

God's Mission in Cambodia [August Prayer Letter]



Jum reap soo a! Sok sapbaiy? (Hello! How are you?)

Happy almost end of August! I have survived **two** months of the hot and humid weather in Cambodia. Some locals tell me that it has been cooling down this month, but I can't tell the difference... Not yet at least! However, even though I've never lived in an environment this hot, I'm getting used to it. Maybe because my skin got darker, I can bear the sunlight. Also, I am not bothered by it as much. Like the Koreans say "if you can't hide from it, enjoy it!" (피할 수 없으면 즐겨라!) And to be honest, I don't think sunblock works in this country;;; My feet finally has an awesome tan line that I (probably) would have never seen if I was in Canada. Are you curious what it looks like? Then I guess you should come to Cambodia and experience it yourself!
invitation

July was all about serving others through the love of Christ, so I summed up last month with the word "**serv**ing". This month, with school being over and quietness taking over the campus, I got a lot of time to rest. So, I want to sum up this month with the word "**rest**ing". All the short term mission teams left, and Bethel elementary, middle and high school is on break, as well as the El Shaddai Bible College. With the campus being maintained by a few staffs, it has been noiseless. Definitely, there was less work and I got a lot of time to **rest in Christ**.

Also, during August, the staff had a week off. I was afraid that I would be left alone while others went on their vacation. However, by grace, I was able to visit a province called Battambang. With my free time, I was able to relax and spend deeper time with God.

In this month's prayer letter, I will share on my trip to Battambang, one unfortunate incident and a random fun update. Enjoy, and once again a big *ak-koon* (thank you) to each one of my intercessors for the prayers and support.

Battambang Province

After a 6 hour bus ride to Battambang from Kampong Cham, I arrived in the “Education Province” of Cambodia. It is well developed compare to Kampong Cham with many different universities. Also, tourists traveling from Thailand to Cambodia use Battambang as a border, so there were many tourists.



There is a long river that runs down the middle of the province. Hotels and guesthouses are to one side while restaurants and other social activities are to the other. At night, a small night market opens near the riverbank, so you can enjoy the gentle breeze while drinking a delicious real fruit smoothie. (Something I wish I had done!)

The main reason to why this trip was so exciting for me was because... I got to see mountains! Cambodia is generally a flat land, so usually you see the horizon where the sky and the land meet. However, in Battambang, I saw some sort of a mountain. I was starting to miss the high mountains back in Vancouver and the open sea as well. Of course, this “hill” is nothing compared to what Vancouver has to offer, but it was nice to enjoy the beautiful scenery.

On my way home, I realized that even though I was only 6 hours away and was in the same country, each province was developing on its own. For example, Battambang had cafés and a famous pizza shop whereas in Kampong Cham no one would have even known the name of the pizza shop. There were many houses built with concrete including fresh water system while others still lived in bamboo houses with water stored in a cistern during the rain.

It was a refreshing time for me, and I was able to experience and see different sides to this country. I'm excited to update you on other stories during the rest of my stay in Cambodia.



One Unfortunate Incident

My laptop broke. Dun dun dunnn... I can confidently say that I know nothing about computers. However, when the blue screen appears, I know that something is not quite right. After a few days of having a mental breakdown, I realized that it wasn't even a big deal in the first place.

When it first broke down, all I could think about was my laptop. Before I slept, I prayed that it would work the next morning. When I woke up, the first thing I would do was to check if it was working. If it didn't, then for the rest of the day, it would linger in my head. Repeating that for a few days, I saw myself being pathetic. Why was I attached to something so materialistic? I wondered, "Have I ever thought about God like that? Did I ever think about Him 24/7? Do I think about Him as soon as I wake up? When I'm eating? When I'm in the bathroom? When I'm walking?" The answer was obviously, no.

It was another lesson learning day for me. That day, I lifted him a quiet worship by myself repenting and God gave me peace. I was so embarrassed at myself and ever since that day on, instead of resenting on why my computer had to break down, I'm **thankful!** I'm thankful that it didn't break down when I was teaching my summer English course. I'm thankful that it wasn't when school starts in September. It was at a time when I didn't need it as much. In the midst of this unfortunate incident, I was able to confess *"Thank you, God. Your timing is perfect."*

One Fun Update

1) Freshwater Dolphins – I had the opportunity to visit Kratie province (see the map above; it is on the right side of Kampong Cham) and see the freshwater dolphins living in the Mekong River! There were once over 500 dolphins but now because of the hunting only 30-40 are remaining. Even though it was a long trip, it was such an honor to see the rare FRESHWATER dolphins.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Please continue to keep praying for **many new students at El Shaddai**. The school is starting one month later, and we hope to have many students learn through the word of God.
- Please pray for me! With much time on my hands, please pray that I will use this time **wisely** and spend deeper intimate time with God.
- Please pray for the staffs and other missionaries at HMI. Remember that they are the ones on the **frontier** working and fighting so keep supporting them with your prayers.