

April 2023

Called to Cambodia

Stories of the adventures of Jeff Henneforth as he responds to God's call to live among, serve, and love the people of Cambodia.



We Had an Amazing Youth Retreat at the Beach!

Last year when I visited the United States, I wanted to share an idea that God had put on my heart – that I wanted to do a youth retreat for our church. So many of us had been limited in our travel and really had not been outside of Poipet during and after the pandemic. I really wanted to take the youth to the beach – which is at the opposite end of the country to the south. People were very encouraging and willing to help. I'm so thankful for all the prayers and for helping us financially. And I'm glad to share now about the trip we just took.

Originally, I thought we would have the retreat between Christmas and New Year. But some of the arrangements fell through and some of our leaders were not going to be available. We ended up delaying the trip and then completely changing the location for where we had originally planned to go. And I'm so happy we did. That time between Christmas and New Year is actually the cold season here. Maybe not the coldest by western standards, but still feels pretty cold to people here because it is about 30 degrees (Fahrenheit) cooler than what we're used to. Because we had to delay, we ended up going in the middle of March. Right after the cold season are a couple of months of moderate weather that can be very pleasant. And that's exactly what we got for the trip – perfect beach weather. Lots of blue skies and cool breezes. If we would have gone even a week later, the temperature would have shot up into the 100's. The timing couldn't have been better.



We were able to take 8 days for the trip. Because the beach we were going to is so far away, the first day was a whole day of driving – getting on the road at 5:30 a.m. and not stopping for the night until about 5 p.m. The numbers worked out just right so that we did not have to rent a bus. Instead, we were able to take a large truck owned by the Happy Home – a Christian home where most of our kids come from, and my truck. Most of the kids sat in the back of the Happy Home truck – and that's a really long way to go

in that kind of vehicle. But they were excited and didn't complain at all. The beach is so far away that it took us a day and a half of driving.



We arrived at the docks around noon. Saying we went to the beach might be slightly misleading. Though we did in fact go to the beach, it was a beach on an island called Koh Smach. So we had to take a boat ride to get there.



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Youth Retreat (cont.)

I had never been there before and really wasn't sure what to expect. Somearn (my translator) and his wife Sadudee (Sadudee is the amazing leader of the Happy Home in Poipet) had been there before and we had decided to go based on their recommendation. And it was beautiful. We rode out over light blue water in a boat



that was able to carry the whole group, our luggage, tents, food, and other supplies with plenty of room to spare.

The camping area was right next to the beach. And it looked fantastic. We were there for five nights, which gave us four full days in addition the that first afternoon and the morning we departed.



Each morning, I did a Bible study based on the theme of the retreat – Loving God. I took the great commandment from Matthew and taught on one part each day – Loving God with All Your Heart, Loving God with All Your Soul, Loving God with All Your Mind, and Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself. We also had lots of fun things to do together.



Our church staff had organized several group games that everyone had a lot of fun playing – and the leaders had fun running.



We cooked all the meals there at the beach (special thanks to Sadudee!). We played in the water together.



Youth Retreat (cont.)



And we were even able to rent the boat we came over on for a day to visit another island and spend some time fishing. Lot's of the older kids love to fish and they caught a lot!



Everyone had a great time. Everyone got along really well together. Other than some minor cuts, nobody got hurt. And I never heard anyone complain – with maybe one exception – some of the kids did not want to leave!

I'm so thankful for all those who provided support and made this trip possible. If you look at the pictures, it might look like we blew a ton of money. But because of where we live and how we did the trip, we were able to keep all the expenses to under \$3000, which is what we had originally budgeted. Not bad for a trip that lasted eight days, with long drives, food and lodging for twenty-two people. And we could not have done it without our amazing leaders who planned and cooked the meals, helped drive, planned activities, led worship, and took care of the kids. So much to be thankful for!



Prayer Requests

- The YouTube channel I started with a Cambodian Pastor named Chean is up and running. We're learning a lot and having fun putting videos out each week. We've been posting almost every week since December. Our desire is to create a resource to help answer questions about the Bible that Cambodians have. Please pray that the Lord would guide us and use us to put out helpful videos!
- Pray for the church here – that the Lord would make us a place where His love shines through. And that the people in the church in Poipet would grow in their love for the Lord and for each other.
- Please pray that the Lord would guide my teaching on Sunday mornings and whenever I get other opportunities. That I would be filled with the Holy Spirit to teach effectively and to help establish the church here in God's Word and to equip our people for the work of the ministry.
- Pray that I would be an effective leader for my staff. That I would help them grow, to see their gifts and help them use those gifts so that they might be a blessing to others.
- Pray that God would use us to bring many in our neighborhood into His kingdom. To help us to see and act on the opportunities that are around us. To make us a light that shine in the darkness. To gain a reputation for love and compassion with those who live nearby.
- Pray that the Lord would continue to give us grace with those in authority over Poipet and Cambodia.

Financial Support: [donations are tax deductible]

Missionary financial support for Jeff can be made as a one-time contribution or as monthly support.

Please make checks payable to: Calvary Chapel Pacific Hills with "Cambodia-Henneforth" in the memo.

Mail to: Calvary Chapel Pacific Hills, 24481 Moulton Parkway, Aliso Viejo, CA 92637

If you have any questions about making a donation, please call (949) 362-7475