



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayers. The month of October was very busy. We began the month full speed ahead preparing for a Ladies Conference hosted here at Victory Baptist Church. The men repaired the church building and installed a drop ceiling while us ladies cleaned, painted, and made numerous decorations. We had an amazing turnout with over 100 ladies in attendance.

After the conference we buckled down on school. There had been several absences and cancelled school days, but we finally had everyone back in their places after the conference. The kids are doing well in school. My K-4 students are learning more and more English every day. I'm so proud of them. They are just four years old, but already they are learning how to read and write in Khmer as well as English.

I have begun to teach a kid's class on Thursday nights, and I am enjoying it very much. It allows me to interact with the children without the pressure of a school setting. I teach in English, and probably 6 kids out of the 14 understand, but we have fun anyway. I run the class like a mini-Jr. Church with songs, games, practical stories, crafts, and a lesson. I have taught the kids some of the English songs I would sing with my Sunday School class at Cornerstone. The Cambodian kids love the catchy tunes and motions and try their best to sing along.

The last Sunday of October we had a Teen Takeover during the evening service. There is a solid group of teenagers at Victory Baptist Church. The teens directed the entire evening service. They provided the piano, the special music, announcements, song leading, and preaching. The dedication of the teens is both convicting and encouraging. About 1/3 to 1/2 of the teens do not receive any support at home. Many of their families actively and verbally discourage them in their efforts to come to church and lead Christian lives. Yet, despite the opposition, these teens make it a point to find a way to church and to be a part of the ministry.

I am slowly but surely learning more of the Khmer language. (Definitely more slowly than surely!) Still, even with lessons and study, my comprehension rate is very limited. Part of what makes this language difficult is that several words or letters have extremely similar sounds:

Sending Church:
Cornerstone Baptist Church
5301 Cortez Ave.
Las Cruces, NM
(575)532-0902
offices@cornerstn.org

Personal:
Joy Zdziarski
(224)829-5776
joyzdz16@gmail.com

Field of Service:
Victory Baptist Church
Missionary Eli Shrock
Siem Reap, Cambodia
011-855-63-963980
eshrock@fairhavenbaptist.org

sounds that are not at all familiar to the English language. Also, there are several different words to express one action depending on the person performing the action. For example, the verb *eat* can be a choice of several different words depending on who is eating. A child eating would be a different word from an adult which would be different from priest or monk which again would be different from the king. Please pray for me as I continue to study Khmer. Also, pray for my teacher, Leakana. Her job of teaching me may be more challenging than mine of learning. 😊

Thank you for your prayers regarding my settling in Cambodia. It has taken some time to adjust, but I'd say I'm mostly over the initial culture shock. There are still a few things that catch me off guard, but as a whole Cambodia has become a new normal for me. Thank you for your faithful support. I could not be experiencing this ministry and teaching these children if not for you all. Rest assured; your support is making a difference in the lives of these children.

Joy Zdziarski