

# God's grace at work



God works His redemptive purposes in ways we can't imagine.

As you read each month's *World Missions Edition of Today's Pentecostal Evangel*, remember that the reports of missionaries and believers around the world may be vastly different from those featured in the leading news magazines. Secular society's perspective generally doesn't include room for God's activity in world situations.

Jesus said, "My Father is working ... and I Myself am working" (John 5:17, NASB). Sometimes today's circumstances can be stressful — and even dangerous — as evil abounds in the world. But Jesus' proclamation remains: God is still at work.

Few events in the last century demonstrate the horror of evil in this world as graphically as the killing fields of Cambodia. Along with the genocide of the Jews in the Holocaust of World War II and the massacre of more than a million Tutsis in Rwanda in 1994, the four-year reign of terror by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia staggers the imagination. Such acts of atrocity shock our thinking and remind us of the depths of human depravity.

During the Khmer Rouge's darkest days, a small group of about 100 people fled for their lives. Only 25 survived. Among them was an 11-year-old boy. Today we can look back and see God's hand of divine protection upon this young life. God had a plan and purpose for him that no one on earth would have dreamed or imagined.

After coming to America as a refugee, the boy was placed in a Christian home and grew up to attend North Central University in Minneapolis. God gently worked in his life and eventually called him to do something most of us would consider unthinkable — return to the very place where he suffered so

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much anguish and preach the gospel to the people of his birth. In a testimony to God's grace and miraculous healing power, the young man obeyed.

As you read this gripping story, ponder God's grace at work in the world — and in your life. God's Word says that He ordained a purpose for each of us before we were born (Psalm 139).

Through the problems and difficulties we face, God weaves our lives into a rich tapestry that brings Him honor. His involvement in the world did not end at creation; He still works in and through us today. Paul, the missionary and apostle, said, "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10, NIV).

God has a purpose for each of our lives. Meditating on this miracle should prompt two things to occur.

First, it should cause us to worship God. His power, holiness and grace still work mighty wonders in this rebellious, spiritually lost world.

Second, it should cause us to reaffirm or even rededicate our lives to the purpose God has ordained to work through each of us.

The more than 2,000 Assemblies of God missionaries serve in the nations of the world because God chose them and they obeyed. May all of us who have been redeemed by His grace offer ourselves as living sacrifices for His good and acceptable and perfect will (Romans 12:1,2). **tpe**

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