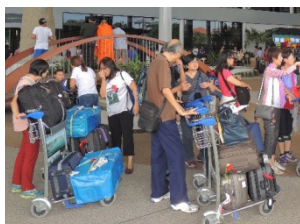


CAMBODIA MISSION TRIP

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Day One (14 Oct)



Upon arrival at Phnom Penh airport on the afternoon of 14th October, we cleared the custom smoothly despite the lots of new items we had brought along in bulk. This was pleasantly unexpected. Praise God!

After checking into our hotel, we travelled to Kandal, an hour's journey southwards. The objective was to see the recent ministry development by Pastor Moses there. It was a blessed ministry that in a short three months, he was able to win the hearts of the villagers, especially the village chief, and start a Bible study group as well as computer and English classes.

Day Two (15 Oct)



On the 2nd day, we set off from hotel at 6.45 a.m. for Tang Krang Community Centre. We ate bread for breakfast on the one-hour-plus journey.

Tang Krang CC is a 15-month-old ministry, led by Pastor Vibol and Sis. Sreyleak. There were more than 60 children from the village attending the camp. There were three foreigners staying there for a few

months to teach English classes daily – 1 retired Australian lady, 1 German young man and a young American lady. It was also encouraging to see 7 local youth volunteers serving as team leaders.

We presented the action song "Jesus is My Best Friend" and conducted 4 games. Their singspiration looked more like a dance session with all the action songs. The children were very responsive and excited. We had packet chicken rice with pickled vegetables for lunch together with the people, followed by a 2-hour siesta. We managed to spend time talking to the English teaching volunteers, young adults from City Church and



the youth volunteers.



We sat in their Sunday School at 2pm. There were 2 classes (for older and younger children). The worship service after Sunday School was mainly attended by the same group of people, with some adults joining. John Lee preached a simple message on Friendship. We left immediately after service, heading back to the capital. Had dinner before our nightly devotion, sharing and prayer before retiring to our rooms after 10pm.

A guy called SETH

I spotted a guy sitting quietly. I knew he was one of those university guys staying at the hostel in City Church. I went up to him, introducing my name and extending my hand for a handshake. Then I asked for his name. “Seth”, he replied.

“S E T H?”, I spelled out the name. I told him that his name appeared in the Bible. He looked at me strangely, giving a puzzled look. I took out my hand-phone and turned to Genesis 4:25 in my electronic bible and showed him where the name Seth appeared. He quickly took out his phone and turned to his bible in Khmer language.

“No, it doesn’t show here in my bible” he said. I told him that this could be due to translation issue. But at the least, his name appears in the English Bible. His next question startled me a bit. “Is it a good name?”

I told him that it is a good and godly name and told him the Abel-Cain episode, and that Jesus came from this genealogy lineage. He looked excited and pleased. I then asked him how he became a Christian.

His story was that he came from a poor family in the countryside. His parents are farmers. Due to the difficulty raising monies for his studies, his family faces difficulties. It was the care, concern and prayers of Christians in City Church during the difficult moments that touched him to receive Jesus. On the few occasions that he returned to his home town, he tried to share the gospel to his parents. However, being Buddhists, they weren’t pleased with his conversion. I was feeling helpless as I listened to his story. In the end, I prayed for him & his family.



Later in the afternoon, just as we were leaving the centre, Seth came running to me. He wanted to take a selfie with me. I didn't realise a simple conversation and prayer would have touched him so deeply. I thank God for this opportunity of blessing someone in Cambodia.

Day Three (16 Oct)

Like the previous day, we set off at 6.45am for Tang Krang and picked up bread at a bakery for breakfast. We conducted a game session and Pauline gave a health talk on brushing teeth & washing hands. Lunch was packed chicken rice with pickles. During the siesta, we gathered all the volunteers (older youths, foreigners and those from city church) for a sharing & prayer session. We also presented to each of them a token of appreciation (back-pack). We prayed for them & with them.



The afternoon was spent on community service, where 3 groups of children went around the village picking up litter. We also volunteered to join in.

This evening, we had a dinner fellowship with Pastor Daniel and family before returning to hotel for our nightly devotion and retiring for a well-deserved rest.



Pastor Daniel's Family

Day Four (17 Oct)

We visited City Church and hostel in the morning before having our breakfast at a nearby coffeeshop. The rest of the day was shopping and a visit to the Genocide Museum before catching our flight home.

Conclusion

It was a blessed Mission Trip with journey mercy and good weather, by God's grace. We were happy to be BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING. We pray for continued blessings for a fruitful harvest.

Patrick Boey

THANK GOD FOR A SUCCESSFUL MISSION TRIP



It was my first time not just for this mission trip to Cambodia, but also my first time ever joining any mission trip. I was not too sure whether I should go, but my son, Benedict, told me certainly that I should go for it. This made my decision easier. Furthermore, I thought: I should make an effort to experience the mission work while I am still able to walk. Time and tide waits for no man, and now it is the time and opportunity I should not miss! So, the decision was made for John and me to sign up for the trip.

As the date for the trip drew near, a lot of negative news and information popped up. There was news of bad weather and floods in Cambodia, there was information about the austere conditions whereby we would have to prepare with many of the basic needs (toiletries, insect repellents, torchlights, etc.) ... My parents were concerned about my going there, but when they heard that John would be going as well, they were even more concerned for our well-being. In short, I began to doubt whether I had made the right decision to go.

