

Wade Herren
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Angk'jeay, Cambodia

ជំរាបសួរ (jumreepsua), Friends!



Ecclesiastes 3:9-15

“What gain has the worker from his toil? I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man’s heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil- this is God’s gift to man”

After a few weeks in the village, I have settled into a simple weekly routine. In it, I daily enjoy God’s gift to man.

On Monday/Wednesday/Friday, I spend an hour in the morning with the other interns learning Khmer from Chantrea and Rathana, two of our high schoolers. This week we learned all about ‘to go’, or ‘tau’. We learned different vehicles (ex: lan), places (salarien), days (yop mein), and pronouns (port young).

The next hour we study Khmer culture with Luke and Sokha. I learned how Cambodians hold different, often conflicting belief spheres which they step into and out of depending on what is advantageous at that moment.



After studying culture, we eat lunch and I plan my first English lesson of the afternoon. Today, I put off lesson planning to wash dishes with the college students who were home on break. Some of them are shy, and doing the dishes with them is a great excuse to get to know them! Srae Teah eats one fried egg for breakfast every morning. She doesn't like her Monday class because her teacher is boring, but the rest of the days are better because her Filipino teacher is more interesting. She is reserved but very bright. She says she doesn't like to talk to anyone who doesn't come talk to her. Funny enough, her little sister is the opposite!

Next, I teach my class of rowdy young boys. We learn vowels, and new words, and focus on spelling and pronunciation. Vowels for an hour are only so interesting. To get their extra energy out, I am teaching them appendages. We all stand up and I hold up my right hand. RIY HANN!! They yell. I hold up my left foot. RIY FOOT!! Nope, I wait... LEFF FOOT!! Good. Sit back down.

After class, we get a break (read: nap) before more students come to play games at 3:00 before our 5:00 intermediate classes. We play lots of badminton and connect four, and recently I taught the boys how to play ninja. It's a hit!



This is the rhythm Luke and Sokha have refined over the past 13 years. Ministry in the village is not glamorous. Instead, Luke and Sokha patiently love their students and faithfully teach them about who God is. For Luke and Sokha, there is no exit strategy. The ministry in the village is what they love, and they are here to stay. I admire their deep commitment, and it is not lost on the Cambodian people. This year, the Smiths sent students to college who had studied with them since kindergarten. The Smith's patience and contentment are a testament to God's never-stopping, never giving up, unbreaking, always and forever love.

Sincerely,

Wade Herren