

Cambodian Action

A Beck Family Publication

January-February 2009

Phnom Penh Perspective by Jodi



Christmas Kids—2008

The night before Christmas was full of excited energy in our home! It was difficult to get the kids tucked into bed with the anticipation of opening gifts the next morning. It was quite late before everyone was asleep and we had finished filling the stockings. We were all looking forward to a wonderful Christmas morning together gathered around the Christmas tree with soft music in the background as we read the last portion of our advent story. Then it happened...the power went off! Can you believe it? On Christmas

morning!

Well, before you begin to feel sorry for us, I need to paint the rest of the picture for you. You see, you only have part of the story, one perspective. For the past two years, the property next to us has been under construction. Each and every morning at 6:00 am the workers wake up, shower, cook, eat, and sing at the top of their voices.

This is nice in that we know they are happy, but really, 6 am? At 7:00 am the saws, drills, and hammers begin sawing, drilling, and pounding. This continues until 11:30 when they have lunch and rest for a bit. Then, like clockwork, at 1:30 they continue until 10:00 pm. So, truth be told, when we came downstairs for our Christmas morning activities, the neighboring festivities and un-Christmas like symphonies had already been in session for more than an hour! The timing of the power outage was PERFECT. We had just begun to open some gifts. We would watch as the kids (especially Drew this year) opened their gifts in delight and could actually hear their happy exclamations without the sounds of the drills in the background! We had a perfectly quiet and peaceful Christmas morning.

Praise God!!!

Do you see how having a fuller understanding of the situation and the right perspective changes how we all feel about situations? God has been graciously showing me how I make decisions and judgments based on my faulty perspective so much of the time. I rarely see the WHOLE picture and yet find it easy to pass judgment or make a decision that is later regretted. My perspective is often distorted as I tend to focus on the wrong things.

I long to have an eternal focus during my time here on earth. I long to see the blessings and trials in my life from God's perspective. God's perspective is the only one that matters as He is in sovereign control over all things! When we do see our circumstances as from His hand there is peace and contentment that rests in our hearts. Nothing can shake us; not even two years of loud construction outside my window!

Thank you for your faithful prayers and support, it is a privilege to partner together in reaching the Khmer with the Gospel!

In Christ,
Jodi

Kids Corner by Jodi



She has kept right up but has quite a bit of homework each night. She is diligent, independent, and has a soft heart for those in her class that don't quite fit in.



CJ continues in Kindergarten and also has had a challenging year as he is still in the process of learning the difference between foolishness and wisdom! He has a great teacher and is doing well. He also lost his first two teeth!

Drew turned four in January and is growing into such a sweet young boy. He has taken his responsibilities of filling water bottles and straightening the shoes very seriously. He also loves a good game. His favorite thing to do right now is tease the dog!



Yes, we gave in just before Christmas and got the kids a dog. Her name is Mowgli (like in Jungle Book). She is just a year old so she is still very playful and yet Mom doesn't have to train her! It's the best of both worlds!

Your prayers for our family are invaluable as we minister here in Cambodia. Thank you for your labor of love on behalf of our family and especially our children!



"We would like to report that the Beck children are doing very well! Thank you so much for praying for them. It is only by God's grace that we are doing well and are feeling quite settled as a family. This school year has brought about much change, and in some ways growing pains.



Mikaela is loving 6th grade! At LOGOS International School, 6th grade is middle school so she is learning to schedule her time for homework and study. She has also joined

the volleyball team which makes Mom proud! They won their first game of the season and Mikaela, though nervous, passed the ball several times very accurately! Doesn't seem like a big deal? Well, it's 6th grade! It's ALL a big deal! Oh yes, and she is now riding her bicycle to school every morning!

Kamryn has had a challenging year as 3rd grade makes big steps academically.



Join our Cambodian Action Team!

Would you prayerfully consider joining our team by committing to faithfully pray and/or support the work here in Cambodia? For more information visit our web site at www.actioncambodia.org or contact one of our offices at:

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