

BEFORE WE LEFT CAMBODIA...

Just before departing for the US, the visitation team of the Cambodia Lutheran Church (CLC), including J.P., made one more visit, this time to Kampong Chhnang Province. The first stop was with pastor Kimhai, a passionate and busy leader who shepherds not only a church that meets at his home, but also helps several groups in the nearby area. All this he does while also serving as a Bible teacher at the local Garuna school. At one of Kimhai's groups, to which J.P. had previously traveled by boat during the flood season, it was amazing to see how the group had grown. Dozens of kids (pictured here), along with lots of adults, gathered to sing, hear God's Word, share resources, and eat a little snack. This growing group still needs a lot of help, not least in basic instruction in God's Word. An interview with the group leader, to learn more about the group's joys and challenges, was a key element of the visitation as the CLC looks to address needs. J.P. looks forward to further partnership in that regard. This trip also included visits to other leaders and locations.



SQUARE TWO

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WANNA HELP US IMPACT THE PEOPLE OF CAMBODIA? Give online here, or mail a check to 1) P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 (payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod), OR 2) 40718 Highway E-116, Mapleton, IA 51034 (payable to Mission Central). For ALL checks, in the memo line write "Cima family-Cambodia."



PRAISES: for God's provision during our first weeks Stateside; for blessed reunions with family. **PRAYERS:** for Pastor Kimhai and other leaders, along with their churches, in Kampong Chhnang; for safe travels to Houston, Virginia Beach, Bozeman, and back to Cambodia; for a spiritually rich time at the youth events; for the Asia region's vacant business manager position.



AFTER WE ARRIVED IN THE U.S...

Despite our best efforts to juggle shifting flight schedules, pandemic-era entry requirements, logistics for visiting congregations, and family commitments, all our planning came to naught when we tested positive for COVID-19 three days after our arrival. We likely contracted the disease during our air travel. Fortunately, our symptoms were mild and manageable, and we all recovered quickly. But unfortunately, the required isolation meant that we missed a beach vacation with J.P.'s family. Aimee's father provided gracious hospitality throughout the isolation (even though we gave him COVID-19!). After 5 days cooped up, we celebrated our freedom by going on a hike at a quiet nearby park, enjoying donuts along the way (pictured here). Nonetheless, we waited another several days before traveling to see J.P.'s family, due to his dad being in an at-risk group. Another casualty was the planned visit to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Virginia Beach. J.P. was mortified to cancel on them the day before he was scheduled to preach and lead Sunday school, but the church leaders were very understanding, and graciously allowed us to reschedule. See below for our remaining schedule before we return to Cambodia on July 27. We'd LOVE to see you!

- July 8-13 - National Youth Gathering - Houston, TX
- July 17 - Prince of Peace Lutheran Church - Virginia Beach, VA (J.P. preaching and teaching)
- July 19-22 - Higher Things Youth Conference - Bozeman, MT (J.P. teaching)

I write this on an airplane to Houston for the National Youth Gathering. As I reflect on the past few weeks' challenges and blessings, I am struck by the youth gathering's theme: In All Things. Jesus is in all things (Col. 1:16-21), and that includes the things that don't go to plan. Indeed, we have felt his presence and care *especially* in all these unplanned challenges and blessings. Praise God!