

8 Years in Cambodia!!!!



Monday is our 8th anniversary of coming to Cambodia! God is so good!!! September 17th 2009 we zealously sold all that we owned, said good bye to friends and family and boarded a plane to Cambodia, with 3 precious kids and 4 suitcases. We were totally convinced God had called us and were excited about what was in store. 35 hours later we landed in Cambodia (without our suitcases), drove through scary Phnom Penh streets at midnight, exhausted out of our minds and we were welcomed into the room we would all share for the next 6 months. Confidence and excitement all left and doubt and fear took their place. Is this really what God was calling us to? We must have heard wrong! Within 48 hours we discovered the medical facilities were not up to western standards, there was nowhere to take the kids to play, and we were the only ones with kids in YWAM. We literally wrote our supporters and said we had made a huge mistake, Cambodia was not going to work out and we were coming home. After we sent the email out we thought maybe we should pray first. So we prayed and asked for a sign if we were supposed to stay in Cambodia would our luggage please arrive? Within minutes of praying that prayer we got a call from the airport saying that our luggage had arrived. We also prayed for someone for Seth to play with and for something for me

and the kids to do while Brad was in training. The next morning a sweet little Khmer girl came over to play with Seth. They couldn't understand each other but they would be best little buddies for the next 6 months, that we lived in that house. Realizing there were lots of little kids in the neighborhood, I started a little kids club in the afternoons. Which gave us something fun to look forward to and helped us build relationships with our neighbors.

A couple of things we learned from almost giving up our Cambodia dream just 2 days into it: Never make major decisions while jetlagged, but more importantly expect spiritual attack when you are bringing the Good News.

We also learned from other missionaries that we came during a holiday called Pchum Ben, which brings with it a lot of spiritual heaviness. The Buddhists believe that during Pchum Ben the gates of hell are open for 15 days, allowing demons and ghosts to roam freely. So people go to their home temples and offer sacrifices to appease the demons and ghosts. This holiday is happening this week. Now when Pchum Ben happens we always remember to pray for Christ's light to shine brightly.

We have gotten to be a part of some pretty neat things since coming to Cambodia: preaching and teaching at Logos, seeing students lives transformed, helping build houses in poor villages, paying to have bathrooms built, buying motos so Cambodians have transportation to get to their ministry sights, giving out food and clothing, building relationships with some families from central asia and getting to share the gospel with them. It has not all been sunshine and roses there have been plenty of valleys, but God has met us in those valleys. In the 8 years we have been in Cambodia God has shown himself faithful again and again! We just want to send you supporters a big Thank you! We truly would not be able to be here without you!