

# Reflection Blog

After returning to Sydney from Cambodia, there was so much to process. I remember the previous 24 hours we arrived in Cambodia was rather chaotic but we were heavily reminded to trust in our King and Father, God for strength rather than our youth or pride. It spurred us to trust God in this time because we didn't know what we'll face but nevertheless God was in control and He is going to be with us – we eagerly awaited for what God would show us.

When we first arrived during the evening at Phnom Pehn Airport, we were greeted with a sweet herbal smell and humidity that hugged the air. We were received so warmly by John Lee (Korean-American Missionary) and (Local Staff) Kakronan's big, wide smiles as they took to Ankor Chay Village via one of the bumpiest roads I'd ever been on. And through this road we saw the land transition from the bustling cityside filled with motorbikes and trucks to the lush country side as we conversed with John and Kakronan about what life in Cambodia was like. Soon after, we met Luke and Sokha Smith who welcomed us with a hearty meal and loving hospitality. Luke and Sokha were called to minister in rural Cambodia and provided so much love and a safe haven for the children of the village and were greatly appreciated by the families for providing education so they may take up more opportunities.

*Luke & Sokha*



*Hannah & Asa*



*Guitar Lessons*



*English Lessons*



*Luke, Heng, John, Kakronan*



*John and the team*

The next 6 days were packed with joyous experiences of: singing songs of praise with the children of the village, listening to their testimonies and our team sharing ours, teaching varying levels of English and music (piano, guitar, ukulele and cajon), running youth programs with games and a sermon, sports and bible lessons and incredible meals cooked by Luke, Sokha, John and the local staff team. We witness the excitement children had to learn and receive the Word in robust liturgy as well as their excitement to play some Aussie youth games and sports that we taught them and in exchange they taught us great games too. We were blessed to hear about how God worked in the lives of Luke and Sokha and their two beautiful children as well as Kakronan and Heng's testimonies and vision for also outreaching to rural Cambodia. We were encouraged and spurred to reflect Christ's love that they've shown us the whole week to those back home and tell our churches about the good work the God continues to do in Cambodia.

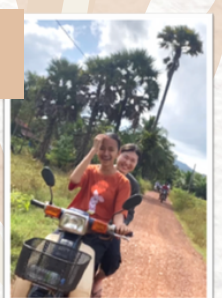


*Food preparation*

*English Worship*



*Journey to students' homes*





# Reflection Blog cont.

The children we taught in senior highschool also desired to show us loving hospitality and show us their homes. We saw into their lives and they welcomed us warmly with their families - giving us the biggest coconuts and fruits grown on their land. It was a beautiful experience to countryside and walk in their shoes – they took us on motorpads and bikes through vibrant rice fields and we saw cows pastoring the lands under a great blue sky – all marks of God’s beautiful creation and the people He made in His image carrying remnants of his goodness and love. Our hearts were full and we prayed that God would continue to work in their hearts and their families because few of them had already accepted Christ but not many of their families - we wait longingly for Christ to continue to bring about salvation so they may share in the ultimate joy with us.



*Students' Hospitality*



*Paul & Susan Lee*



*Meeting the Missionaries*

The second week we were met with all sorts from: seeing wonderful, joyous worship of God in KCC (Khmer Christian Church) despite being a tiny minority of believers in a bustling city, telling our testimonies and hearing the local students' while we played games and got to know them, and the challenging work of church planting in a different culture from Paul and Susan but also God’s glory in healing people through these church plants from extremely traumatic experiences. We were confronted with the realities of sin and the suffering it continues to cause – especially when we learnt about the Cambodia genocide through S21 and the Killing Field memorials. We saw how God was using His people as instruments of mercy through the work of medical missionaries like Dr Mark Ambrose and Laura in loving and restoring children who have experienced child exploitation and abuse. It was a blessing to witness these girls being loved by the church and not treated differently – and we heard that one of the girls remarked that they were glad to have experienced what they went through otherwise they wouldn’t have known Christ’s love.



*Dr Mark & Laura Ambrose*



*Dinner with College students at KCC*



*Dinner with College students*

We never would have witnessed or have known about what God has been doing in Cambodia. But now we’ve seen and heard it. We can share it. We can pray for them. We can continue to support them. To send missionaries or go ourselves. Because we see the need for the gospel in the world. We see God’s work is continuing. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. We ought to continue to pray and seek God’s will and continue to carry out His love with others as we live in faith.

**with love, Ed**