Satan always has a way to put doubts in our minds. However, when we stand on the name of Jesus, who can stand before us? At the Sunday service before the trip, Rev. Anthony prayed for our team of nine, for God's blessings upon us and also upon the work we would do for the Cambodians. So, God gave me affirmation and courage to proceed on the mission trip. We had our worries about inconveniences at the Cambodian customs due to the large number of things we brought along. Thanks to God for His grace that our worries were totally unfounded. The passage of our luggage through the customs were very smooth without delay.

Throughout our time in Cambodia, the weather was good and sunny. It rained only intermittently and at the appropriate time (for e.g., when we were in the bus). In a way, I can say that when it rained, it rained on the streets but never

on our bodies. We were never affected by the rain at all. When we had to be outdoors doing community service at Tang Krang village on the 3rd day, the sun was smiling at us.



Jesus said: "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

I was very much blessed and encouraged by the children in the camp. They impressed me by their active participation in singing, dancing, games and praising the Lord. The Lord said, "Let the little ones come to me." Indeed, the little ones showed themselves to be so adorable and surely endearing to the Lord for their testimony of joy.

The mission trip was also a wonderful fellowship time on the move for the team of nine. I would not have been able to survive Cambodia without the hardworking partnership of the following in the Lord's service: Patrick Boey (Team Leader), John Lee (my husband), Alice Quah, Pauline Tan, Jacqueline Leow, Betsy Yee, Suan Muan and Vandi Choo.



We all returned home clapping our hands for the Holy Spirit's help in conquering the initial doubts and enabling us to complete a successful mission trip. The purpose of the mission trip has been served: Blessing the people in Cambodia with our presence and encouragement, getting to know the pastors and their work there, acquiring insight into the needs of the people and providing a report to our church

leaders to contemplate our developing work in this mission field.

Peggy Tan

A blessed second trip to Cambodia

Seven years ago, I went to Cambodia with my family and a medical team. The trip was led by Rev. William Chang. It was a very good exposure for Sunday School children who had to be accompanied by their parents. While the parents from the village were having their medical check-up, we had children programmes going on at the same time.

The present trip is therefore my second time to Cambodia, but it is my first time to Kandal preaching centre and Tang Krang community centre, two different parts of the country. Except for me, the rest of the team were all first-timers to Cambodia. Everyone had their own worries about the trip – about cleanliness, cultural difference, language barrier, etc. Whatever concerns on our minds, all of us still managed to go ahead.



Kandal Preaching Centre



Classroom equipped with laptops

We would like to give thanks to God for the smooth clearance at the Cambodian custom (all the stuff we brought along was allowed through without any problem), fine weather

throughout the camp, and journey mercy travelling from place to place. What an experience for all of us!

At Kandal, I was very touched by Pastor Moses' sharing. He fully trusts GOD in everything he does with the preaching centre, which is just 3 months' old. With God's blessings, he got to stay in a house within walking steps from the centre and he even got along well with the head of the village who is not a Christian. He is currently looking into schools nearby the centre to reach out to the children and lending laptops to provide computer lessons.

Instead of blessing the children in Tang Krang, we were blessed by them through their amazing enthusiasm in worshipping God and attentiveness in listening to God's Word. Worshipping with everyone in the children camp felt so good, although there was a language barrier. But in God, we are ONE. This type of joy is hard to express in words.



We can see God working in our team. Every one of us was unique in our talents. God could use our differences and make us work as a team with the guidance of our team leader, Patrick. Through the active interactions in the mission work, we got to know one another better than in church prior to the trip. Praise God!



Yeah, we survived in Cambodia by God's grace and mercy.

God bless all!

Jacqueline Leow

Will you be the next participant?

Testimonies from Christians are usually influenced by their personal perceptions. So, it is with what you can hear from the testimonies by us who went on the Cambodian mission trip. Whatever much or little we share with you our experience and observations of the villagers we met there, you will still be missing out something – i.e., hearing directly from the pre-believers how the missionary team made an impact on them. We bring gifts to them, give them our encouragements ... whatever we do, our impact on individuals might be in shades ranging across a wide spectrum.

Therefore, I share this testimony from the standpoint of a person with questions to ask – questions evoked by my participation in the mission trip and reflecting my insights. Hopefully, through these questions, you can ponder the issues and have your interest piqued to be the next participant to see for yourself first-hand the happenings and moods on the mission field.

“ Before there was this Tang Krang Community Centre and its programme, life at the village would have been usual and routine from generation to generation. Some of “my” thoughts and observations of the event as “a local villager in Tang Krang”:

Foreign visitors

Why would anyone want to fly from overseas to visit us in this remote village? My parents will definitely not do this even if they have the means.

I aspire to be like the visitors going around to bring hope, joy and blessing to the less fortunate but need to know how to achieve it. Is it by turning to my best friend, Jesus, who is always there for me as taught earlier during the children camp?

Performers

Performers as old as my grandparents performing for us! It is unthinkable that my grandparents would even dare to sing and dance. What kind of power drives these elderly performers to have the courage to go on stage. I want to share my experience with my parents and grandparents on the experience encountered with Christians.

Friends

The sermon on how the blind horse and goat became good friends does impart good values about loving our neighbour. Are Christians like the goat who have the wisdom, empathy, spiritual perception and selfless love in every one of them? I am interested to know more what is being taught to the Christians from their bible.

The only way to find out more is by going to Tang Krang Community Centre regularly to quench my thirst for bible knowledge and know more about Jesus. ””



How would you really sense the positive vibe of the villagers in Tang Krang towards the blessings of our visit, and the amazing phenomenon of a field ripe for harvest, unless you are there?

Suan Muan