



## Placed in His Heart by God

by David Brewer, Co-Director SEED

I first met Thy Venn, who paints watercolor bookmarks and note cards sold by SEED, in 2012. I saw him again two years later when we both attended VISA Ministries' Global Studies Intensive (GSI) in Thailand and Myanmar.

Thy Venn told me what he had been doing since we last saw each other. He had planted one church and begun work in another village outside Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital. He also showed me digital Images of several of his recent paintings.

I shared with the GSI group how I had first met Thy Venn and how he demonstrated not just painting skill but also unique ability to convey deep feeling through his art. Thy Venn then expressed to the group how painting for him is not just a way to work or to make money, but rather a way to express what God has placed in his heart.

Later that night Thy Venn told me the story behind one of his paintings. While riding his motorcycle one day, he passed through a village he had never visited. He saw an old man whose home was very close to the river. He felt led to stop and ended up swapping stories with the man for a couple of hours.

When Thy Venn returned to the village the next week, he could not find the man. Other villagers reported the man had died. Thy Venn was heartbroken.

Thy Venn again passed through the village. The hour was getting late. To honor the man, Thy Venn slept in his now-empty house. In the middle of the night he woke up to notice the moon was exceptionally bright. The moon's glow made the entire landscape very beautiful. He took a photo and later painted the picture from the photo.

Today when Thy Venn sees this painting, he remembers the old man, the beauty of the moon and the wonder of the God who made them both. When I see the painting I am reminded of those same things, as well as my good friend Thy Venn.

SEED is honored to partner with skilled artisans like Thy Venn and to be able to affirm and empower both their skills and their heart's desires.



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