



# The Khmer Chronicle

The Cambodian Ministry Newsletter  
for Immanuel Lutheran Church, Snor Village  
Siem Reap Province, Cambodia  
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Immanuel Lutheran Church  
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"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."  
Romans 8:28

Paul, the apostle, as historically reported, wrote this verse sometime in the mid 50's AD, but even today the resonance of this still rings as truthful, loud and clear.

God uses all things for our good, not that all things are good. God is bigger than anything.

One cannot always just go about what one wants to do and expect it to work out well.

God knows us intimately and completely. He loves us no matter what.

But we need to listen to Him.

Thank goodness!!

I have, as this is newsletter is now started, been in Cambodia almost two weeks. Traveling through twelve time zones, taking a solid two days of travel to get here through throngs of terminals and miles of walking plus sitting on a plane was eventful. It took patience and time.

Nothing major happened and my luggage arrived with me. One interesting note is that

my bags were the bulk of those on the trolleys and the ramp in Siem Reap to pick up. The airport had more staff than incoming travelers that day. And mind you, this is the tourist hub for Angkor Wat, the number one tourist attraction in the world and a World Heritage site, amongst others.

My khmer family readily scooped me up outside those revolving doors where they patiently waited. Little Esther, who had never seen me before, asked me to carry her across the lot. Instant love ! Cuddles included. (see photo below).

While I have begun to sort out life here, God has clearly been paving the way each and every day. It is quite obvious that things have changed over these past three years of our absence, but if one peels away those changes, the basics are still the same, day in and day out.

The city of Siem Reap is about 130,000 now, give or take the flow of locals in and out most days. There is a defined section of the city that indulges on the tourist industry and their counterparts, and then there are the locals and those who do not frequent those areas and live a day to day existence in their communities. In those remaining areas, there are tiny subset burghs of varying lifestyles and economic levels.

I am currently in a tiny local community with a

maze of streets harboring shops that sell electronics, coffee, snacks and drinks, homegrown foods and restaurants, barber and hairdressers, pharmacies, open clothing stalls, and of course those food carts for snacks, spicy snails, or a quick bite of food.



Interestingly, the guest house I am at for now is managed by the brother of the same wonderful family who stepped up when we moved to Siem Reap almost seven years ago and had provided us with safe housing and taken care of our every need. Most days I am the only guest. Last week was the Water Festival country wide. There were a fair few locals who came here to stay during those days to celebrate their yearly three day event. It was not quiet by any means. I hope tonight will be better. Locals are noisy too.



The day after my arrival was little Esther's birthday. She is now officially three years old. While she may have not realized the event for what it was, getting to the age of three is a celebration in itself and is not missed. The church speakers came out to play khmer christian music off the computer into the community, the green canopy with lights hanging off tree branches came alive, and the throngs of skewered shrimp, stuffed hotdogs, rice (of course), stir fried meats,

vegetables, and drinks to toast the night were

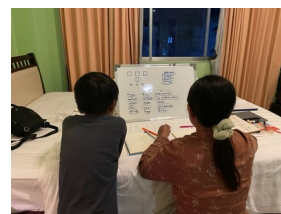


brought out. The condiments were snappy hot and I had to monitor that. I soon discovered the after taste of those sauces were wowzers!

Since then I have made it to Immanuel Lutheran Church last Sunday to reconnect with the community. This beautiful hanging still graces the front inside the church.



The faces of the children may have changed in these last three years, but they are still coming to hear God's perfect message to them. It was special for me to be able to share about the uniqueness of God and how our 'fingerprints' form the bond between us and Him.



During the week we have started our English classes and I am overwhelmingly impressed with the seriousness apparent of everyone coming to learn. Downstairs in the main area I sit at the table during work hours, and slowly I am starting to build relationships there with those as I have time with them. God is good....



OMF...read on pls

In our early ministry days 'OMF' (Overseas Mission Fellowship) was another missionary agency we had some interaction with on a great personal level. Early on, the coined phrase for this agency was 'one more form (omf)' and as I write this part, I'm thinking Samuel and I are feeling just a tad overwhelmed in the muddy waters trying to get my year visa stamp/card. The forms are piling up as I write this.

Hint for anyone who is thinking to come long term...do not do this during any annual holiday times in this country. Please.

Obtaining a year visa in this country as a solo volunteer has literally fallen between the cracks. Or so it seems, depending on who you talk with.

There is basically no such category anymore. Any of us who come long term as a volunteer without an NGO affiliation or official registered local agency to partner with has

an uphill challenge to complete those 'forms' accordingly, get a residency card, and then after your 'local' address gets their part done with the police, THEN, maybe then (not there yet) one can apply for the visa. Considering the last six days were the Water Festival countrywide, we are a bit behind getting things in order because of that. Time is short.

Some NGO's are not here anymore either.

Additionally, no official information exists on their government website as yet about 'this' change as a volunteer because it has been less than a month since it was started. So I was clueless.

I'm hoping my 'gray' hair is going to help get this resolved...yet.

Stay tuned. Samuel and I are getting our dancing legs in order just in case I have to run in and out of Thailand to complete this. I hope not. Done it twice already over the years.





## Knee Thoughts

Urgent prayer need for the visa I will need to have in order to remain here long term. May our efforts honor and glorify our Father who has this all in His hands.

Please pray for the continued good health for the people of Cambodia, especially Pastor Samuel and his family and God's ministry there.

A huge prayer of thanks for my safe travels back here and my continued good health. WhoHoo!

Prayer for favorable government rulings that would encourage the spread of Christianity in Cambodia.

Prayer for clarity of the direction of what God wants me to take.

Thank you so much !

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