January/February 2009

# CAMBODIA 09

### An Update from Jacob & Noelle



## **OUR TRIP TO CAMBODIA**

### **Looking Forward...**

It was with excited, expectant hearts that we joined the line of Asians waiting to board the plane and began our journey to Cambodia. Wheels up and we were off! A dream several years in the making finally gaining ground.

I (Noelle) had already experienced Cambodia in 2007 so I knew a bit of what awaited us. Jacob loves Asia but this nation was yet unknown to him.

Our days took on a flow different from our previous missions trips. Staying true to its purpose, we had time to watch, listen, talk...pray. Is this where God is leading? Is this the next step in our journey?

We worked with In His Steps International (In-His-Steps.org). It would be difficult not to resonate both with their heart for Cambodia and their way of empowering Cambodians to reach

their own for Christ. We have never experienced mission work done this way.

And over the course of 2.5 weeks, we fell in love -- with the IHSI staff, the people they work with and the God of nations. We met the baby found covered in ants, rescued from a ditch. We got to know the girl who survived domestic abuse and gang rape, now thriving. We watched a recovering alcoholic read the Bible and a still-suffering alcoholic father of five find hope again.

The more we saw, the more GOD resonated. Exciting, isn't it?! Nothing is more powerful than a Christ-formed life.

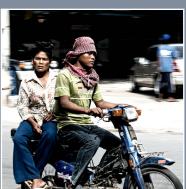
We never would have arrived here without your encouragement and support. To read a complete travel log of our journey, visit <a href="blog.jakeandnoelle.com">blog.jakeandnoelle.com</a>. Please check out the other side for our next steps.



# Our Anniversary Noelle and I getting our "Western Fix" at the FCC, a restaurant along the Tonle Sap River - Phnom Penh. We celebrated one year of marriage!

## PORTRAITS...







## Interested in supporting us financially?

Contact us for information on long-term support at jacobgoodlin@me.com or 719/930.3667. Donate directly at in-his-steps.org or blog.jakeandnoelle.com. Click on the donate button at each site.

#### Where do we go from here?

Great question. Perhaps one best addressed on two fronts.

First, stateside. We continue to hack away at our debt -- and hack is a good word. For anyone who has paid off what they owe, you know this process is not for the faint of heart. Yet we find daily that this decision is producing stewardship and discipline in a profound way. We are thankful for it.

In March, we will move in with Jacob's dad to save some rent money and enjoy quality time with him. We also continue looking for ways to prepare for our actual move -- TESL (teaching English as a second language) classes and motorcycle lessons are under consideration.

Second, internationally. Though we do not have a firm departure date set, we believe we could move in late 2009. While in Cambodia, we toured a number of apartments and found one we really liked. We also did some research in order to better understand our living costs once moved. We are developing a budget that we pray will be God-led and suitable to our needs. This will be a useful tool as we begin raising support.

Both of us came home with a renewed thankfulness for our lives. God has been so kind and compassionate toward us. We are indebted to Him! Cambodia also revealed a few key areas in which we are inviting God to work:

**Pride:** We want to make this transition with pure hearts, humble and ready to serve.

**Letting Go:** Moving our lives across the world is already a bit of that! We are learning that life is most rich when we aren't in the driver's seat. We want to let go of control and trust God more.

A deeper love for God's Word: The Bible is our foundation for truth and knowing God. We want to grow in a thirst for and understanding of it

Please join in praying with us about these areas, as well as continued stamina in debt payoff, a deeper understanding of God's heart for Cambodia and spiritual protection. Stay tuned for another update in March!

With joy,

#### Jacob & Noelle

