



Baptismal service in Cambodia.

ministering to the physical needs of suffering Cambodians. Sammy and Merlen often visit the AIDS hospital to pray for dying patients who are in desperate need of a word of hope. In November 2003, the church hosted a medical team from the U.S. which brought needed medicine, prayer, and love into the lives of nearly 300 individuals. And thanks to funds provided by People to People, the church operates a feeding program through which 80 to 100 children receive a hot meal twice a week and a gospel message.

Yet their work is fraught by opposition from without and growing pains within. Their building was stoned recently by neighbors during a youth service. With over 55 members, the congregation has outgrown its current facility, which also serves as home to the Lamanilaos. They have located a new and larger meeting place in a safer area, but are in need of financial help to pay the initial deposit (\$1800) and the increased rent (\$250 per month).

Sammy has this to say about their work in Cambodia: "We are here as witnesses that the love of God is stronger than hatred and death. To the wounded, the suffering, and the brokenhearted, we are here to proclaim the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior." ✨

Russell Board serves as overseas ministries coordinator for Austral-Asia.

TRUE LOVE'S VOW

by Camilla Smith



During my junior year of high school, I made a commitment to remain sexually pure and not engage in premarital sex.

Once a week, a small group of students from different denominations met with a local youth pastor for a city-wide emphasis on the importance of purity. We were taught the consequences of premarital sex and its effects on different aspects of one's life.

Not only were we taught the importance of abstinence; we also learned the significance of mate selection. Everyone in the class wrote a "high-expectation" list, describing the characteristics he or she would want in a mate. At the end of the class, we were given the opportunity to make the commitment to stay pure and not engage in premarital sex.

It's important for young people to make this commitment early, before they are in a relationship, because then the decision to remain pure has already been established before the sexual temptations come. If a person has already had sex, he or she can make a second commitment to remain pure from that moment on.

As a reminder of my commitment to purity, I wear a "True Love Waits" ring on my left ring finger. On my wedding day, I will give my husband the greatest gift – the ring, which represents my chastity and the commitment I made at age 16 to wait for him.

Camilla is from Houston, Missouri. Presently, she is a senior at Southwestern Christian University, children's pastor at River of Life Church in Oklahoma City, OK, and part-time copy reader/receptionist in the Editorial Department of LifeSprings Resources.

As a young man, I saw holiness reflected in the joyful and prayer-filled life of "Granny Jones" in Franklin Springs, Georgia. The mother of IPHC statesman Byon Jones, in her later years her calling was to pray for the Emmanuel College students who passed her home daily.

—Dr. Doug Beacham

*Holiness
in Action*