



The Khmer Chronicle

The Cambodian Ministry Newsletter
of George and Shary Frahm
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*Taking the Plunge...
Across the Pond...
Out of the Comfort Zone...
Is this You?
(Part 2)*

An interesting book of late that I read a healthy chunk of is entitled "Cambodia's Curse." It's a newer type of history book, somewhat encapsulating about the last 25 years or so in the country history of Cambodia. Normally not a book that I'd read, but it has been an affirming eye opener as it helped to understand the hows and whys of working around and with the in-power governmental people in this ministry. Even more so it is the reason why God's ministry is growing and how He is calling all of us to partner together to glorify Him in spite of man's repeated failings.....

First though (and before forgetting my train of thought on this) let's finish the short term mission ideas and its personableness for all of us. At least some of those fleeting thoughts and ideas to close out this topic.

13. People who are involved with and go on short term missions tend to be more generous with missions for the rest of their lives and it self perpetuates itself with more volunteers as momentum grows.

14. From short termers come long termers, that being full time missionaries are grown in the midst of these short term trips. We've seen a solid growth of interest for persons to give a year or two to share life across the pond. Many of this new generation coming up have had some language learning outside their own and are better equipped to step off the bus and dig in. While many times a person may not know the local language, there is an exuberance to 'figure it out.' Also, there often seems to be some measured consideration and a need to 'get your feet wet' before making any long term commitment for a year or so. Doing time in Indonesia helped us get to this point.

15. Although we have not been personally involved in local ministries of late, we would imagine that being involved in a short term team overseas would be apt to gain engaging enthusiasm at the local home level thereafter. That momentum is gratefully hard to extinguish once its got a solid base.

16. A new sense of vitality ~ energy enthusiasm, and encouragement can be given to those long term missionaries when they are embraced with the motivation of short termers. The lives of the local believers are warmed by the spirit of cross-cultural servanthood that the short termers display. They give a lot of 'bang for their buck.' Amen 10x over !

17. Short term service is a wonderful example for family, friends and people who hesitate to launch out by faith in cross-cultural ministries. Many testimonies have been given by people on how short term missions changed their lives in numerous ways for the good. We can recall one team who went to a lunch next to a creek for fellowship one day. They had worked hard the whole week, but this was now their time to come together. Each were given a piece of wood and told they could write down whatever they needed to give to God. Then each privately went 'to the water' with pastor to wash it away. Powerful and gut wrenchingly humble ! God was in house that day!

18. A demonstration of trust and obedience helps one grow up more into all aspects into Christ. The more we obey and trust God the more He reveals to us about Himself and His kingdom and righteousness. Another Amen !

19. Short term missionaries learn a great deal about their gifts, abilities and callings. Those short term mission experiences helps one uncover hidden areas of strengths and weaknesses that are helpful in all areas of life, in relationships and making decisions. We encourage groups to do a couple local projects together before they get on the airplane to 'iron out

those details.'

20. Short term missions give people a greater appreciation for what they have been blessed with in their own lives, and they are willing to share more with others.

21. Relational and spiritual skills are enhanced on short term missionary experiences. It gives opportunities to toss out yucky attitudes and poor skills and put on a new hat.

22. Short term missionaries help to expand a greater understanding of what heaven is like and brings out the urgency of the gospel to save millions in that Christ-less world.

23. Short term mission trips need to be strategically planned with the local church and community involved so as to benefit them in the bigger picture. Coming and doing is not as effective as coming and doing together and leaving a legacy when the team departs. One never wants to promote a trend of earthly dependency.

24. And this list could go on and on and on but...not right now.

25. Everyone is BLESSED !

~On the Homefront~

Back in Cambodia, God's ministry continues to slowly grow and be blessed. Just this past month we had some long conversation with Pastor Vannarith as he looked for us on Skype to share the latest there. In our year long absence he has moved forward with the help of Garuna Foundation and opened three new local Christian schools in different locations to serve local communities. Each will add a grade a year as students progress onward.

Even more exciting is the purchase of land west of the airport that will be raised up as a ministry center for the pastors to be trained and a deaconess program to be launched. This is exciting news as the goal is for these godly men and women to be religiously trained as professionals and representatives into each of their villages to build sustainable communities to grow their church flocks into eternity.

If you have the opportunity to watch "Living on One Dollar a Day" on Netflix, one thing you will see is the paramount point of the local community to grow itself from within. An example is a micro loan to purchase a chain saw to cut wood; another is a woman who sets up a weaving business so that she can go to nursing school. While these are not exactly the same scenarios we may encounter, the fact remains that we will be instrumental in teaching good sound business as well as teaching English to the pastors and deaconesses so they can take it back to the local level.

Giving people the opportunity to grow and do it themselves with ALL of our help, ours, theirs, and yours, promotes long lasting results. Its done at the ground up and it comes with no strings (we don't go with \$\$\$) attached except for our time and effort, their hard work, and God's covenant blessing to His ministry amongst everyone.

Knee Thoughts



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

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

Pray that those that we contact that they will consider how God wants them to be involved in His ministry.

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