

JULY: Mega Addition Newsletter



(From Left to Right) Angie, Sandra, Naomi, Pastor Dena

Travel and Project Updates

July was busy. Really busy. We had four groups come in and out over the month and each group worked on something different and exciting. Featured in the top photo is the group that taught sewing to women in a city called Sihanouk Ville, but more on them later.

The first visitor we had this July was the Service Coordinator from China, and my long time friend from working at summer camp. Because she works in China, this information can be deemed sensitive, so I won't state her name or show any photos. But I can share that while she visited she was able to see the other work that our organization is doing and get a different perspective on the how CWFEE operates in other Asian countries.

The next visitor was a lovely young lady named Lesley who decided that since she was able to come over to Cambodia and Vietnam for vacation, she wanted to use some of that time to serve others! It was great to have her here, she taught for about 6 days at 2 different English schools, to children aged 3 to 6 years old. They loved her, we loved her, and she loved being here! She is featured in the picture on the right, in the white shirt.



Next, one of our frequent visitors from Hong Kong came to check up on an orphanage we send volunteers to. His name is Mike Kersten and he works as a teacher at the International School in Hong Kong. He helps bring students over and we help set them up with projects to do! He is in the photo to the left standing next to the principle of one of the schools with which we partner. (And yes, he's tall.)



Events this month

- I travel back to AMERICA for fund raising
- A house gets built for an HIV positive couple up in Battambang
- Our office is changing locations- big move

And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13

Finally, our last group of the month was from Iowa and featured 2 women, named Sandra and Angie. They came to serve others through the act of teaching sewing skills and providing materials for women to use on their own projects. Their week of teaching consisted of showing the Khmer ladies how to properly, measure, cut, stitch, use a sewing machine, and organize and compile a pattern for making quilts.



I learned a lot from them too! Mostly, I learned that I just can't use the ancient sewing machines we have available here for use. Over the course of 5 days I was only able to put together 2 small pieces of cloth! Good thing I have other marketable skills to offer. And it was also good that the local women did much better than me.

Now, it might seem odd that CWFEP would want to teach quilting in such a hot, tropical climate, but there is a method to our madness. First of all, the women make baby quilts without a lining inside, so the quilts are very light. Second, we give the quilts to babies and toddlers who have never had any sort of blanket before. And lastly, the quilting is just the first session in our sewing project. The women have to go through 4 different stages of sewing before we present them with a certificate of completion. If you'd like to learn more about the sewing project, please email me, and I'll give you the rest of the details.

Culture Corner



On the left is a picture I took at Angkor Wat, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. It is incredible and I was able to visit there twice in the past month.

Angkor is the national symbol of Cambodian pride and culture. This once powerful empire stretched into Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam. Even the Chinese ambassadors of the early 1100s were impressed by its magnitude.

To see all of the temples and structures from this era would take you at least a week, if not longer. The area is so massive because, while the empire lasted, each King would try to outdo the previous ruler in grandeur and decadence.

No one knows for certain why the empire ceased to be, but most likely it was caused by over expansion, unpredictable weather, and increasing border skirmishes.

My Time in America

Well, it's already that time of year again, when the money runs out and the necessity of going back to America for fund raising becomes quite apparent. Also, my sister is getting married this fall and I am her maid of honor, so I am definitely looking forward to that celebration!

I am happy to say that for this past term of service I am 99.99% funded, so thanks to all of you for your support and prayers! But, that does still leave all of next year's money to raise. I have faith that God will help provide for me and open up people's hearts towards the work that is being done here. We help orphans, poor schools and churches, teach health education, provide vocational skills training- like sewing, do English teaching and most importantly, share God's love with the people we work with and help.

This next year I will have to raise about \$22,000. This amount covers health insurance, passport fees and visas, housing, a living stipend, travel, and other administration fees. Please prayerfully consider making a donation to help

support the work that is happening in Cambodia today! The information on how this can be done is listed in the blue box below.

Also, since I will be in America until I can get 70% of the money raised, please feel free to contact me if you'd like me to visit your church or give a presentation on the work of CWF (Concordia Welfare and Education Foundation). I will mostly be in Florida during my stay, but I am doing a bit of traveling September, so please email me in case I am going to be near your town.

Finally, this will be my last newsletter for a while. When I am home and fund raising, there's usually not much to write about, so you can expect my next news letter at least by November. If I am able to head back to Cambodia before that time, then I will send out a newsletter then.

To send in donations visit:

www.lcms.org?17524

Or Checks can be made out: LCMS World Mission.

In the memo line write "Aurora Sandell"

The address to send donations to is:

LCMS World Mission

Missionary Support

P.O. Box 79089

St. Louis, MO 63179

Prayer requests this month: that I have a safe trip home, for the projects happening in Cambodia,

for our staff and the people we partner with, for my fund raising

Thank you all for your prayers and support!

Final Thoughts

Here are a few highlights from my 6 ½ months here:

- Helping out with a youth conference for 150 young Cambodia Christians
- Meeting inspirational locals who went through so much during the Khmer Rouge rule
- Traveling to see Angkor Wat
- Seeing villagers have running water for the first time
- Witnessing over 30 baptisms during the course of one month!
- Seeing people's lives change for the better with the hope of Christ and His message of love and forgiveness



Average village children who need clothes, medical supplies and education.