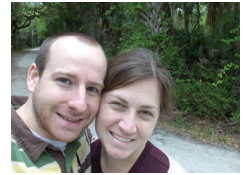




Christ for Cambodia

A ministry of the
North Brevard Church of Christ



Andrew & Natalie Hayes

Dear Friends and Family,

September 08 Update

We received some feedback that some of you might like to meet (via our updates) more of the people we come in contact with each day. We'd like to introduce you to one of our new friends. Mayan is a 19-yr-old girl who works at the language school where we study (Among other things, she washes dishes, cleans the floors, and refills water and supplies the students use when they take a break from class in the lobby area.). She and Natalie started up a conversation one day, and now every day they look forward to seeing each other and talking before and between classes. The majority of Cambodian people are not as blessed as she is, in that she grew up learning about Christ from her parents who are believers. She has a desire to do what God wants, and is excited to look through His Word and learn more about serving Him. Because this school was founded by a Christian group several years ago, it's not surprising that some of the staff are believers as well. It's been a blessing to Natalie to share time with Mayan, and for them to learn from each other. We certainly believe that God puts warm-hearted people into our lives as a source of encouragement to us in a place that can seem dark at times.



Natalie with a new friend at our language school

Other sources of encouragement to us have come from time spent with Dennis and Sharon Welch, a couple from the States who have recently arrived to work in Phnom Penh for the Lord, as well as other workers here in the city. This past month we were also able to visit with one of our university missions professors, Mark Hooper, who came to Phnom Penh to teach at a Bible school for a week. We were grateful to get to meet with him during some of his free time and hear his insights regarding the possibilities in the work here.

This month was also the time for the most important holiday in a Buddhist Cambodian's calendar year called Pchum Ben. We wrote an email to most of you last year telling of the significance of this holiday. Because it is such a large part of the people's lives here, we can't neglect to tell you about it as part of our September update. This is a time when many Cambodian Christians struggle with what God would have them to do. If they choose not to give gifts to their parents to offer to the monks, they are usually seen as being disrespectful children. One of our friends here was concerned that the more she does to try to please God, the more angry her mother becomes with God. We want to always lead our friends here to scripture to let them see for themselves what would be most pleasing to God. Thankfully, God has recorded several instances in which His disciples were willing to stand up for what is right, sometimes literally. One brother gave a lesson this month at our worship time together and mentioned the true story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Daniel 3). These men knew what it was like to face persecution among a nation that was bowing down to someone other than their God. As we all know, seeing something in God's Word doesn't always convict us to do what is right, but we pray that the hearts of every new Christian in this country

Prayer Requests:

- For Robert Reagan (missionary in Thailand), currently in Singapore recovering from surgery and awaiting test results concerning a tumor found on his pancreas
- That our friendships with the Cambodian people will grow deeper
- Unity among the brothers and sisters in Cambodia
- That Cambodian people will entrust themselves to God so that He may bless this nation
- Preparations for a team formation retreat in early November; four families (Wheeler, Allison, Adams, and Hayes) will be in discussion and prayer about working together as one larger team to be part of God's work here in Cambodia

will be increasingly convicted over the coming years as they continue to face this and many other battles in their faith. For those who are getting this update by email and/or have internet access, you can look at the following website for more info about Pchum Ben holiday: <http://www.angkorguides.com/events/pchumbenday.php?mid=18>.

Peace to you all,

Andrew and Natalie

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