


January/February 2009

# CAMBODIA 09

An Update from Jacob & Noelle



Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? There it is! I'm making a road through the desert, rivers in the badlands.

Is. 43:19

## 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](http://InHisStepsInternational.org) (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](http://IHSI.org) 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 [blog.jakeandnoelle.com](http://blog.jakeandnoelle.com). Please check out the other side for our next steps.



### Our Anniversary

Noelle and I getting our "Western Fix" at the [FCC](http://FCC.com), a restaurant along the [Tonle Sap River](http://TonleSapRiver.com) - 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](mailto:jacobgoodlin@me.com) or  
719/930.3667. Donate directly at  
[in-his-steps.org](http://in-his-steps.org) or  
[blog.jakeandnoelle.com](http://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 pay-  
off, a deeper understanding of God's heart for  
Cambodia and spiritual protection. Stay tuned  
for another update in March!

With joy,

**Jacob & Noelle**



**In His Steps  
Staff**