

# វិទ្យាល័យព្រះគម្ពីរ អេម៉ាណូអែល

**Emmanuel Bible School / Ecole Biblique Immanuel**

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Sok's History  
as Educator

*"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."*

*"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*

*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."*

*"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*

*That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

(2 Tim. 2:15; 2:1, 2; 3:16, 17)



## **Administration**

*Provisional Director/Directeur provisoire: Rev. Dara R. Pen, California, USA*

*Assistant Director/Directeur-adjoint: Rev. Sok Em, Stoney Creek, ONT*

*General Secretary/Secrétaire général: Mr. Sovandy Mok, Hamilton, ONT*

*Treasurer/Trésorier: Mr. James Bo, Downsview, ONT*

## **Board of Reference / Commission de Reseignement**

*Rev. Saroeun Sou, Ottawa, Ontario*

*Rev. Steve Feather, Hamilton, Ontario*

*Rev. Allan Hyndman, Welland, Ontario*

*Dr. Al Reimer, Three Hills, Alberta*

*Rev. Joe S. Kong, President, Cambodian Christian Service, USA*

# BRIEF HISTORY OF EMMANUEL BIBLE SCHOOL



## ORIGIN

In April, 1980 the Lord called Pastor Dara Pen from the United States to serve as a short-term missionary in the Refugee Camps in Thailand. He presented his idea of a "mini" Bible School to the leaders of the Khmer Church in Khao I Dang Camp. The idea was welcomed by all the leaders, but it did not crystalize on account of difficulties encountered at that time. After spending several months ministering in Thailand and the Philippines, Pastor Pen returned to the States in September.

The Lord made it possible for Pastor Pen to go back to Thailand with his wife and two children in January 1981. As an Associate Missionary serving under the Christian and Missionary Alliance he was asked to give the objectives and specific goal for his ministry. The "objectives" listed in his job description were "Teaching, training, edifying the churches and providing spiritual ministry to the Medical Team" and the specific goal was "To encourage literacy classes to teach those who do not read or write Cambodian and to set up some type of a "mini Bible School" to train pastors and/or Christian workers for the possible return to the Land."

Prior to his return to Thailand the Lord had ordered some changes to take place. Many Christians along with their pastor, Rev. Chan Ham, were moved from Khao I Dang Camp to Sakeo II Camp where Pastor Pen and his wife Ligaya were to be assigned. Pastor Chan Ham and Pastor Dara Pen had known one another a long time. Without delay Pastor Pen approached Pastor Chan Ham and the leaders there with the proposal for a Bible School -- an underground Bible School, mind you. To make a long story short, the Bible School officially opened on February 12, 1981 in Sakeo II Camp. The students, nearly one hundred of them had registered, named the school "Emmanuel Bible School." The question was raised, "Why Emmanuel?" The answer was unanimous, "Because 'God is With Us.'" Truly the Lord was with us all during the time the school was in operation.

The EBS was a "specialized academic" approach to the refugees situation designed to meet the immediate need for training Christian pastors and Christian workers among the refugees in their emergency environment. It was hoped that this training would help prepare them for pastoral ministries where they might be located -- either in third countries or in the event they were to be repatriated to the homeland.

The purpose of the school was to fulfill the instruction Paul gave to Timothy, "And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit though to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others

also" (2 Tim. 2:2). It was to provide pastoral training in Bible, Theology, Church History, Bible Interpretation and ministry-related subjects. It was also hoped to provide credit, through a recognized school in the Philippines or somewhere else, so that the students who go to third countries would be able to continue their training for Christian Ministry. It should be noted that a pastoral class was established in the second semester. Many of those pastoral students continued their training in third countries. Today many of them are serving the Lord in various capacities around the world, including Rev. Sok Em, Pastor of the Cambodian congregation in Hamilton.

The Emmanuel Bible School, however, was short-lived, for its Dean, Pastor Dara Pen, had to return to the United States for (cancer) surgery. Furthermore, Sakeo II Camp was closed at the end of 1982. Pastor Pen continued his ministry at home in the States with the Cambodian Evangelical Churches of the Christian and Missionary Alliance.



### EMMANUEL BIBLE SCHOOL IN CANADA

Rev. Sok Em, a man of vision, saw the need for a training center in Canada and he expressed his desire to Rev. Dara Pen. After the first Bible Conference of the Cambodian Churches in Canada at Thamesford in 1989 where Pastor Dara Pen was one of the speakers, the two brethren concurred that a Bible School was needed, but that they should wait for the "opportune moment."

After the Second Bible Conference last year when the Federation of Cambodian Evangelical Churches in Canada was established, Pastor Sok Em as well as Pastor Dara Pen and some other brethren felt that the opportune moment had arrived. And after several months of planning and waiting, the brethren of the Cambodian Congregation of Buchanan Park Free Methodist Church voted to go ahead with the Bible School Project. Pastor Sok Em presented this resolution to the FCECC Provisional Executive Committee and it was approved. Emmanuel Bible School was named after the short-lived Emmanuel Bible Institute in Sakeo II Camp in Thailand. The idea was to continue the ministry which God had used to provide training for so many refugees, through the "main campus" in Sakeo II Camp and the two other centers in Khao I Dang and Kamput Camps ten years earlier.

Pastor Dara Pen was asked to render his assistance. He agreed to serve as the Provisional Dean to get the school off the ground until someone else is found to relieve him of this position because of his heavy responsibilities in the States and on account of his health.

Rev. Dara Pen, in turn, contacted Prairie Bible Institute in Three Hills, Alberta for help. The intention was to ask Prairie to recognize Emmanuel

Bible School and grant credit to its students. Praise the Lord! Dr. Al Reimer, Head of the Continuing Education Department, who agreed to serve as a member of the Board of Reference, assured us of Prairie's willingness to help. He will, at an appropriate time, meet with EBS officers in Hamilton to crystalize the relationship between Prairie Bible Institute in Three Hills, Alberta and Emmanuel Bible School in Hamilton, Ontario.

Also in his capacity as the provisional director, Rev. Pen prepared an interim curriculum consisting of the foundational courses which will be taken one a time throughout the year. This curriculum will be revised as often as the need arises until the final one is fully adopted.

Because Emmanuel Bible School is a specialized academic approach designed to meet the immediate need for training Christian pastors and Christian workers, the curriculum is structured to meet the need of the students, especially married students, so that their family life would not be disrupted as the men prepare themselves for the ministry. Consequently, EBS students will take one course at a time beginning with Introduction to the Bible, but not necessarily in the same order thereafter. The proposed curriculum will be revised, as often as necessary, until the other "foundational courses" are covered as part of EBS official curriculum in the future.



### SOME PROPOSED FOUNDATIONAL COURSES

Introduction to the Bible  
Exploring Genesis  
Exploring Exodus  
Exploring Leviticus  
Systematic Theology  
Church History

Bible Interpretation  
Evangelism and Missions  
The Life of Christ  
Homiletics  
Pastoral Theology

Many things remain to be worked out, e.g., the admission requirements, the tuition fees, the regulations, the faculty. Please pray that in due time these matters will be taken care of for the smooth operation of EBS, which we truly believe the Lord has been pleased to raise up in time of need.

Please pray that Emmanuel Bible School will be used of the Lord to train future pastors, missionaries, and Christian workers for the white harvest field, not in Canada only, but also around the world, be it in refugee camps in Thailand, along the border, or in Kampuchea (the new name for Cambodia).

For further information please feel free to write or call either Rev. Sok Em or Rev. Dara Pen. We will be glad to answer any questions.