



Snake Egg Village, Cambodia

“It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” This verse from, Matthew 19, entered my mind boarding the jet in Phnom Penh for the flight home. I had just spent a week with Cambodian Christians who have far less than us. I realized again, for the umpteenth time, how blessed we are as a nation. I have this working theory that we American’s, with all our technology, our toys, and riches are being kept from a deeper relationship with our Savior. We turn to our idols of pleasure instead of relying on Christ. I can’t even have conversations with a young person without them grabbing their phone to see who is messaging them! I’d like to grab the phone and throw it! But I digress. We wonder why God allows hardships in our life. How else can He get our attention! We’re too busy checking email, watching the football game, or driving our kids to practice.

Life in Cambodia is simple. Cambodians live and experience God’s creation first hand. They feel God’s rain on their backs as they plant rice. They collect rain water in buckets because the ground water is polluted. How do we experience God’s blessing of rain..... we sit in our snug houses with the air-conditioning running and can barely hear the rain on the roof. In a way, we shut Him out!

One afternoon, I was sitting in the main room of a missionaries hut in a rural village teaching them how to make reading glasses. This missionary left a middle-class home to spread the Gospel in the village pictured above. The daily monsoon

was in full force. The thatched roof was leaking like a sieve. “How can these people live like this?”, I thought. But they weren’t alone. Thousands of Christians throughout the world live much simpler lives, experiencing not only the richness of God’s written word but living with a daily reminder of the world He created. We as modern Christians, living in a sterile, concrete and steel society, miss out on one of the two ways God reveals himself.

Tumpline Ministries’ goal is to present the Gospel and mentor young people in their walk with the Lord using His written word at the same time they are experiencing His created world! I would encourage you to get out of your comfort zone and try something new. Join us and experience the joy of staring at a campfire on a summers evening, of feeling the dew descend on your shoulders. Have you ever seen the stars when there are no lights within hundreds of miles or better yet, see the northern lights dance across the sky? Did you know there are different colors in the northern lights and that at times you can hear them? When was the last time you saw a beautiful sunset when the TV was not blaring in the background? Have you ever listened to the summer rain on your tent and experienced the total warmth and security of your snug sleeping bag knowing it’s wet and miserable just on the other side of that nylon. (Maybe the last point ruined my whole premise). Join us for something unusual. There are no cell phones, no IPADs, no outside interference, just our Lord’s creation. You will not be disappointed!

Dan and Jan

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