

"It is a fundamental fact that the most intelligent people -- college professors, doctors, lawyers, PhD's, bright folks of all stripes -- make foolish and elementary mistakes in thinking when it comes to spiritual things." -Gregory Koukl



First snowman, NE Pennsylvania

Kennedy Chronicles

Jan-Feb, 2014
from Phnom Penh

Dear family and friends,

Our Furlough

Our 7 month furlough flew by surprisingly quickly. It was a wonderful time of reconnecting with family and friends on both sides of the Atlantic. It was especially significant for Vivienne and Tessa to have quality time with their grandparents, aunts & uncles, and cousins. Vivienne spent a school term in John's former primary school in Portadown, and the girls spent their first-ever Christmas in America. We are indebted to those hosted, treated, and helped us in myriad of ways. Never have so many creamy desserts been consumed in such a short space of time! Receiving such warmth tinged the thought of returning to Cambodia with sadness.

Re-Entry

January saw us fly into the so-called cool season, which did help the transition from the extreme weather of Pennsylvania. We arrived back in our same house, but with new neighbors upstairs (a lovely English family who have also come to teach at Hope). The Phnom Penh we know has changed substantially, as Asian cities continuously tear down and build and the missions community is so fluid here. There are many new staff and students at Hope School, so John almost felt like a new arrival! Also, we had said our good-byes to a number of close friends who left Cambodia while we were away, but fortunately, Vivienne's closest friends are still here and she slotted back into her class without a hitch.

School

John has taught the final-year class for nearly 5 years now. As they work out the next step, many of them are struggling with where to go to university and the financial repercussions that go along with this. The South Koreans face the dilemma of returning to a hyper competitive home culture (for which they are ill-equipped) or moving away from family to study in the West, if they can afford the rising costs.



School sports day with friends

Surprises

The Kennedy clan is set to increase to the point where we will need our own tuktuk (no more family rides on the moto!). For those of you who haven't heard, we are expecting twins! After a rough first-trimester, Sarah is now into the second trimester, with a due date in early September. We are hoping to return to Northern Ireland for the birth so are working towards a lapsed marital visa for Sarah. We would like to return to Cambodia soon after the twins are born, barring any complications.

Prayer

School - That the final year students will be ready to leave Cambodia & that the right door would open for them. Endurance for the teachers as the temperature rises and energy levels go down.

Our Family - Sarah's visa for the UK, and ongoing health in pregnancy.

Cambodia - Opportunities to be a light to our Khmer neighbors and friends - that we will have cultural sensitivity and wisdom in our interactions.

Faithfully,

John, Sarah, Vivienne & Tessa

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***If you want to be removed from this prayer list please let us know.