

# Phnom Penh Prattle

25 November 2011

## Goodbye Cambodia

Saying goodbye to Cambodia has been tough. In four more days we will say our final goodbye to this life and return to Sydney. Our final months here have been packed pretty tightly, as we tried to finish our jobs well and say our goodbyes to all the amazing people we have been fortunate enough to journey with here.

Writing this final newsletter hasn't been easy either! How can we adequately express how thankful we are for your support over the past eleven years? How to explain how privileged we feel, having been given the opportunity and resources to work in such an incredible place? What else can we say, but thank you!

## Peace Bridges

My final job for Peace Bridges was to conduct and write up a research project exploring what skills, knowledge and practices are culturally effective in mediating family disputes between Cambodians.

It was a fantastic opportunity to hear from some of Cambodia's most experienced family mediators, who had undertaken Peace Bridges' earliest training courses. It was fascinating and humbling to hear the lengths these men and women go to, as they work for peace in families struggling with conflict.

Let me know if you'd like an electronic copy of the report. Hopefully the results should prove useful to Peace Bridges in the months and years to come as they continue to develop their training programs and equip people with the vision and tools to prevent and manage conflict, based on the Christian values of mercy, justice, peace and truth.

It's so exciting to be saying goodbye to Peace Bridges, knowing they are being headed up by a national director doing a brilliant job managing and inspiring 19 staff and 130 volunteers who are passionately committed to supporting Christians and those of other faiths to deal with conflict in a way that considers the needs of all.

*If you'd like to continue supporting Peace Bridges or National Centre of Disabled Persons, please contact Baptist World Aid Australia. They will soon have new video and other resources available to churches, profiling the work of both organisations.*

*If you'd like to continue supporting the Global Interaction team in Cambodia, please consider helping get Simon Cunliffe Jones from Sydney to Poipet in the new year, to be part of the amazing work Pip Miner is leading in this very challenging area of Cambodia. More at:*

*[www.globalinteraction.org.au/Support/Workers/Staff/Simon.aspx](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au/Support/Workers/Staff/Simon.aspx)*





## Community Rehab

My (Fiona's) final job for KPF- Disabled Children's Foundation- was to write a website for them, to help them attract international interest and funding for their work with children and youth with moderate and severe disabilities. Having the opportunity to chat with the parents and children involved in this exciting project to find out how it's been making a difference in their lives was a fun way to end my time in Cambodia.

From 24 Dec at <http://komarpikar.org/> you will find the stories behind some of those gorgeous smiles in the photos above.

It has also been fantastic to see how your May Mission Month donations to the community based rehab work have been used this year. Our partners Disability Development Services Pursat have been able to branch out into 27 new rural villages, while the National Centre for Disabled Persons are now facilitating Community Disability Committees in 322 communes across Cambodia. Thanks God, and thanks to all of you for your generosity!

## And hello to Sydney

Once we finish off some repairs and re-painting of our townhouse, we will be ready to start setting up a home in Blakehurst, hopefully before Christmas. Our plan is to try and get settled in to our new home before Visarl starts kindy at his local school and Narin begins preschool two days a week.

There are still many unknowns for us- particularly regards to work opportunities, but we're excited about moving into the St George area of Sydney. The culturally diverse community and the beautiful public spaces and rivers were all big drawcards, and we're looking forward to being so close to Barry's mum, and not too far from Fiona's family in Newcastle.

In January and February we'll be visiting the churches listed here. We're sorry we can't get around to all the churches that have supported us during our time here. But we hope to catch up with you all sometime over the coming months.

## Where we'll be...

- |        |                               |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| 8 Jan  | Canberra Baptist              |
| 15 Jan | Raymond Terrace Baptist       |
| 22 Jan | Mayfield Baptist              |
| 29 Jan | Frenchs Forest Baptist        |
| 5 Feb  | Westview Baptist              |
| 12 Feb | Maroubra Baptist              |
| 14 Feb | Friends of GIA at Green Point |
| 19 Feb | Camden Baptist                |
| 21 Feb | Friends of GIA at Gordon      |
| 23 Feb | Friends of GIA at Pendle Hill |
| 26 Feb | Avalon Baptist                |

Need more details? Please email us.

God bless,

*Barry, Fiona, Visarl & Narin*



GLOBAL | INTERACTION

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