

Journey with C



#jay30thjourney
NEWSLETTER FIRST QUARTER 2022

JOURNEY IN CHRONOLOGY

JANUARY: WHEN GOD OPENED MORE DOORS.



JOURNEY IN CAMBODIA

GREETINGS OF PEACE FROM CAMBODIA!

I can't still believe that the first quarter of my 2022 in Cambodia was finally ended. I am so grateful that I was able to see different villages in many provinces here. The Lord is so good for these experiences I had. Food, culture, language, and the weather here are challenging. The hot season was kind of exhausting. Despite these, the word that will end my day is "Ökun" (means Thank You!). I thank God for meeting new people and friends, for the new learning experiences, and for His guidance.



<https://umccambodia.org/chad/>

Living here for the past 5 months, I appreciated how the people of this nation became so resilient and resourceful so they can continue their lives in a midst of a pandemic. They are not shy to work and even carry big stuff on their motor or any vehicle as long as this is for earning a living.



Sounds dangerous or non-sense, but they cannot choose a life that they just want to be because of systemic corruption in their society. This situation is not only here in Cambodia but in many places in the world. May our hearts be open to reaching out to these communities where poverty and injustice are controlling. May our light shine for Jesus wherever we are.

When I joined GMF, I knew during our matching process that I will be entering a new door of ministry far from what I used to do. I know I will miss my whole 8 years in church and community school life where teaching and training became my strength. Unexpectedly, God opened more doors for me to help here in Cambodia with my experience in the community school. This one is out of my job description. I was given an opportunity to co-facilitate Teacher's Training of our partner local NGO for Street Children Ministry. I shared with them my journey as a teacher and stories in my community that were relevant to their situation. They were so grateful that they were inspired to dream again and be passionate about loving and teaching their students.



<https://www.facebook.com/DreamCambodia/videos/461219835511383>

1. Wisdom as I prepare helping the training lessons for CHAD Capacity Building and For 2nd Quarter Teacher's Training.
2. Wisdom and diligence as I continue my Language Class Level 2.
3. Good Health and Safety in every day travel
4. More opportunities to engage in church community here



<https://www.facebook.com/globalmissionfellows>
<http://www.umccmission.org/gmf>





<https://www.facebook.com/CommunityHealthAgriculturalDevelopmentCambodia>

JOURNEY WITH CHAD

Because this is a new year for us to start, our team spent our first-month planning for the next 2 years. What made this so important? The community projects that we have now are in the phase-out stage where we aim to turn over the community development work to our local leadership to have their full leadership and own it as their program to help each other in their community. I am so amazed to see and learn how the local churches, the local committee for social concerns, and the local village groups worked for hand in hand with CHAD Team to teach and help these poor villages to see their strength, their resources, and how they can help each other as one community. Not all communities are perfect, we still have 26 ongoing communities to guide on the way and turn over to the local leadership we are continually training. Many community partners were affected by the pandemic so during this quarter we have been working for Renewal Meetings. Many renewed to continue the project and partnership. There are still others in process of decision-making. I learned through this that even if we failed at some point, we have a chance to start over again if we are united to do it again. I learned the beauty and importance of agreement when a project started, the dialogue, and collaborative work for conflict management in every community we help.

<http://chad-cambodia.blogspot.com/>



FEBRUARY: OMICRON IS IN THE HOUSE, A CHALLENGING LOVE MONTH



During the first week, I was able to finally travel to a new province I missed last year. I met the 6 village group partners we have in Svay Rieng province. After that week, the COVID-19 Omicron variant spread in Phnom Penh. Our GBGM-UMC Cambodia team also suffered from this situation. 4 out of 12 people from different departments of our ministry were infected. Not on the same day or week but one week after another. It was difficult because much of our work was delayed and we were forced to work from home and did self-quarantine, especially who have direct contact with those who got positive. Our 3 weeks of February until the first week of March became so weak and uncertain due to the spread of the Omicron variant within the city. We praised God for his sustaining grace that all who got sick recovered from this virus and we were all relieved from the stress of a challenging month.





JOURNEY IN CHRONOLOGY

**MARCH:
WORK PERMIT
RELEASED, A
PROOF OF GOD'S
PROVISION**



JOURNEY WITH CHURCH

I am blessed to learn from different workers in churches here in Cambodia. Living in this Buddhist country with so deep culture of it, gave me a different picture of my Christian life in the Philippines. I was amazed that many of the young people I met here were the first generation of believers in their own families. They are so prayerful and passionate to testify about Jesus despite the strong culture and beliefs of Buddhism in their family. Everywhere I go, what I always saw were pagodas, temples, Buddha statues, and other things related to Buddhism. Despite these strongholds, I am hopeful and excited about how the Lord will use the younger generation of this nation for his glory. Your prayer is needed to increase the low percentage of the Christian population here, let's pray that this nation will accept Jesus.

Another thing, I am also blessed to meet Filipino Christians here and many OFW (Overseas Filipino Workers). Listening to their stories, I was amazed at how courageous and enduring the OFW working abroad. Their sacrifices for their families humbled my heart. It was so encouraging to hear that many of them found strength in Jesus and in the fellowship that they have in the churches they joined as they live here. No issue of denomination here, it's about Jesus who lives in their hearts that matter most. Also, many OFW here came to know Christ while working here. What a wonderful work of God from everywhere to everywhere.

JOURNEY WITH CHRIST

During my quarantine last February, I decided to have my book study again, I chose the Book of Revelation. It was encouraging when I read verse 8 of chapter 1. Jesus said, "I am the Alpha and Omega", the beginning and the end..." says the Lord "I am the one who is, who is always was, and who is still to come...the Almighty One." This verse is a reaffirmation to me that He has a plan for me from the beginning of my life to where I am now. It was comforting also that He is not only "Almighty One" but He is also never changing. May the Almighty one be known in this nation who does not only put hopes in their Buddha but also in their monks who did all their spiritual ceremonial. They also put hopes on what their king can do and many on their government officials. May you include in your prayer the lost people in Cambodia, that they may have a personal relationship with Jesus who is the Lord, Savior, High Priest, and the King of Kings we are waiting for the hope of glory.

I am a GMF pandemic batch and my visa story was a roller coaster since last year's process. But God is amazing working miracles during those times. When January 2022 started, we started to work out our work permit to comply with the Ministry of Labor requirements here. This will be the last legal document we need to secure this year. As we requested the needed documents here, we experienced systemic corruption here. So sad when our Cambodian teammates explained to us why this situation is like that here. This is corruption, it has different faces in every country in the world. We thank God that many people helped us and we try to talk to people we are dealing with those documents so we can get a fair amount to pay and they approved it. Finally, this month, we got our work permit. Thanks to the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies who help us a lot. It was a great joy to be freed of the many thoughts about legal matters staying here in Cambodia. This God's provision gave me more time to focus and confidence that I am following the laws here.

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