



# SACCPhilly Helps Gap Year Students Experience & Serve New Cultures

## A Visit to the Neighborhood Buddhist Temple Raised Questions & Awareness

SACCPhilly recently teamed up with Dr. Cam Garven of Productive Lives to host a group of college age students from the Onelife Institute. These students are spending a gap year ministering the Gospel in different cultural settings, studying the Bible, all the while serving various ministries. For their effort they receive 30 credit hours from Cairn University.

They joined us in our South Philly neighborhood and visited the Preah Buddha Rangsey Temple which serves many in the local Cambodian refugee community.

The students were given an introduction to Buddhism by a monk who lives at the temple. It was fascinating to compare core tenants of Buddhism with those of Christianity.

The students were quick to recognize a similar— even 10 Commandments like— type of law keeping as one of the goals of Buddhism. One member of the group observed that the law is indeed written on the hearts of ALL men (Romans 2:14)! Others expressed thankfulness that Christ had indeed fulfilled the perfect law of God for us, freeing us to obey him out of a heart of gratitude and love for our neighbors.

Our guide, Monk Nat, was very patient and careful to describe Buddhism to the students. At one point he produced a bottle of water and a can of Pepsi. He explained that the goal of the Buddhist is to attain a life of peace or balance like that of the water. Our minds and lives are more often like the soda, he said, consisting of directionless thoughts and agitated by the cares of life.

It was Pastor David's first visit to the temple since moving into the neighborhood ten years earlier. The temple is adjacent to the park where SACCPhilly has shared the gospel with many of our neighbors through Kids Club and our park festivals.

After the visit, Dr. Garven and our pastor debriefed the students. Pastor David observed that "although South Philly is a very ethnically diverse place, it is less a melting pot and more a 'tossed salad' with a mix of ethnicities living close in proximity but rarely coming together to form something new." He went on to explain to the students that SACCPhilly exists to grow a new church community from the many nations that have come to our city.

Please pray for our Cambodian and Buddhist friends that that might hear the liberating gospel message and trust in the Lord Jesus!



**Learning about our Neighbors:** Pastor David Grainge (left of center) and the students from the gap year program pose for a picture following a brief introduction to Buddhism given by Monk Nat. Later the group came and served at our SACCPhilly Kids Club program. Many thanks to Dr. Cam and the gang for all their help and enthusiasm!



**Marking Black History Month:** Members and friends of the Tasker Street Missionary Baptist Church shared during our Swahili language worship service this past February. Dr. Michael Johnson (far left) presented the church's new Miriam Medical Clinic. Having spent a year in Kenya, he was able to preach most of his message in Swahili!



**Global Christmas Worship:** Several of the SACCPhilly congregations came together to celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve. Pictured here is a choir from the Karen (Burmese) Baptist Church.