



# The Khmer Chronicle

The Cambodian Ministry Newsletter  
of George and Shary Frahm  
May 2016  
Volume 6 Edition 5



(the one on the right could be Asian maybe?)

## A Tugging Rope Between Two Countries (and we are balancing between them)

In the months since we made our historic two day, two trip, whirlwind honking car swerving excursion to Vietnam (our December 3, 2015 post) and then applied for our missionary visa status in this country, we have had to make some additional decisions that we had not originally planned on when we set foot on the ground here. It has taken us some deep seeded discussion, weighing the impact and time factor involved, and a lot of prayer tucked in, around, and afterward. Let's step back a bit and share with you in the changes between two countries that has affected our course of movement at the moment.

Last year we had been told by the locals here in an email that this country was redefining its visa categories and including in that the length of stay allowed under each. In that discussion we learned that there was a new category, which by all standards, had to meet some criteria, but what it did in the end was to officiate those of us who came to work in this country as NGO's or with registered entities in country. We fell under the second category as we were under the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cambodia who were now officially registered as of January of 2015. We could understand the necessity for these changes,

as while here previously, we had seen some improper tampering with lives of the locals to serve the umbrella organizations who had less than clear motives for being here.

That being said, when the very kind pastor we spoke about on the December 3<sup>rd</sup> post of last year took our passports to get our year long visas for both of us, no one was aware that the guidelines for 'certain' visas had also been altered. Evidently those changes slipped thru the hands of the agent doing my visa because I got a year visa with no problem. Unfortunately, the one holding George's passport only gave him a six month visa, stating that he could not get it extended until he had a new passport. Sigh! Under the new ruling we had missed that opportunity by only TWO days in the legal sense of the word. Yes, both of our passports are dated the same for expiration next year. Mine was sent thru without a hitch, George's



was not.

So then we learn that there are new passport laws coming forth in the good ole USA for anyone who is trying to get a new passport (or in our case new renewed passport). Coupled with that the US is in an election year boondoggle that has clouded the minds of many along the chain of command. What this means to us in particular is that taking our passports to the US embassy here for transport back to the US for processing could

eventually take up six months to get done, leaving us with no option for any exit at any time during that period, whether it be for work or in an emergency. George had already read on the expat website of individuals who were panicking being in this country with no way out and having to leave, requesting advice as to avenues to proceed on. We didn't want to be in a situation as that, especially with our retired ages staring us in our brains. In addition to that, the Cambodian government would be fine us on a daily basis for any days we stayed in country overstaying our current visa dates. Can you see us standing on that rope now trying to keep our balance. Wow!

In April we finally made a decision that in our best interest and for ease of the local church here, we would go home early to proceed with the necessary steps to get our new passports. Of course this means that probably the earlier the better since it is an election year (and we all know how those days go by).

Our departure date from Phnom Penh is slated for May 31<sup>st</sup> with arrival into Chicago on June 1<sup>st</sup>. After we are recovered from jet lag, have unpacked our bags, gotten reacquainted with our home, and have received all of those stored up hugs and love from the months past from our family both in Chicago and Memphis, we will plan on a trip to see each and every one of you as your time allows just to hear how each of your lives are going and to thank you for all the months of prayers and commitment along side with us.

So that is the jest of this newsletter. We have to come home earlier than expected, but at least we have a plan and the church is working around that as best that they can, being sure that those projects we have started on are either completed or will be adjusted accordingly. This topic has been interesting at best, with both countries taking on their own guidelines for their own benefit. We are caught in the middle of two worlds and two cultures – each pulling at us with their own (probably not the only ones either.) Gratefully God is gracious and good! And we are too

because of Him.

**Ecclesiastes 4:12** And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him – a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

## Knee Thoughts



Praise and prayers for the Immanuel Lutheran Church team in Cambodia sharing Jesus, being a part there of and seeing God's ministry on the ground.

Pray for God's blessing for ELCC plans and how we can continue to partner with them in the future.

Pray for the busy schedule for the month of May that we use our time wisely for the benefit of God's church here.

Prayers for safe travels to the US, mountains of time with family and friends, and new renewed passports.



## Giving Page

**By mail** ~ Make check payable to  
Global Lutheran Outreach  
6709 Ficus Drive  
Miramar, FL 33023  
Memo: Frahm/Cambodia

**Secure online giving page:**  
<http://globallutheranoutreach.com/support-frahm.html>

**Contact Information**  
E-mail: [george.frahm@gmail.com](mailto:george.frahm@gmail.com)  
Skype: george.s.frahm  
E-mail: [smf.s.mail@gmail.com](mailto:smf.s.mail@gmail.com)  
Skype: sharolyn.m.frahm

**Facebook:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/EmpoweringLCC>  
**Website and Blog:**  
<http://globallutheranoutreach.com/blog/frahm>