

March/April 2009

CAMBODIA 09

An Update from Jacob & Noelle



God's kingdom is like a pine nut that a farmer plants. It is quite small as seeds go, but in the course of years it grows into a huge pine tree, and eagles build nests in it.

Matthew 13:31-32

BECOMING FARMERS

Lessons in Planting Seeds...

In February, Jacob and I hosted a sale for [Sak Saum](#). A ministry of [In His Steps](#) (our partner organization), Sak Saum works with formerly trafficked women, as well as those at risk. The girls receive discipleship, education, counseling and job skill training. Currently, they are learning to sew incredible bags, purses, and scarves. Thus, the sale.

The turnout was far greater than anticipated -- 150 people came through in 3 hours. As we counted the sales, we stood amazed and humbled by our little faith. That morning we had prayed -- God, we would love it if 50 people came to see what these girls can do.

Even more surprising was a surge of passion and purpose we discovered welling up inside us during those few hours. We came alive. Our love for these girls took deeper root in our hearts.

It seems obvious -- you can't have a harvest if you don't plant seeds. But sowing is not nearly as tangible as reaping. In fact, on the surface, a seed-planted field looks no different than a fallow one. Appearances are deceptive though. The farmer does the hard work of ploughing and planting seeds deep in rich soil. Then he waits expectantly, trusting the process. Lying just beneath the surface is a future harvest.

We are in a planting season. Our move to Cambodia is evidence of God, the farmer, at work. In the meantime, chipping away at our debt plants a seed. Hosting a sale plants a seed. Reading about Cambodia...seed. Sharing our hearts with friends...seed. Praying...seed. Wrestling with our future budget...seed. God is faithful. In His timing, these seeds will sprout. We are thankful for the discipline, perseverance and intentionality of this season. We are learning perseverance and faith. Thanks for being a part.



Facts About Us...

Did you know that Noelle first noticed Jacob on a 2004 MILL missions trip to Morocco? Yep, he saved the day by helping a group of girls find a much-needed restroom and the rest is history...

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 blog.jakeandnoelle.com. Click on the "Donate" button and you will be redirected to a special PayPal site.

Updates...

We have much to tell you! Please enjoy...

Moved: Jacob and I made the move at the end of March to [Monument, CO](http://Monument.CO) to live with Jacob's dad until we leave! This step is key in finishing off our debt and making ready.

Photography: Jacob's side business is taking off for the summer. These funds are used for savings and debt pay-off. We already have several weddings and senior photos booked. Check out his work at jacobgoodlinphotography.com.

Faces of Cambodia: We completed our first photography book! It is a compilation of pictures taken during our trip, along with writings on Cambodia, human trafficking and more. Proceeds from the book support our move to Cambodia. Get a sneak preview or order a copy at <http://www.blurb.com/bookstore/detail/608024>.

The Budget: We finalized the first draft of our Cambodia budget. We say first draft because most budgets go through some fine-tuning before they are completed. Our budget goals are two-fold. First, we are currently working on building our savings. We want to move to Cambodia with an emergency fund and six months living expenses already in the bank.

Second, our monthly support. We are raising \$4,000/month. This includes the basics like housing, a car/motorcycle, food, gas, and health insurance. It also includes trips home, a retirement fund and a stipend to sow into our partner ministry, In His Steps International (www.in-his-steps.org).

If you would like to see a detailed budget, please email Jacob at jacob.goodlin@me.com. We would be happy to share the details with you.

Commitment Form: Enclosed with our newsletter, you will find a commitment form. The form gives several options for support -- a one-time gift now, a one-time gift later, and a monthly support commitment beginning in November 2009 and lasting until November 2010.

The commitment form allows us to gain a better idea of our support base as we continue to prepare. We hope you will pray and consider joining with us in this way!

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Finally, we are still inviting God to work in the areas or pride, letting go of control and deepening our love for God's word. We have also discovered two others:

Wisdom: We believe that how you end one season is a huge determining factor in how the next begins. We need wisdom as we enter a season of transition.

Unity: If you've met us, you know that Jacob and I are quite different! With many decisions before us -- time management, where to invest ourselves, how to deepen friendships and our marriage, and so on -- we want continued unity in our priorities.

Please join in praying with us about these areas, as well as that we will have humble hearts, open to God's direction. Stay tuned for another update in May!

With joy,

Jacob & Noelle



Jacob &
Noelle with the
Sak Saum Girls