



TAKING A BREAK FROM THE CITY



EASTER CELEBRATION AT THE DIRECTOR'S HOME

May 6, 2012

Dear Friends and Family,

Sorry that it has been some time since our last update! Every month seems to creep up on us. April can be summed up in a few short words – HOT, Easter, Flexibility....

The Weather.....HOT!!

Annabel and Caleb's remarks succinctly describe the daily weather here. Annabel: "I am steaming like a dumpling!" Caleb: "I am burning like a piece of toast!" You know the weather is really hot when even the Cambodians are complaining! April is notorious for being one of the worst months in Cambodia (weather-wise). The morning starts around 80 degrees and hits 97-100 degrees by 2pm. The heat zaps your energy, and makes everyone a bit edgier. Most Cambodians have a tendency to slow down during these hot months, but ironically, our workload at the office has only increased. We have been struggling to keep up our energy level.

Easter Celebrations

We had a special opportunity to celebrate and share the meaning of Easter with Christina's co-workers. On March 31st we organized an Easter event at the Director's home. We had an Easter egg hunt, decorated about 60 duck eggs (chicken eggs are brown here) and then shared a reading of Christ's death and resurrection from a Khmer comic-style Bible. This was the first time any of our staff had decorated eggs; for the majority, it was the first time they had read about the Easter story from the Bible.

We also took a few days with the kids to take a break from the noise and pollution of the city. We drove 6 hours north to a province called Koh Kong, only a few kilometers south of the Thai border. We breathed in fresh air, saw beautiful mountains, walked through the "jungle," and even caught a few fish from the river! It was as close as one could get to a scene from Joseph Conrad's *A Heart of Darkness*.

Flexibility

Just when you think you are starting to settle into a new environment, God throws you a little zinger to keep you on your toes and create a bit of discomfort. During these "unsettling" circumstances, we are reminded of 2 things:

1. We can't make it on our own. Strength and stamina comes from God.
2. God does not waste any talents or past experiences in your life. He has a purpose for every circumstance He has put you in.

After working as a Project Quality Advisor for the past 5 months, Christina was asked last month to take on a new role as the Interim Sales and Marketing Manager. In the past 2 weeks she has had to learn how to "sell" to local clients and manage a very young sales team. The last time she was in a Sales role was in the financial industry over 10 years ago! Remember how we said that God does not waste any past experiences? Christina would have never imagined using her sales and client relationship skills in a Cambodian context. ☺

"Expect Great Things; Attempt Great Things" ~William Carey

Taking on this new role has felt a bit like drinking water from a fire hose, but it has given Christina opportunities to spend more one-on-one time with her co-workers.

Khalibre Happenings – God’s Timing is Always Perfect!

During the past year the focus has been on integrating new staff and developing the capability of the team. Now we are focused on team leadership, which is essential for the desired team size of 40 by the end of 2012, and further technical depth. This growth is projected and hiring/training is being done in anticipation of winning a new client this year.

God has been growing our faith, demonstrating His faithfulness, and reminding us that Khalibre is His company, not ours. He has been good to provide us with the right new staff, timing of existing staff departure, and support of others to work long side. All at the right time, and we expect more of the same in the coming year.

Jan (with wife and two kids coming from Germany) brings 10 years of SAP consulting experience and started working with us as the Technical Lead in March. We are thankful that God has brought him just at the right time, and know that He will do the same in providing us the next customer. Khalibre does have a number of different prospects, and is getting ready for the next phase as we develop the skill sets of the entire team through a major platform upgrade (3-4 month project) for the current client. However, obtaining a new client only happens as we pray in faith, and walk in lock-step with the Lord. In this regard we need your support. *Please pray that God will provide us with the right client at the right time.*

For Eul-Shik specifically, he is being stretched to consider how quality can be improved for the whole of the company (implementing ITIL and work toward ISO certification), develop local leadership team, and further support the current client relationship and technical work streams.

With a little over 16 months under our belt here in Cambodia, we are starting to get adjusted to life, but more importantly, starting to understand the Khmai people we work with and the local culture. This understanding is essential if we are to share about the greatness of our Lord in their cultural context. Of course, this will be a life long journey of understanding, and we are just starting to scratch the surface...

As always, we are so grateful for your friendship, constant encouragement and prayer support. Here are our family’s prayer requests:

- (1) Christina is leading a weekly “Group Investigating God” (GIG) at the company. We have about 8 core members who have been attending. Please pray that she would have wisdom, and help staff discover the relevance of God in their life.
- (2) Caleb and Annabel continue to adapt to life in Cambodia, but at times still miss Boston and want to go back home. Please pray that Eul-Shik and Christina would be sensitive to their needs and know how to encourage them.
- (3) For Khalibre to gain at least one new outsourcing client in Europe or Australia. This is important for the staff as they have been working with the current client for a long time and the senior members are fatigued.
- (4) Perseverance with language learning – although we know enough Khmai to survive, language is still an area of growth for us. Eul-Shik has started the first level Khmer course (learning how to read and write) at the Royal University of Phnom Penh, which started in March and ends at the end of June.

Warm Regards,

Christina, Caleb, Annabel, and Eul-Shik Hong