



HELLO
FRIENDS

APRIL UPDATE

First I wanted to thank you all for your support. I wouldn't be here without it.

I can't believe a month has already come and gone. A lot has changed. There's more traffic, team members have joined and left, ministries have grown, and new initiatives are starting. But though so much has changed, there is this overarching feeling of consistency. That God has been faithful and will continue to be.

BEFORE GETTING INTO WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING AND OTHER ITEMS, I WANTED TO SHARE A STORY:

In the past year and a half I've missed weddings that I never thought I'd miss. And in the year to come I'll miss several more that fall into that same category.

Weddings are exciting, uplifting, significant, covenantal, and a number of other positive and grand adjectives. It's a celebration of the past, the present, and what's to come. It makes birthday parties seem ordinary and anniversaries ancillary.

For all the weddings that I've missed in the States, and will miss this year, I was able to attend Sovanny and Phea's wedding in Cambodia last year. They are the only native Cambodians on our team and I had first met Sovanny several years ago on a short term trip.

Though not as large or lavish as weddings in the States, the adjectives used before were still fitting. It was a day to share in the joy of a brother getting married. There was celebration, food, music, laughter, and joy.

Fast forward to Easter Sunday a few weeks ago. Just as a birthday party pales in comparison to a wedding, their wedding a year ago couldn't hold a candle to their baptism. Because though weddings solidify the most important human covenant we will make, they are limited to this life. Baptism symbolizes entrance into God's family, into a heavenly covenant. It is a monumental occasion with ripples that find the shores of eternity.

As team members joined to witness Sovanny and Phea's baptism, there was a palpable thankfulness to God and a deep, deep joy. And as Sovanny shared a bit of his story later that week during our team worship, very few managed to hold back tears. Sovanny's testimony is at the heart of what God is doing in Cambodia and what our team is about: sharing the gospel and growing disciples.

WHAT AM I DOING EXACTLY?

1 *TOUL SANGKE CHURCH PLANT:*

Sunday Worship/Bible Studies: I'm happy to say that I'm not doing much for these. Hong (pastoral intern/Cambodian church planter) is speaking on Sundays and teaching Bible studies. He is also preparing for his ordination exam. Sovanny has picked up the guitar quickly and is now leading the praise time. It feels right that the local Cambodians are leading in many aspects. I'm glad to be in the background to just encourage and aid in discipling.

Outreach/Classes: I am primarily teaching on the weekends, but we have 2 new initiatives coming up in the next 6 months or so. The first is to have a class for the moto and tuk-tuk drivers, so that we can get to know the men in the area. The plan is to start this class next month (10 week course). The second is to build a computer lab. This will be a bit of a longer project, but I'll be getting parts through short terms teams this coming summer and hopefully build/network 6-8 desktops.

2 *MERCY MEDICAL CENTER:*

I'm assessing/helping them figure out how to connect various departments via a simple database. I'm also hoping to aid in finding them a Cambodian IT person who can adequately fill the role.

3 *WEB/TEAM FINANCES:*

I'm currently working on creating a website for our team (launching in May) and also helping out with some odds and ends regarding team finances.

4 *PRAYER REQUESTS:*

Faithfulness in ministry, though we may not see the results we want.

That the church plant would not just be growing wider, but it would be growing deeper.

Wisdom in conversations, decision making, and use of time.
