

A Meaningful Experience

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Last November, I went to Cambodia with Metta for a service trip. During the 6-day trip, I helped out with the “street kid’s program” held by Metta, where I was given the chance to teach the children to bake cookies. I was thrilled and nervous at the same time – what would happen if the children didn’t listen to what I said? What would happen if the cookies cannot make successfully? Lots of worries arose in my head. When the children arrived at the center, the center became noisier but lively. Even though the boys were just taking a bath in the courtyard, they had much fun.

Lunch and naptime have passed, and it was finally the baking session. The children were all potential bakers – they surprised me with how well they could finish the task! From measuring the amount of ingredients, to spreading the batter evenly on the baking pan, everything went smoothly. The children were satisfied and happy about their cookies and took them happily back home for their family. At the end, none of my worries became reality and I am extremely grateful for the success and smoothness of the activity. When the children left the center, they put their hands together and say “orkun” to me, which means thank you in Khmer. I was touched because I thought they don’t even notice me during the activity, given that the co-workers helped me translate instructions and they were busy having fun baking.

At night, we visited their home in the city – a cramped, crowded building with poor hygienic conditions. Big rats are common in the place and the wooden blocks that make up the floor are unstable. Yet, the children were happy running around even though they wore no shoes and having fun with their friends. Having seen them playing freely and sleeping peacefully in the afternoon, I thought they were just like any other children you have seen on the street in Hong Kong. It is hard to imagine that these little kids are facing such tough living environment and difficulties in their daily lives. It once again reminded me of how God loves every one of us. Even though the children live in such an environment, they still have the chance to know about God, to praise him. I believe that they feel loved by the co-workers in Metta.

I also had the chance to visit Bek Chan, a village located in the province. Having meet the orphans in the orphanage and villagers there, it surprised me how happy they are with their simple lives. Compared to Hong Kong, they only have little, they don’t have advanced technology, they collect their water just from wells, but they treasure what they have. In the orphanage, the children were so welcoming and led me around for a visit. They might have little, but they share almost everything they have. This reminds how we should share with others, not only in terms of materials, but most importantly, God’s love. Although I only stayed in Cambodia for a few days, I definitely felt love around me, from the co-workers, the children and the villagers. It motivates me to share more, serve more and to love more.

