

Well Hello everybody.... from one very sleepy traveler....

Thursday was an interesting day as I packed up 4 suitcases of supplies for our Cambodian projects. It was particularly challenging in that I haven't been getting much communication from the local organizers in Cambodia (turns out the one organizing the first week has to drive for miles to get to an internet connection. That's why some of our queries never got answered.) Fortunately a couple from Ontario that I've worked with before in the Philippines is on this project and they are very used to and willing to be packhorses for project supplies. I decided the obvious solution was to take supplies for all ages and sizes and types of surgeries we might do and simply deal with what happens when it happens. It sure helps to have their extra luggage allowance under those circumstances. Fortunately nobody in Toronto remembered to ask them 'did **you** pack these suitcases?' And nobody here was at all interested in them either.

We left Pearson Airport just after midnight on Friday morning and have eaten and snoozed our way half way around the globe, arriving here about 10:30 this morning... which was 10:30 p.m. Kingston time. We've done some sightseeing today, mainly at the Tuol Sleng genocide museum, which was a Khmer Rouge prison from 1975 to 79. That kind of place does help one understand the magnitude of the horror this country is still trying to recover from. Reminded me of Dachau. The rest of the team arrives later tonight and the Filipino contingent gets here tomorrow. Then we'll head up country to a district hospital in Kampong Thom province. We'll be working at two different sites than we were at last year, so there'll be lots of 'surprises' to deal with. Somehow I think the best preparation at this point is simply to go and get some sleep.... And I have to keep remembering that caring is more important than efficiency.

The little guest house they've booked us into poses its own challenges. The desk clerk on today ONLY speaks Chinese!!! We finally negotiated towels for our rooms when we spotted a hand towel on a counter and pantomimed that we wanted that kind of thing but bigger.

And the biggest thing I'm grateful for today is that I haven't had to drive in Phnom Penh. At one intersection today we thought initially there must have been a big accident clogging up traffic movement. Nope. Just an incredible number of cars, tuk-tuks, motorcycles, bicycles and trucks all trying to go through the intersection at the same time in all directions concurrently. Absolutely no system detectable. It does give one time to try to count the number of live ducks strung on the back of the motorcycle going to market, however... (about 40)

And now.. some sleep,

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