

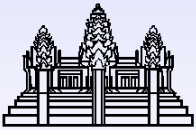


Jason & Leigha Carpenter Missionaries to Cambodia

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Dear Praying Friends,

July 2017

These past two months have been months of change and transition for us here in Cambodia. Before saying a reluctant goodbye to Anna and Hope as they returned to the United States, we introduced Anna to province life by taking a trip down to visit the church in Chirkmau. While there, we had our first taste of durian (a fruit famous for its stinky smell), and it actually wasn't that bad!

Later, Leigha and I also took another quick trip out to the church in Gompot, which was our longest moto trip as a couple that we have taken to this point. Although it was physically challenging because of the drive, as well as the extremely hard bed that we slept on (see the pictures at the end of the prayer letter), it was good for us to experience what the Khmer pastors go through in travelling out to the province churches every week.

These trips are essential for building relationships and an understanding of who I am as a missionary and what I will be doing in the future. There are many who go out to churches in the province on a day trip loaded with gifts of various kinds for the people there. But there are very few who go to share life with the pastor and the church people and demonstrate by their presence and actions that they have not come to give gifts, but instead have come to give themselves. We are committed to adding teaching and discipleship to the relationships that God has given us as we continue to develop in our understanding of language and culture, but this time of simple fellowship is crucial in laying a strong foundation for future ministry.

Since arriving in Svay Rieng, we have been very busy with adjusting to a new house, a new pattern of buying groceries, and a new pattern of ministry among other things. Leigha has been enjoying learning how to cook Khmer food from the house helper we inherited from the missionaries that we are replacing until they come back from their furlough in January 2018. She has also enjoyed going to the market every day just like all of our Khmer neighbors.

God has already given us multiple opportunities to either start or join in Bible studies with people whose hearts God has opened. Forrest and Jennifer McPhail, who have been taking care of the ministry for the Freeze family until Leigha and I were free to come, have been a great blessing to us over the past month as they have shared their wisdom from seventeen years of ministry here in Cambodia. I was able to observe and participate in multiple lessons of chronological Bible evangelism and am continuing that teaching now that the McPhails have returned to the United States for their furlough. It is so encouraging and exciting to see the truth impacting their thinking and to see eagerness and genuine hunger for the Word of God.

Each of those with whom we are working, Line, Sopen, Bunlue, and Pisut, are

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all at different stages and all have challenges unique to their situations. Sopen (32-year-old single man) is the only one that we are confident is saved. Line and Bunlue (widowed father and 19-year-old daughter) may both be saved, but we are not yet fully confident that they completely understand the Gospel. And just a few weeks ago, we had our first Bible study with Pisut and his wife (young married couple with two young children), studying the first chapter of Genesis. Although they are at different levels of understanding, they are all interested and asking lots of questions as we go through the chronological Bible teaching.

Please pray for these four people and the people that they know, that they would continue to grow in their understanding and trust in God's Word and that they would learn to share what they are learning with others around them.

In Christ,
Jason & Leigha Carpenter