



The Khmer Chronicle

The Cambodian Ministry Newsletter
of George and Shary Frahm
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Each time we are beckoned to our 'first' home for some furlough time, we plot out a plan that seems reasonable for us to grab onto upon our arrival. First off though, while we are still on the ground in our 'second' home, lists are made of what remains and what needs to be replaced upon our return. We juggle around our going home items to maximize luggage limits and oft times will have two of the four suitcases packed way before our departure. We check expiration dates of items being left. We orient our return lists and balance it against what is local and doable. One item we actually ran short of almost 45 days out so we had to replenish it since it was used daily. Easy peasy, it fortunately was found. When I asked for 100 of them, at first I thought the lady present was going to hand me the bottle to count them myself. So as we looked about her tiny shop and found moringa, she actually did count them out. The label said Kirkland (Costco). Seriously. It was a bottle of 1,000 pills. Yup, we see Costco Kirkland stuff around town.

We inventory everything we use or could use in the field. That includes books and supplies. The things we could need upon return go on the list. Christian stickers and stamps are always in high demand. Interestingly coffee filters, markers, paper plates and popsicle sticks are either extinct as yet or very very pricey. With a potential of 120 kiddos on Sunday it often can take a bunch of something to do a craft or Sunday school lesson.

This time we were at 90.8 kilo of our allotted 92 total. We had breathing room to get them all wrapped to put on the plane. Many times the luggage takes quite a beating, but the wrap gives us more assurance that things will indeed arrive.

All too often there have been luggages on the conveyor with its contents bursting out. We've been there once too, many years ago. Obviously, we still remember that time even now. We like the wrap idea.

As usual, we landed with our feet running this time. We had very little down time thanks to five energetic grandkids who invaded our house with their comings and goings, and our going away the first month here. We've covered our annual doc visits and lab, getting our taxes done, attending George's 50th class reunion, visiting our ministry partners and siblings in MI and then racing with family to the eclipse in Nashville and family there.



As this is being written now, we are northbound to Chicago and gathering in the expanse before us as we must return to work on more visits to churches and individuals, winterize our house (ugh) and maybe get a couple small projects done there, plus visit a bit more with our youngest two grandchildren. Christmas will come early this year as well for us here too as our departure looms at advent time.



Also there is a huge opportunity / need for God's ministry in Cambodia at this time in the Kok Kraul area that needs our attention. We **desperately need** at least six adults who would love to commit six months (or more) to join our

English program. The head of the Ministry of Education of the primary schools and the country wide head Minister have tested the progress of the students and are duly impressed with those results. These two men would like to have us expand the program into two neighboring schools bringing the total number of students involved at around 1,000. That's way too many for the two or three of us to do alone. They have been told that we use Christian materials and they are fine with that.



In addition, in our absence Pastor Samuel is doing the land stabilization project in Snor and working with locals in Kok Kraul regarding the little church that idly sits in the jungle awaiting a new church family to embrace it.



So, returning to the initial statement of a 'plan to grab onto when we land' sort of thing, we can proudly announce to all that by some fortunate planning, God took the reins as usual and with a full palette sense of humor, has orchestrated this first month with a few changes and surprises along the way to remind us of who's ministry this is and whose doing the driving. He's been there from the start. Flash back time ~

Looking back and remembering the preparation time and our first deployment to Cambodia, we can easily recall the fear and excitement of going to a new place we knew so little about except from what we had read or seen. The language alone scared us. Just getting to 'say' something correctly ~ and remembering it ~ was a challenge. (It still is sometimes.) Don't forget to take your shoes off outside, not point your feet bottoms to another, don't touch a kids head, how to greet people. Little things that we wondered and worried about our church family gave us a lot of

grace again and again. The local church wants us there.

I don't think we can admit that the fiery passion we had way back then is there now as we knew it. The rubber has hit the road, and reality has set in. I think that comes with feeling comfortable in a world unlike your own and what we've embraced.

We've learned that doing 'it' differently doesn't mean it needs to be scary.

We've learned that God doesn't make mistakes (not that we thought otherwise) and if we just take a breath we can see how the Holy Spirit equips us in those situations outside our comfort zone, again and again and again.

We've realized that we can make a difference if we allow it, but even more so, we realize a difference in ourselves as well that we never would have realized in our passport country. We have often felt like we lost ourselves, sort of like dying, only to go on in life in a new way.

We've discovered that living with less has brought more joy. America has become more and more complicated to live in for us for sure. I can raise my hands in frustration a few times on this topic. Each time in our passport country we are challenged to figure life out once again. There's a new face on our credit card statement, we are besieged by 'unknown' phone calls and whatever arrives in the mail. New rules and such everywhere. Even the bank stuff looks different.

Lastly, and most important to us, is that daily either there or here we have had to continually surround and press into the very One who remains our refuge. A stark reality in reading one day a few weeks ago reminded me that my Jesus left heaven for a foreign land just like we have. He knows how we have felt along this journey. The saving power of the gospel will not just apply to those we are talking to, but daily to our own heart as well. Actually, we are all in a foreign land since Heaven is our real forever home.

The longer we stay, I suspect we will find that this

journey has been a whole lot more about what we needed to learn than what we had to give. Maybe, just maybe, we will wake up one day and realize that we have made an impact on our visa country. But in the same moment, maybe we will look back and realize that this place has had a far greater impact on us.

And that we've experienced the biggest privilege of our lives too.

Just maybe.

Knee Thoughts



Prayers:

- 1 Work in the villages to continue to grow to show God's glory.
- 2 Pastor Samuel and his 'full plate' juggling agenda to remain in line with what God desires.
- 3 Successful closure to the project "How Firm a Foundation."
- 4 Well rested bodies and clear minds to carry on in this work for all of us.
- 5 World peace and stability to show God's sovereignty.
- 6 Clear direction on our return to Siem Reap.

Praises:

1. Safe travels home and wonderful family time during the month of August. Lots of grateful Oma and Opa love time for sure!
2. Our prayer warriors and financial partners, including those who have stepped forward with the new stabilizing land project.
3. God opportunities each day we wake up to serve Him.



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Attention:

If you would like us to speak at your church, Sunday School, or small group, please shout us an email with that request and we will get back to you. We won't be in the US very long on this furlough. **September** is the month! Our contact number is 847-207-7974 if you'd like to leave a message as well.

Thank you very much for pouring out your precious prayers, encouragement, friendship, and love to God's ministry in Cambodia, to Pastor Samuel and Siem Reap.