



Update 2

June 26, 2023



Dear Friends and Family,

ជំរាបសួរ! (jum-reap-sua, hello!) God has been so at work here in Angk'jeay village and among us as a team these past few weeks. Even though it's taken an embarrassingly long amount of time to learn a proper hello, I love being among these people and in this place deeply. Thank you all so, so much for your prayers and support. In God's kindness he has heard them, and the days here have been filled to the brim with relationships and lesson planning, answered prayer, and coconuts under welcoming front porches. God has used this time to show me his power, and my frailty. Weeks have felt FAST, and yes, this is the first true update you're receiving - I apologize for the radio-silence!

Hannah, Wade, and I have been living with the Smith's now for a couple weeks. Their home functionally serves as the village community center; bikes and moto's line our driveway as soon as the kid's school gets out or in between classes throughout the day. Teaching English, guitar, and Bible classes to 3rd-12th graders have been some of the most humbling and rewarding parts of these weeks. To be honest, much of the day consists of living in a constant state of plain awkward. Haha. Many hand motions and sentences I think I'm saying correctly fall flat, and communication is hilarious with the younger kids. Learning Khmer is a regular part of our days here, but do pray that I'd be able to remember names of all the students quickly!

Between shy smiles and rowdy side-conversations, I'm praying each day that even a class spent learning adverbs will be a steady avenue of God's love in these student's lives. Somnang, a 5th grader, hangs on my arm throughout the afternoon and often helps me pick just the right card before losing another round of Uno. She beats me often in badminton, sings in worship before our evening English section, and leaves drawings behind for me when class gets out. Yesterday our 5th-grade Uno enthusiasts broke out into singing "Jesus loves me" at the card table, and I am reminded of God's faithfulness here. God is at work in the small moments.

Many evenings Hannah, Wade, and I have been able to ride bikes through red, dusty roads to visit the homes of our students. Chantrea, one of our 12th graders, welcomed us to her home this past Sunday. I've rarely seen God's glory more on display than in evenings like that one; the kindness shared in mangos and coconuts was an opportunity for laughs and growing closer. Walking through the rice fields around her house as we talked, I was just amazed at God's ability to show us his glory through people's stories and through his creation. The mountains surrounding this place remind me often of Psalm 90.

Sokha Smith also inspires me daily. The first week we were here she took me along to check on an elderly man whose foot had been sliced open through a moto accident. That day she stepped again into the role of makeshift doctor. Even the simplest of medical supplies can help so many needs here. She gently cares for many families in our village, and seeing almost every person greet and honor her as we drove to her friend's home spoke to how much God has used her in so many lives. I really enjoy getting to see how her patience and love for the families around her has opened doors for sharing the gospel, and she does it with boldness and grace. Our God is a God of relationship. If we do not live out of his love towards other people, even the greatest things we set our hands to are in vain. In days spent with these students, it's been wonderful to see how grows his kingdom through love.

I'd be grateful if you could pray for these things!

- Strength and joy in Christ's love each day for the entire team
- Relationships with especially the older high school students to continue deepening throughout our time here.
- The growth of God's local church (Eternal Life in Christ Church meets at the Smith's house each week) Pray for true salvation!
- Creativity and wisdom in planning lessons
- Endurance and strength for all the long-term missionaries here, especially as a short term team comes next week.

In His love,
Caroline

Top Row: (Left to right) My morning English class, A ride with Srey Mao and students to catch a sunset by the mountains.
Middle Row: Chantrea (also our Khmer tutor) making Khmer pancakes, Somnang hides a smile, rice fields sprouting.
Bottom Row: Walking 6th graders home after school, the 4th grade public school class I'm teaching, bikes in our driveway, fruit at the market (we eat so so much of it :)

