



The Khmer Chronicle

The Cambodian Ministry Newsletter
of George and Shary Frahm
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Unpleasant Memories

Living and serving in a third world country such as Cambodia, we sometimes find ourselves dealing with less than savory aspects of human nature. Last month, I (George) was reminded of this by a message that came through an expat information network. One writer wrote asking for family hotel reservations for a particular beach town. Another member of the network replied as politely as possible that the family may want to reconsider their holiday plans because the settlement in question was a “sex town,” known as much for its brothels as its beaches.

This reminded me of a time when we accompanied a three person team on a short term mission to another beach town. The team consisted of a teacher and a married couple. The couple had elected to do a preparation for marriage workshop and divided responsibilities between themselves. The wife was talking with two young English speaking locals when suddenly she motioned for me to join her. I wandered over to the shade of the tree where they were meeting and asked how I could help. The facilitator explained that the young men had a problem that she did not know how to answer.

I asked them if they could explain the problem to me and they told me a tale that one of their classmates had become engaged to a foreign gentleman, so I started asking questions. “Is she pretty?” “Yes, she is beautiful!” “Do you like her?” “Yes, very much.” “Is her fiancé older than she is?” “He is over twice her age.” “Are you jealous; do you want to marry her?” “Yes, but we cannot match the man's bride price, her parents are poor and he has offered a lot of money for the young lady.” “Why are you concerned?”

“Because he has lied to her parents. He does not want to marry her, but want's to use her.”

We continued our discussion, but I am not sure I helped that much. It was frustrating to hear about her parents being deceived, and selling their own daughter into sexual slavery and possibly trafficking. We prayed that our assumptions were wrong and our fears unfounded, but knew that immorality, especially with young girls, is a huge problem in Cambodia.

Being reminded of this discussion still makes me sick to my stomach. Just as we prayed that day, I continue to pray for the young victims of slavery and trafficking. Please pray with me that Christ will come for them and release them. We would like to work with the communities to show them the love of Christ as opposed to what humans call love. We also want to “teach them to fish,” rather than “giving them a fish,” to improve their communities so that they can resist the temptation to “sell” their daughters. This includes teaching sustainable agriculture, and new entrepreneurial opportunities that are culturally desirable.

GETTING TO YOUR DESTINATION

Even though we each have a path to follow, it's easy to get so turned around in this world that we don't know where we're going. Gratefully we can always remember that God does the saving through His Son Jesus on the cross. The Bible says we are saved by grace through faith. (Ephesians 2:8 NIV). Amen.

So, while there's nothing we can do to earn salvation, we do show our faith by how we live our lives. We decide how we're going to think and

what we're going to do when we wake up every day. We take responsibility for our own thoughts, emotions and actions. Hence our journey has begun. Perhaps we could call this our GPS as found in many cars.

Probably by now each of us has had some exposure or insight into a topic called intentional living. It's not a new topic by any means. Yet, for a brief few moments we'd like to touch on this subject as 'food for thought' so to speak. It's even for our benefit to write this here.

Let's see, a GPS system shows you the path to where you want to go. A GPS requires putting in the right destination, where you are headed. It also has a beginning point. It knows where you are starting your journey. Once you enter a destination, it calculates a route and a path for you to follow. In the same way, intentional living points you toward the path in God's Word. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

As each of us gets our GPS in order in gratitude to our Father for His Son Jesus, please consider some of these ideas for yourself (and this is not all inclusive by any means) as we are as well~

Balance all parts of your life

Use wisdom and humility in roles of leadership

Realize that ministry involvement is not a substitute for time with the Lord

Be intentional with time with the Lord

Truly know and experience the love of God in your life

Form deep lasting friendships that spur on deeper relationships with God

Ephesians 5:10, "Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it."

It's a roadmap for life. When put into practice each and every day, living intentionally will

change each of our lives and those around us.

Around the World

Of late, across the globe, things have happened and are happening that we may have heard about, and certainly we can pray about. I think we can all agree that the media at times comes with a bias and a sense of sensationalism, but taken aside those facts still remain and require us to pray and lift up those persons and situations out there. For most of the time there are Christians on the front lines as well who especially need our prayers for that very reason. They too are ministering to the lost souls around them in the 'real' world, behind the scenes.

As you read before, George continues to be a part of a consortium of groups out of Cambodia who interact thru the internet network to provide the latest of whatever is going on in their areas, keeping others informed of the status locally for all of us. Unfortunately of late there has been an upswing of negative occurrences across the country, which will probably never make the news of the day sort of thing, but encourages us to be vigilant in our daily lives when we are there and remain reality based. Here is an excerpt of one of those:

"My wife just got attacked on her scooter on the way back from work at 4pm. She didn't get hurt but two "good" guys stole her bag with phone, paper work and a few dollars. We also got robbed in our house last year and the "good guys" entered our children's room while they were sleeping...Some of you will say "it's common" and that's right. It happened to many of my friends and other people too...Referring to police is almost a nonsense and a waste of time for sure...I'm thinking about the next victims...I suggest you take a few minutes to inform the main tour guide books as Lonely Planet and others like local newspapers about this situation in Phnom Penh. Inform people around you. This may help at least a little bit...It concerns usually expatriate ladies but Khmer people too! And it happens daily sometimes when you open your house gate too...I drive

around the city everyday and see so many people carrying bags and phones on bikes, tuk tuks, scooters or even walking peacefully...Please be careful.”

Its good that in so many parts of the world that there are persons willing to join their resources as work continues amongst the locals.



Knee Thoughts

Praise for our Jesus and His love and salvation for each of us. Amen!

Praise for the opportunity to serve, all of us, wherever God places us.

Pray for those in Africa and in the Middle East, both in turmoil with different issues at the moment.

Praise that we can facilitate new member classes and the “A Life That Matters” Bible study.

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As we are now into the fall timeline and returning to a calendar schedule, please let us know when we can come and share God's ministry in Cambodia with your church or small group or just yourselves. We will be returning to Cambodia in the near future in God's perfect timeline. Pastor Vannarith is back in Cambodia now so we can work out a budget with our Cambodian partners to formulate a plan that will work for us in the field for the work that ELCC would like us to continue. They too invest in us and are a part of this budgetary process.

Partnership in the Gospel

Global Lutheran Outreach has totally revamped their website which has given us a wonderful opportunity to manage our own blog going forth here and when we return to Cambodia. Please feel free to check it out as we will be doing some initial postings before our departure.

<http://globallutheranoutreach.com/blog/frahm/>

Partnership with Global Lutheran Outreach means that your prayers, encouragement, and financial support are fully recognized and counted. We welcome your continued attention and love to God's work in Cambodia. Thank you so much!



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