



# THE M<sup>C</sup>CANN

## MISSIONARY JOURNEY

April 2010

Dear Friends,

We wish you all a Happy Easter and hope that God brings you all a deeper understanding of the riches that we have in Christ Jesus because of his death on the cross on our behalf and his resurrection three days later. The same power that raised Christ from the dead is at work in our lives today and wants to do more in us that we can possibly imagine! Praise the Lord!!

### Family & Home life

Elizabeth's favourite game at the moment is wrapping a book in a towel or blanket, pretending it is a present and opening it again and again! She has also been busy learning how to ride her friend's bicycle and so we have some idea of what to get her for her next birthday. She continues to thrive at pre-school, but her teacher has raised some concerns about whether she is ready to go up to the next year in September and we will meet with her after the Easter break to discuss this. Elizabeth has had a recurrent eye infection that may need a minor surgical procedure. Thankfully this can be done in Cambodia, and we do not have to travel to Bangkok as we thought originally.

Next week we are going to the beach for a holiday and we will be staying at our favourite guesthouse and eating at our favourite beach restaurants and Elizabeth is looking forward to trying out her new swimming costume.

### Ministry

In our last newsletter we described some of the upcountry ministry locations that we were considering. Well, since then, one by one, all of those doors shut, and instead Alex has been asked to take a lead in a new project based here in Phnom Penh which would be to start a TEE (Theological Education by Extension) study centre specifically for the Fellowship of Cambodia Churches (FCC) which are predominantly churches that OMF has started. If this sounds familiar, it is because this is the vision that Alex had before we came to Cambodia and got sidetracked for

a while when he stood in as business manager. We still don't know why we felt called to an upcountry church planting location and now we are staying in Phnom Penh, but we are firmly convinced that this TEEaC project is the right one. One of things that God has saying to us throughout that last few months is that He is sovereign and He will decide if, when and where we go and in the mean time we are to be faithful to the ministries He has already given. Of course, it is still possible that we will go upcountry when come back in our second term.

Marguerite has been working at an orphanage called the Borey Centre for almost two months now and has already made a significant impact on the life of one young girl with cerebral palsy, Sarmbo, whose right leg is twisted over her left leg due to muscle contractures. Marguerite made her a chair from cardboard (see picture) to help her sit



upright and keep her leg in place. Marguerite has already started making another chair for another of the children and hopes to teach the staff at the centre the technique so that they can also make therapeutic equipment from recycled cardboard.

### Church and groups

We have recently finished watching the children's version of the Jesus film

(dubbed into Khmer) with the kids group that we run with the local children every Tuesday.



We hope to draw out their reactions to it over the next few months. Numbers have been up and down recently and we are wondering we need to run two separate groups, one for the younger kids and one for the older ones, so that the teaching can be more targeted to those age groups.

Last week we attended the wedding of Moren, Dane's sister, and a member of the Bible study that we lead. We were especially pleased to see Dane's uncle again who you may remember we went to visit at the start of last year and he seemed pleased to see us as well! Christian weddings in families which are still predominantly Buddhist always have the potential for both evangelism on one hand and conflict over what elements of the traditional Khmer Buddhist ceremony to include, on the other. Unfortunately, despite the hard work that Moren, her husband and the pastor of our church, to keep the ceremony as traditional as possible whilst keeping it Christian, there is pressure from other family members, being exerted on Moren's mother,

#### **Prayer Pointers**

- Give thanks for this new TEE project and the peace we have that this is what God wants for us
- Pray for Elizabeth's continued development and health
- Pray for the whole of Dane's family that those who are Christians will stay firm in their faith, and those who aren't will turn to Christ.
- Pray for the children that come to the Bible Club, that God would reveal His Son to them.

Thank you for your continued prayers for us,  
Alex, Marguerite & Elizabeth

whom we thought had made a tentative commitment a couple of months ago and she now seems to be stepping back from that.

Alex is currently studying a TEEaC course called The Christian Family which deals with the difficulties of trying to live as a Christian husband, wife or child in a culture that often has very different views regarding infidelity, marital violence and conflict resolution to those of the Bible.

#### **Life in Phnom Penh**

In the good old days, a missionary would often be out of touch for weeks, months or even years, but now thanks to modern technology, we are able to keep in touch with friends, family and events back home via the telephone and email. So when we want to know the latest news we can look at BBC News website. If we want to know the local news, it is a different matter. Cambodia rarely rates a mention on the BBC News and we have generally relied on local newspapers for local news. There is an English language newspaper which we read most days, but if we want to get the Khmer slant on the news we have to have to read Khmer language newspapers, which has an advantage over the TV news in that you can look a word up in a dictionary if you don't understand it whereas you can't ask the newsreader to repeat a word if you didn't hear it clearly the first time! One thing which we have noticed is the graphic nature of the photos in Cambodian newspapers. Violent death, whether through a traffic accident, robbery or murder are reported accompanied with often shocking photos of the body of the victim!

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