



Dear Praying Friends,

September 2019

Greetings from a hot and humid Phnom Penh. We had an interesting time as a family last week as Alex was admitted to hospital with a serious infection. After three nights in hospital, including a rather uncomfortable night in intensive care, a suitably chastened Alex has been restored to the loving arms of his family and will be much more diligent about wearing his face mask and using hand gels in the future! *Please thank God for Alex's swift recovery from this infection, the care he received in hospital and from our hard working team doctor. Please pray for God's protection against Alex getting any more infections before we go on Home Assignment next April.*

In the middle of September, the SONOKO board will hold its second Annual General Meeting which is where the board gives an account of what of its activities to the students and graduates. It is also one of the main forums for the students and graduates to share their ideas, concerns and thoughts regarding the ministry of SONOKO and is a key component of building a student led movement. However, the whole concept that we, as the board, are accountable to them or are interested in hearing their ideas is completely counter cultural to them and so it will be some time yet before the AGM truly serves its purpose. However, over time, as they hear the message again and again, we hope that the students and graduates will believe us and start taking more ownership of the movement. *Please pray for the AGM, for the discussions that will take place, that God will move in all our hearts, but especially in the hearts of the students and graduates who attend, that He refresh their vision and deepen their awareness and understanding of what it means to be a student led movement. Also, please continue to pray that God would raise a Khmer General Secretary for SONOKO.*

Alex also continues in his other roles as Personnel Manager of the OMF Cambodia team and is looking forward to resuming teaching at Phnom Penh Bible School at the end of October. He is preaching at our church near the end of September and once that is out of the way, he will get down to any last minute revisions that need to be made to his course materials. *Please pray for the students, both new and returning, that God is calling to study at PPBS, that God will reveal more and more the fathomless riches of His word to them and that the staff and faculty are effective in opening up the word to them.*

Although the first day back at school was, for various reasons, somewhat traumatic for both Elizabeth and Ben, both of them have had a good start to the school year. Elizabeth has signed up as a stage hand for the school production and is happily attending scouts again after the summer break. Ben had been having problems with one of the older children in the playground, but the school is monitoring the situation and we hope that there will be no further incidents. *Please pray that Ben and Elizabeth will thrive, academically and socially at Hope School and they will continue grow in their own Christian faith.*

Another of the roles in team that Marguerite manages is Candidate Coordinator, currently Angeline Porter. Marguerite had covered this role for Angeline's Home Assignment. This brings an interesting dynamic into the team, as Angeline is higher in the management structure as Field director, and also responsible to Marguerite as Candidate Coordinator. The main role of the Candidate Coordinator is to process all the people hoping to come to the Cambodia field long term. This starts from the initial enquiry to when they arrive in Cambodia. It involves a lot of admin, but is much more than that, journeying alongside candidates as they seek God's direction for their future ministry. We currently have 9 new members and associates aiming to arrive in 2020, which is a lot more than in any recent years, with more applying that we are requesting to wait for the following year. *Please pray for all who are seeking to join the Cambodia team, that we will make wise decisions with them about their future plans and ministry.*

With love,

Alex, Marguerite, Elizabeth and Ben

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