of the Khmer people; now the impact of the current 1-2.4% of people[2] who are Christian are being seen in their villages as through their loving service doors are being open for the Gospel to be shared. The church is growing in Cambodia, it just looks a little different.



[1] Pew Research Center: <https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2022/09/13/how-u-s-religious-composition-has-changed-in-recent-decades/>

[2] 2022 Report on International Religious Freedom: Cambodia/US Embassy in Cambodia: <https://kh.usembassy.gov/2022-report-on-international-religious-freedom-cambodia/>

