

My Cambodian Trail....



Helen Camarce's Newsletter December 2020



Dear Friends in Christ,

What is a retreat?

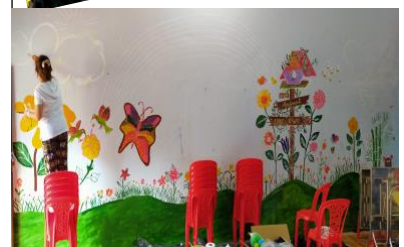
In wars, retreat is not surrendering to the opponent, rather, a time to step back, reassess, and make new plans or strategy. In your spiritual life it is the time to revisit your soul, review then refresh your spirit and prepare for what is ahead of you. In your physical and emotional life, it is to pause for some time to stop the monotony, have a vacation, revitalize and have a change of mindset.

David did a lot of these. And every time, he went to a far place: a cave, a cliff, the wilderness and hills away from the usual environment, to meditate and talk to God. Sometimes to repent and refresh his devotion to God, sometimes to hide from those who want him dead and to ask guidance from God. And God sustained him with a new strength, with a new faith, with deeper commitment and

In a situation like this, in the midst of pandemic, we are so blessed to have a place in Mondulkiri, a mountainous region in Cambodia, where the weather is cold and the Covid situation is not as bad. The students of Susannah Wesley and the UMC office went for a 3-day retreat. I had these photos of scenes which I feel consoled every time I look at it. The lined-up rubber trees where we had a picnic lunch. The devotion every morning. The sunset along the way. The tents on the church's rooftop at night. My lecture about Financial Management. The tree-planting in front of the church. The mural painting in the church.

If David needs this retreat for his own sanity as well as to strengthen his devotion to God, why can't we as disciples and children of God? Especially during this scary pandemic.

In Isaiah 24:9-10 "And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'? Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the Lord gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.' "



“Each of you should use whatever gift you had received to serve others as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” - 1Peter 4:10

Please support:

Adv. Project # 3020789 - Women’s Empowerment – Empowering women to support other women.

Advance Proj# 3010791- Youth and Children Scholarship

And to have covenant relationship with a missionary

Helen de Leon Camarce - Missionary Advance # 13953Z.

If you have any inquiry about #GivingTuesday, please contact advance@umcmmission.org

