

Lee Family in Cambodia

Greetings from Cambodia!

(by Andrew Lee)

As the UMC country coordinator of Cambodia, I'd like to express my deepest gratitude for your support for Cambodia mission in this time of global pandemic.

Cambodia, similar to many of her neighbor countries, is going through some difficult times. Cambodia stopped the arrival of flights from Wuhan, China in February and kept the country under a lockdown starting from March that is still in effect in many ways. According to the official count, the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases is not many (below 300 by government figures), and we feel fortunate about that. However, travel industry and international trading have been heavily affected by the pandemic. Rising unemployment rate is becoming a social issue, and those who have already been suffering from poverty are in more dire situations.

In March, during my visit in Mondulkiri (a province 7 hours from Phnom Penh), I witnessed a funny sight. The local residents propped strange looking "dolls" in front of the entrance to their houses, confidently claiming that they will keep away the evil spirits including COVID-19. It was at this moment that I realized this was an opportune time to show them where the true power comes from!



In order to show them the true power of God, we needed to reach out to them in tangible ways. So, we started a COVID-19 relief project. This could not be done on our own. We quickly notified Global Ministries and received emergency fund to start a relief project. Working with the staffs in our office (12 members), we were able to give out rice, masks, soap, and hand sanitizers while teaching them how to protect their family members from COVID-19. We were able to share this love of God to about 1,000 families (about 5,000 people including children). My staff and I are discussing the need for another relief project at the end of this year or early next year. We pray for God's continued guidance and providence.



Visit Our Website

Even in this challenging season of our lives, God's works are still in progress in Cambodia. Please visit our virtual home at www.umccambodia.org. Janice also continues serving Susanna Wesley House (www.umccambodia.org/swh/) to promote young women's empowerment and leadership. Your visit will be greatly appreciated and meaningful to our mission team.

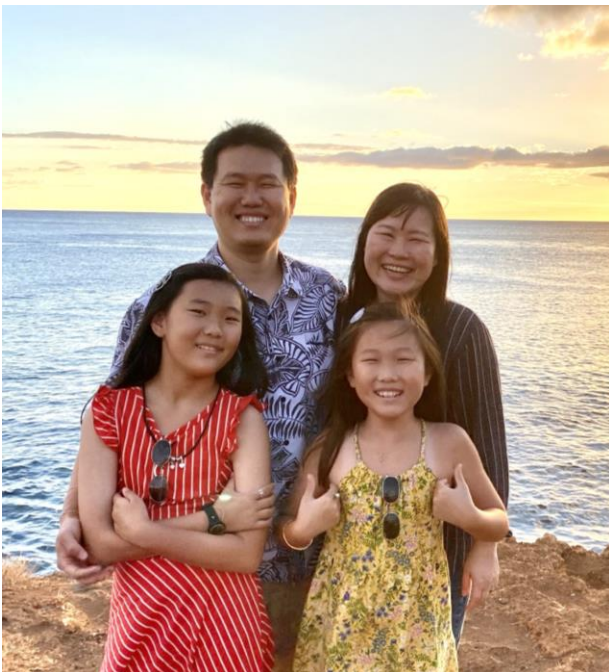
*Website: www.umccambodia.org

Every evening, Janice and I read the Bible together. We recently read 3John and this verse touched my heart: "I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face" (3John 1:10). I pray that the pandemic ends soon so that we may be able to "talk face to face." Until then, may the grace and mercy of our loving God be poured upon you and your church.



Summer Home Leave

(by Janice Lee)



Believe it or not, it has been three years since we came to Cambodia as of this past July! Every three years, missionaries are placed on itineration and family home leave. Despite the pandemic, we were able to spend time with families in Hawaii this summer. Although Andrew was not able to personally visit many churches for his itineration, he was able to make virtual visits to many churches to share about the wonderful works God is doing in Cambodia. Serena and Reina had an awesome time with their relatives, especially their baby cousin, Joshua (2 years old). They were excited to finally connect with Joshua who was born while we were in Cambodia.

Travel back to Cambodia was not easy. We had to be COVID-tested 72 hours before arrival, be tested again at the airport, get sent to a quarantine hotel until everyone on the flight is confirmed COVID-negative, be quarantined at home for 14 days, and then be COVID-tested again to be fully compliant with the government requirements. Praise God that all four of us survived 3 COVID tests in a matter of 15 days and all tested negative!

Cambodia has been very vigilant about keeping COVID-19 under control. There is a consensus that there doesn't seem to be community spread in Cambodia. Schools are finally opening in-person with much precaution. Serena and Reina have just started their in-person school and are excited to be with their friends again, though there are many restrictions. The only fear is that many Cambodians seem to have forgotten that COVID-19 is still ongoing and still very real. Please continue to pray for Cambodia for their physical as well as spiritual wellbeing.



Serena & Reina

Serena is 11 years old and has started middle school as a 6th grader! She was thrilled to have different teachers for each subject. She still loves soccer but is sad that no sports are allowed for her school until further notice. Serena continues to be an avid reader and is in love with music. In fact, she has turned out to be quite a critic for books and music that it's fun to listen to her reviews on them!

Reina is 9 years old and has started 5th grade! Reina is still "out-of-the-box" as ever with so many questions about anything and everything. Her latest speculation was... what if gravity isn't keeping us down but keeping us "up" from being sucked into the ground? She loves to play Minecraft and has figured out coding to make changes and make her village interesting including sheep that walk upside down! Yes, she always keeps me on my toes, and I love it!

Prayer Requests:

- 1. For the Cambodians to experience the grace of God in this time of pandemic.**
- 2. For the health and spiritual growth of local staffs in mission.**
- 3. For the health and safety of Lee family.**



Advance Project in Cambodia

#3022316 – Andrew's Family (missionary)

#00230A – Cambodia Mission Initiative

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