

# Packed to the rafters...?! ~ AMANDA LEWIS; APRIL 9TH 2012 ~



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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SMBC Biennial Missions Conference 1st– 3rd May**

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**STUVAC 11th– 15th June**

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**Exam 22nd June (TBC)**

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**Mid-Year Holidays  
23rd June– 22nd July**

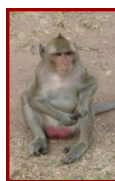
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**Israel Study Trip  
30th June– 14th July**

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## **A Time Of HASTE!**

A quarter of the way through the year already and life seems to be inundated with hard work, but mixed with joy. With little time to process everything that has already happened I will try to encapsulate what has happened since Christmas.



**A local at**

Just two days after Christmas, **Angkor Wat!** Deb (a fellow student) and I embarked on the beginning of a most special encounter as we shared in the lives of those in Phnom Penh and Siem Reap in Cambodia. A relatively new experience for me to work in an Asian culture; their friendly and welcoming demeanour was all encompassing.

Faced with the reality of their everyday circumstances, you only had walk around the corner to witness the poverty, corruptness and tell-tale signs of a country in need of healing, forgiveness, freedom from fear and the love of a Saviour.

When the rest of the team arrived on 7th January, we joined the International Teams missionaries in Siem Reap for an eye-opening three weeks into their lives and ministry. Working alongside them provided a great deal of mutual

encouragement as we shared in the struggles and joys of what it means to work at the student centre and with the families in the villages.

It was wonderful to see our young Aussie team engage with enthusiasm and be transformed by the renewing of their minds as God tugged at all our hearts and visibly challenged how we are all living our lives to serve Him. I pray that this ignited passion will only be the start of what is to come in the lives of all who went.

One highlight for me, aside from leading the team with all its highs and lows; was to witness the flow of emotion that came from one of the ladies who was sitting behind the children as I gave my talk about 'Jesus as King'. As she absorbed what was being translated into Khmer, she began to well up. I finished talking, before asking Tet (a Filipino missionary) who was consoling her, only to hear that this lady wanted Jesus to be her King. I was once again awestruck that God could use the simple message I had prepared for the village children, to touch the heart of this mother. It reminded me again, that all over this world, the harvest is ready– hearts are hungry to hear the truth, but the workers are few. And at the same time, when God is at work, nothing can stand in His way.

Praising God for the all things he did in Cambodia, of which there is too much to

## **Please Pray...**

- » **Praise** our Trip to Cambodia went smoothly and the Good News was proclaimed and **Pray** for those who received Jesus as their King or are considering the cost of what it means to follow Jesus.
- » **Praise** for a great College Mission at St Mark's Anglican in Bellerive, Hobart and for some time out afterward to see some of Tassie and spend time with God.
- » **Praise** God for a wonderful start to the New Year and **Pray** that I can cope with the stress as I study and make some big decisions about the future.
- » **Pray** for my upcoming assignments and exam and for the preparation needed for Israel.
- » **Pray** that the Lord would continue to provide for my financial, spiritual and especially my physical needs, as my body battles against spending so many hours studying.

**“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”  
Luke 10:2b (NIV)**



**Check out my  
Facebook  
for more photos**

tell in this short newsletter, I want to thank you for your love and support through the months preceding and for your prayers while we were there. It certainly takes a legion of people to make a Short Term Team happen. May God use this trip for His long term purposes.

Hitting the ground running, I returned to college less than 48 hours after arriving home from Cambodia and have been on the go since. We had a good time of debrief with the Cambodia team on 18th February which appeared helpful for all of us as we processed what had happened since we arrived home and faced the various culture shocks and challenges that brings.

I am once again loving the college atmosphere and living on campus this year, though it is anything but relaxing. For a glimpse of this semester's busyness, here is the collated list my subjects for you:

*Old Testament:* Pentateuch (Genesis to Deuteronomy)

*New Testament:* Bible (Matthew) In Context: Israel Study Trip.

*Mission Subjects:* Cross-Cultural Field Education (Cambodia); Spiritual Formations for Cross-Cultural Ministry

*Certificate in Biblical Studies Subjects:* Knowledge of God (Theology); John; Isaiah; Children's Ministry Skills; Expounding Scripture (Preaching).

Yes, if you haven't caught it already, Shez (another student in the Associate Degree) and I, have been accepted to join Malyon College in Brisbane, to head to Israel on a fully supported (Fee-Help) trip to Israel in June-July. A blessing indeed, this opportunity of which some might call a pilgrimage, is not a light hearted holiday. Fulfilling the ACT requirements for our degree, we are required to do pre and post assignments and also complete a workbook whilst in Israel as we closely study the Gospel of Matthew in context. I am really looking forward to seeing the places where Jesus lived and ministered, and I pray that I would only grow more deeply in my relationship with Him as I understand better, what He has done for me. And what is even more exciting is that Malyon is the college where Kez goes and she is also coming. There will be about 60 of us going altogether!

Having just arrived back yesterday from College Mission at St Mark's Anglican Church in Bellerive, Hobart, followed by a weeks holiday around Tassie; today it is straight back into the haste of life. It was a great mission and encouraging to see all that St Mark's are doing to proclaim the Good News to those in Bellerive. Being Mission Week, there were some additional activities to the norm as we participated in everything from three Sunday Services, to playgroup, Bible Studies, Opp-Shop and Coffee-Shop, High Tea for the women and a men's breakfast, assemblies and classes in three local schools, Youth Groups, an Anglican Board of Missions Annual Fundraiser and an issues for the 21st Century night. A great week all round!

With assignments to be done and much to catch up on as I start thinking about the next three months and all it brings, I pray you will continue to journey with me and be excited by all the He is doing.

In His Hands,

~Manda~

*Photos:*

*(Cambodia): Angkor Wat; Tonle Sap Lake- floating village; at the Student Centre; at the first village.*

*(Hobart): Richmond; Our team at our last dinner together—also to celebrate Sarah's and my joint birthday; Port Arthur and Salamanca Markets.*

**Sharing the love of God through International Teams**



**bubbalewy@hotmail.com | amanda.lewis@iteams.org | 0424 760 772 | Skype: mandaphonehome**  
International Teams | PO BOX 1123, Baulkham Hills NSW 1755 | [www.iteams.org.au](http://www.iteams.org.au) | 02 9890 2244

*“For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to His good purpose.” Philipians 2:13*