

Phan Phon

Phnom Penh, Cambodia



When Phan's home caught on fire, he could only save his three grandchildren. Everything else burned to the ground. Phan was angry at the neighbor who caused the fire. When his anger spread to his family and neighbors, Phan knew he needed to forgive.

LESLIE NILSSON, PHOTOGRAPHER

I realized that my neighbor was poor like me. He didn't intend to start the fire. If I made him pay, he would be in trouble, and I would still feel hatred. I remembered the word of the Lord that we should love our neighbor. I felt that I should forgive.

When I decided to forgive, I felt peace.

My neighbor was happy I forgave him. My family is more happy too. When I see this, I am also happy.

Members and neighbors contributed what they could to help my family. I received a lot of rice and shared it with others. They asked me why I give when I'm in a bad situation. I tell them when I serve others, I serve the Lord. I want to give to Him because He made many miracles happen in my life. We have a beautiful home, better than the one that burned down.

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See more about Phan's journey of faith, including additional photographs, at lds.org/go/E1197.

Elder Larry J. Echo Hawk teaches how forgiveness helps you move forward and brings peace to your life. Read his message at lds.org/go/1196.

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