



## Update from Mark and Deb Wilson August 2021, Part 2

Dear Friends, Family, and Ministry Partners,

With this message, we want to share with you a few “good news” updates from our last letter. These are situations for which you have prayed, encouraged, and supported us and those near to us as we all press on to trust & serve the Lord with all our hearts. Thank you for journeying with us!

### **COVID-19 in Cambodia- Good News!**

Garden of Life staff member Mey and her husband are doing okay. Mey’s husband is still in the hospital, but he is doing better after having problems breathing early on. Mey is “hanging in there.” This is her fourth home quarantine, but the first time separated from her husband (and due to the recent surge in the Delta variant, we learned that the government health authorities are being extra careful, meaning that Mey will be locked down well beyond the regular 14 day period).

We are also thankful that both of us (Deb and Mark) tested negative for COVID-19 after learning that in some households in our neighborhood entire multigenerational families have gotten sick. This includes the mom, sister, and extended family of our landlord. As we shared previously, thankfully our landlord’s mother agreed to go with us when the Cambodian government allowed us to get vaccinated. And so, despite being the oldest in the family, she is doing “well” likely due to the source of the vaccine given to the ‘older’ population.

Please pray for and support the healthcare professionals nearest you, and please pray for the situation in Cambodia as most of the population is still unvaccinated due to the lack of available vaccines. Pray, too, that airports will remain open as long as it is safe to do so. We are hoping at least until September 23, by which time we should have arrived back in the U.S.

More good news! Soheng continues to recover from his surgery last month (not COVID-19). He is the PPBS Alumni that we shared earlier this month. He and his family continue to faithfully follow their call to plant a church in the previous Khmer Rouge stronghold. As Soheng puts it, “we are doing it holistically.” This means they are sharing the very good news of God’s love and intentions for *all* parts of life. “The whole gospel to the whole person.”

### **Matching Grant Multiplication! And there is *more good news!***

Yesterday, Pastor Billy, who is the Administrator of the Ministerial Excellence Fund, and Pastor Jess both sent us the wonderful news that **the goal for the match has been met!** This is amazing news for which we are thankful and encouraged. Pastor Billy also told us that in these cases, the ME Fund will receive and apply *all* gifts toward paying down even more debt than originally anticipated (they send the funds *directly* to our lender). While we were initially stunned by this news, he encouraged us to *not only* let folks know that we’ve already met our goal, but also that “*any gifts above and beyond will be a blessing that will also be used to pay down your debt.*” He added that “*if people want to be generous and bless you in this way, let them go for it!*” To be honest, it is difficult for us sometimes to accept help (we are more comfortable being caregivers rather than receivers) so,

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we wanted to share with you this good news. If anyone still wishes to contribute, the staff at Standale Reformed church will continue to collect gifts on behalf of the ME Fund until August 31.

### Local Partners

While the COVID-19 situation has made ministry in Cambodia and the world more challenging, we know that God indeed makes a way. God *is faithful!* And God's Word and promises do not return empty but accomplish His purposes in the world. And so, the Garden of Life (Christian counseling services) and the Phnom Penh Bible School *continue* to follow the vision, mission, and calling that God has given them the best that they can under the current circumstances.

Please continue to pray for the counselors at Garden of Life, especially those mentioned in our last message . . . helping others process their trauma can be traumatic even for seasoned counselors. Pray too for Deb and the Board as they continue to set up policies and procedures for Garden of Life to be used by God not only in the short run but for many years to come.

Please pray for the students, faculty, and staff of the Phnom Penh Bible School as we wrap up the end of our 2020-21 Academic Year. Sadly, all "year-end" meetings, retreats, and celebrations have all been canceled or moved to Zoom. Pray for Mark as he continues to communicate with his students via apps like Facebook Messenger, to help them process the results of their final exams, papers, and presentations, and for wisdom as to how best to "stir them up" to love and good works as they follow God's call for their lives. Next month Mark will share detailed stories of graduating seniors, what God is calling them after Bible school, and how you can support them with your prayers.

### Our Family

Lastly, please hold us in your prayers physically, spiritually, socially, and emotionally; like many of you, we've had our ups and downs over the past year and a half. We need wisdom about which of the many things on our "to do" list really and truly need to be done before we leave in just over a month. Again, we thank God for protecting us from the Delta variant quickly making its way throughout our neighborhood and city.

Pray for healing for Mark and wisdom for the neurologist. While Mark has stopped losing weight, (a negative side effect of the previous trial medication) he continues to have migraine headaches, especially during the medication transitions. We are contemplating another round of direct injections into the scalp, which helps but are relatively short-lived (unlike what is available in the U.S., the medication used here lasts only one month and the six-injection process can be quite painful).

### Even more good news!

Our son **Zachary** Zoomed to tell us he was hired by one a local TV station to be their next *Technical Media Producer*. Incredibly wonderful news, we are so proud! This is his first full-time job with connections to his college studies (and talents) and it has benefits! Zach says that this position will help fill his *wallet*, his *resume/CV*, and importantly, his *heart*. Such a wise young man. Please join us in celebrating and giving thanks to God for such a blessing. This is even more special because Zach will be in the same town as Mark's Mom (Medford, OR) and only about 30 minutes from where we will be based during our upcoming Home Assignment.



**Lastly (again) please pray for wisdom for authorities** here in Asia being strongly affected by the Delta variant of COVID-19. The situation in Thailand has become so challenging that the land borders between Thailand and

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Cambodia are again closed, and the Cambodian Provinces *along the border with Thailand* have been closed off from the rest of Cambodia. We are thankful that countries like Taiwan have so far chosen to keep their airports open, not only to arriving passengers but also to those (like us) who are *in transit* to other countries.

With love & thank-filled hearts. Thank you for joining us on the journey!

Mark and Deb Wilson