

Cambodia Corps Update

Summer 2021

Greetings one and all of Chapter 757. Cambodia, like the rest of the world, remains in flux. It has been especially difficult for our students, as they have been mostly restricted to life in our two Student Centers. Travel has been curtailed in Cambodia, even province to province. Most of the kids have not been able to see their families for well over a year now. Schools have tried to provide hybrid learning with mixed success. We have tried to adapt by installing internet with Wi-Fi and, as reported last time, a family and friends funds raiser that allowed us to furnish the 11th and 12th graders with laptops. The next step will be to raise funds to buy laptops for the 9th and 10th graders so they don't have to share with the upper grades.

The Minister of Education directed schools to conduct "End of First Semester" exams in May and to end Second Semester early October to be followed immediately by the High School Exit Exams (college entrance exams). Then begin a new 21-22 school year as soon as possible. The Health Ministry is hoping to achieve 'herd immunity' and a return to normal by June of '22.

This year is the first time in thirteen years that Carol and I have not been able to spend time with our students and be a part of interviewing and recruiting new students into our program. Fortunately, we have high school graduates and kids in the pipeline to keep the flow of qualified students unbroken. Maren, our manager, and Ket, our nurse, have maintained high standards of hygiene and cleanliness for both high school and college Student Centers and personal safety for everyone so that all our kids have remained safe and healthy.

We wish everyone a safe and healthy summer, and hopefully we'll all be able to get together one day soon.