



HOME OF GRACE MINISTRY CAMBODIA

April 14, 2020

Greetings Family and Friends!!

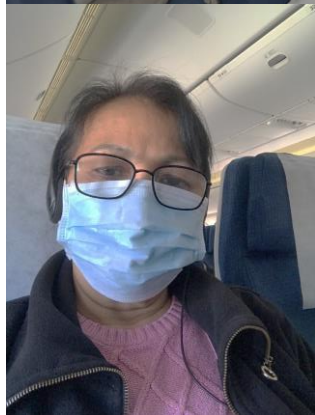
We hope that this newsletter will find all of you safe and well. As you may remember from our February newsletter, our journey was planned from February 27 to April 20. Prior to our scheduled trip, the news of the Covid-19 had started to become major news worldwide.



We'd already packed four suitcases full of gifts to bring with us for the people and the children. When the news of the virus became a concern, many flights to Asia were grounded. Henry and I prayed together over and over about what we should do with this mission that God had called us. We battled between faith and fear, but God's word laid in our hearts to go and continue this mission. We realized that we overcame fear with faith!! We believed that the Lord would go before us, and He would be with us through this time, and not forsake us. We prayed for His wisdom and guidance for this journey! Henry and I talked about the decision for several weeks and we decided that it would be best for him to stay back because of his age, and that I would continue the journey without him, knowing that the children at Home of Grace, the staffs, and all the body of Christ who served with us were praying and waiting across the ocean for our return.



On February 27, Henry drove me to the airport. We knew this trip wouldn't be normal, so I just took only one small luggage. When we arrived at the airport, we were struck by the quietness. My flight from Tulsa to Dallas had about 15 passengers. Once I arrived and proceeded to my gate (Korea Air), I found that everyone was seated far apart from each other, wearing masks, including the flight attendants on my plane to Korea. The airplane was so empty. If we wanted to, we could choose to lay our seats down, which is not common for a busy flight. It took about 14 hours to arrive to Korea. When I arrived, it was much emptier and there wasn't a single person



who wasn't wearing a face mask and gloves. I believe people were afraid to fly, except for emergencies due to the virus spreading rapidly during this time. My flight to Cambodia was about 1/3 full of Khmer citizens who were returning back to their country. Normally, Henry and I would stay in a hotel when we arrived in Phnom Penh and catch a taxi to Home of Grace in the morning, but because of the situation, I had reserved a vehicle in advance to meet me at the airport when I landed and drive me straight to Home of Grace Orphanage, to avoid being among others in the hotel. I am grateful to have Mr. Van, who has been working with Home of Grace for around 10 years, whom I trusted to drive me that night safely to Home of Grace.



HOME OF GRACE MINISTRY CAMBODIA

April 14, 2020



I arrived at around 1 am. Just two of the staff knew that I was arriving that night. All the children and staffs were extremely surprised to see me at their devotion that early morning!! The first day back, I had a meeting with all of them to follow up with what was going on in Cambodia. My assistant and I made a list of all the essential supplies Home of Grace may need in case the situation worsened and the markets shut down. We wanted to make sure that the children had enough food to eat, clothes to wear, and supplies to use. This was our main priority at this time. We left for the market in Phnom Penh early in the morning. We did not inform the children, as this would make them worry.

The day after, we went on a two-hour trip with an outreach team to a village in the mountain, to encourage and share the Gospel with the people. The people were so happy and surprised to see us!! They didn't think we'd go to their village to visit them, because of the virus news. After service, more than 10 people prayed for their salvation!! While we were already out in the communities, we made a few more trips to other villages. We found that nobody in the villages was wearing masks, so we didn't wear them either, just to not make them feel uncomfortable.

We wanted to make additional trips to other villages on this mission, but the government announced the closure of all schools, churches, and to practice social distancing. We were sad that we were not able to continue our worship with other churches in communities. Although we couldn't leave, the outreach team called the leaders of the church to pray and encourage them during this time. We worked with the staff and children to prepare food and clothes to bring home with them for Khmer New Year on April 13-17. We practiced safety procedures to wash their hands more frequently and wear mask everywhere they go. We also urged the children and staff to not come into direct contact with many people while they return home for the holiday.





