

Cambodia

Cambodia Connection

August 2003

A Newsletter from BJ and Andrea Lopez

Are you praying extra hard for us these days? It sure seems so! How else can we explain our deep joy and rich blessings in the Lord since our arrival in Cambodia?

Take for example, the day before I broke my left arm in a motorcycle accident, I purchased a helmet that saved my life. I now have celebrity status here among the missionary community because they all heard of the new missionary who broke his arm the second week in country. They all giggle and say, "Oh, I heard of you, aren't you the guy who broke his arm the second week in Cambodia, or the first week, or the first day, or within

the first hour. The time frame keeps getting shorter and shorter as time goes on. Maybe by next year it will be said that I broke my arm while I got off the airplane. Nathan, one of our teammates, also had an accident while riding a motorcycle and broke his left clavicle. The missionary community here in Cambodia have suggested that we change our team name from "ACTION Cambodia" to "Fracture Cambodia." Andrea has also broken a missionary record in Cambodia. She has been bitten by more mosquitoes than anyone we have met so far. Since our arrival we believe she has been bit at least (no exaggeration) 800-900 times. That is an average of 8-9 bites a day. Some days she has been bitten 20-25 times. It's by God's grace she

hasn't been infected by any tropical diseases, yet. I keep telling her the reason why she keeps getting bit is because she is so sweet. To give you an idea, I've only been bitten, at the most, 15 times. She's not just my honey, she is now my insect repellent, too.



BJ getting his cast taken off

The Khmer Language is so incredible!

So incredibly hard that is! Every day in school we are introduced to a new list of phrases or words. The Khmer language has 76 consonant sounds and 60 vowel sounds compared to the English language that has only 44 sounds altogether. If you were to eavesdrop at our door these days you would hear the strangest sounds. You might think they are sounds of pain. Our neighbors probably think I'm hurt or sick all the time. Despite being in pain from all her bites, Andrea doesn't share all the painful looks and sounds that I seem to make while I speak. In fact, Andrea has excelled in her language acquisition. She is doing so incredibly well, that sometimes I



Andrea with her language teacher, Rady

wonder if she and I are going to the same school. Recently she did have a tough time trying to communicate to our landlady's son. Andrea was talking to this young man for about 5 minutes and I was so proud of her. I

was totally impressed with her pronunciation and her wide range of vocabulary words that I stood there in awe. It wasn't until the young man tilted his head to the right and said in the funniest way, "I don't speak English." Andrea and I looked at each other as if to say, "What happened?" Another time, our friend Li courageously pulled a snake out of our washing machine. I was trying to tell her that she was our hero but instead I asked for heroine. Another obstacle to our learning has to do with the Cambodian writing system. We as westerners have learned to read and write in

Romanized letters, but the Cambodians have a different means of writing. Their writing system is done in script. Andrea has likened our new way of writing to be like code breaking of some sort. We both were so excited when we actually read and wrote our first word in Khmer. Indiana Jones has nothing on us! Our hope and desire is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Cambodian language within the next 15 months. To accomplish our desire we need your prayers.



BJ with his language teacher, Samol

So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase (1 Cor 3:7)

Please rejoice with us as we praise God for the work He is doing in Cambodia!



Andrea hugging Li as we celebrated Li's baptism in Kompong Cham Province.



Cambodia. This is a week after Li's baptism that another friend, Sopheap, entered the waters of baptism.



Singing Praises at Li's baptism on the Mekong River. ***Make a joyful shout to God, all the earth! Sing out the honor of His name; make His praise glorious... (Ps 66:1-2)***

We Praise God for the relationships that have been established since moving to



through the Khmer Rouge Regime as a child, and then give him a passion to reach his own people for the cause of Christ. Samol is also my language teacher.

This is Kiew, a little girl we met during our trip to Sopheap's Baptism. Her father has died of aids and now her mother is on her death bed. Therefore, Kiew must work 7 days a week to provide for her



dying mother, herself and her two brothers. She sells fruit and makes string bracelets on the beach. Kiew's story is one of millions.

Cambodia has the fastest growing HIV infection rate in South East Asia. Please pray that God would raise up more workers that will help teach and take care

of these orphans. Maybe God is calling you! Have you ever considered the twelve disciples? They were all common men or better yet, ordinary men with an uncommon or unordinary calling. 1 Cor 1:27-29 ***"But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the low and despised things of the world"*** Are you weak, afraid, uneducated, common, or just plain ordinary, but have been saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus, then you too can be used by God. ***"The Harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."*** Come join in the harvest.

Join our Cambodian Team!

Would you prayerfully consider joining our Team?? We covet and need the support of God's people to see this ministry accomplished. We can't promise any fiscal returns for your investment but the eternal reward has been guaranteed! Contact:

Action International Ministries
PO Box 398
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043-0398
(425)755-4800

Or go to <http://www.actioncambodia.org/lopez/> for more specific information regarding financial support and the forms needed to contribute.



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