

Coats Newsletter – May 25, 2018

We have had several crises one after another, one of them family related. Thankfully they are not only resolved, but the Lord has used each situation to bring about good. To mention one, a nearby youngish pastor was scammed by experienced foreign scammers out of \$2100, a huge sum for rural Cambodians. Worse yet, he had borrowed the money. Very distraught, he was considering leaving his ministry to find a way to pay his debt.

About the same time, it also became clear to us there was a growing problem with his wife's behavior, jeopardizing their ministry. Debbie and I, especially Debbie, had a good opportunity to have a heart to heart talk with her. Like many women here, she felt rejected by her father. The emotional scars led to bitterness and anger which she took out on her husband and younger women in their ministry. Debbie did a great job of counseling her and sharing some of her own past struggles. The pastor's wife, who felt very trapped, was very encouraged when she realized there was an explanation for her anger and that there was hope of release if she forgave her father and those who had done her wrong in the past. The couple's dynamic ministry has brought many young people to Jesus, but their ministry was teetering on destruction with these 2 crises. We now have good hope they and the ministry will be able to over-come and will come out stronger and better than before.

Jesse and dog

A matter close to Debbie's heart was to learn that Jesse had been bit by a rabid dog while he was in a remote village on the other side of Cambodia. The dog died from the disease the same day it bit Jesse. Debbie and Jesse both went to and met in the city where Debbie knew good vaccines were available. Jesse needed shots on Days 1, 4, 7, and 28. Jesse was in the midst of training and leading a discipleship outreach team in a distant province and wanted to return quickly to his duties. So he got his first shot and returned to the village with the remaining vaccines in a small cooler.

Debbie was nervous he would not find a nurse who knew how to give the injection as they had to be given via an unusual method. I was more concerned that Jesse, who is often in a hurry, would not refill the cooler with ice in a timely fashion and the vaccines would spoil. Death from rabies is 100% and it is an awful way to die. In the end it all worked out and we are so grateful to God. Jesse was happy he had been bitten because it turned out a little girl in the dog's household had also been bit and was not going to go for treatment. But because Jesse was bit and was going to the city, she and her father went along, thereby saving the girl's life. Cambodia has the highest incidence of death by rabies than any other country with records.

In the USA

Debbie and I happen to be in the US for a short time to see Micah graduate, help Debbie's mom to prepare to move out of her house, and generally spend some time with our aging parents. While we will not have adequate time to visit folks this time, we plan to return in two years to see you folks who have been so faithfully supporting us in so many ways.

Blessings, John

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