HOME OF GRACE MINISTRY CAMBODIA

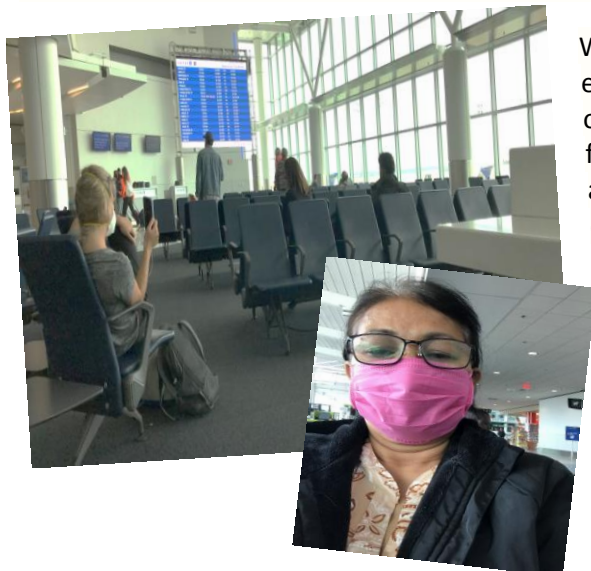
April 14, 2020

A week later, I received news from the government that they were closing down the boarder, not allowing people to come in and out of country. Henry and our children kept calling me to urge me to come back to America in case I got stuck there for a long time. My dear Henry kept calling me every day to ask me what my decision will be. Honestly, during this period I thought the children in Home of Grace needed me the most. However, the more I thought about on my decision, the more I was concerned about Henry and what if anything had happened to him. This brought me to tears and convinced me that I should come home. I told Henry that if God wanted me to be home with him, He was going to pave my way. After Henry worked very hard, he was able to get me a ticket on the last flight out of Phnom Penh to the U.S.



Wow!! Praise the Lord; He truly prepared the way for me to be home with our family in Oklahoma!!! A part of me was relieved, but the other part of me was sad because I didn't want to leave the children. It was very hard for me to break the news to them in the morning that I was going back to America that evening. It shocked many of the children and staff because they knew I planned to stay until the end of April. The children and staffs cried, but I told them that everything was going to be okay and that God would take care of them like He has. I also told them that I was extremely grateful that, during this time, I

could be here with them for 3 weeks, especially to prepare for all the needs. I promised the children and the staffs I'd return back to them as soon this was over. The children wrote letters throughout the day, and made me a special headband out of flowers from the garden at Home of Grace. Before I left, all the children and staff came together to pray for God's protection and a safe trip over me. They also gave me many letters and the special headband that they made for me. It was a very touching moment. Once Mr. Van arrived to pick me up, they all gathered in tears and gave me a huge hug.



When I arrived to the airport, I noticed that it was much emptier than last time. Normally, Henry and I would fly out of Korea, but because the airline was grounded, I flew out of Japan to Houston, TX. When I arrived to the airport this time, all the stores and restaurant was closed, except for a few fast food restaurants at the Houston airport, and everyone wore face mask and gloves. I found out while waiting at the airport that they had cancelled my flight and couple other flights to Tulsa because there weren't enough passengers. I had a layover in Texas for 7 hour before boarding my 3:30 pm flight.



HOME OF GRACE MINISTRY CAMBODIA

April 14, 2020



I arrived in Tulsa around 5 pm. Henry and our daughter, Rebecca, took an extra car to the airport. As soon as he saw me walking out of the airport, he got into the car with our daughter to follow me to a small house that they prepared for me to begin my voluntarily 14-day self-quarantine from March 22 to April 6. Shortly after I finished my quarantine, I received news that the Khmer government was not allowing people to celebrate the New year, meaning the children were not allowed to go home to visit their guardian. The government also restricted people from crossing into other provinces. I am tremendously grateful that God allowed me to leave the country before the new regulations, and to provide a safe journey home. I also thank God for giving me an

The beginning of my 14-day self-quarantine!!!

opportunity to continue His mission through unpredictable span of 3 weeks and to help provide the need for the children and people, to show God's love and encouragement in the mist of the Covid-19 storm. We trust that God is in control of all things!! I thank God for giving me the desire to choose faith over fear and walk forward this journey with Him!!

As always, we are incredibly grateful through your prayers and generous support for making what we do possible and for the lives of the next generation for God's Kingdom, especially during this time. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with those who are affected by the Covid-19. As we continue to put our faith and trust in God during these uncertain times, please stay home for your safety- together we can overcome the coronavirus and drive back the darkness with the light of hope in Jesus Christ!!

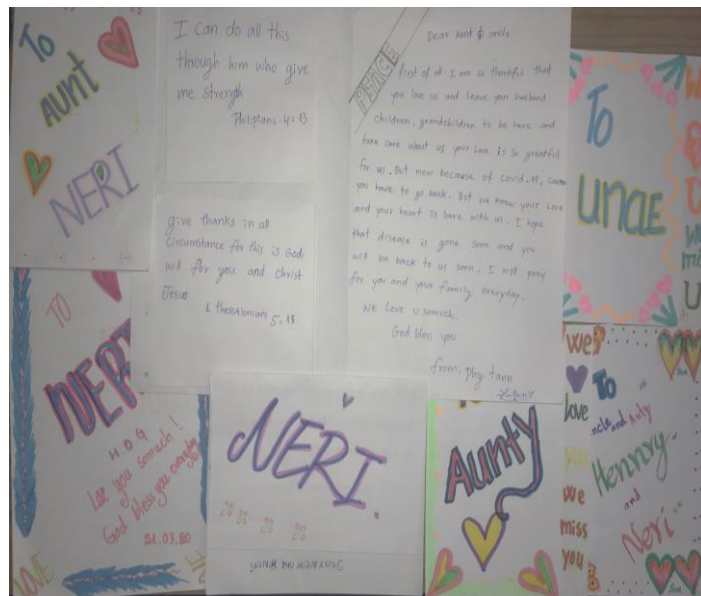
1 The LORD is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalms 27:1

May God continue to bless you and your family with peace and protection!!

For His Service,

Henry & Neri Tran



These are some of the letters that the children made for Henry and I during this journey.