

# Hello from the Robinsons! – November 2021

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Heart for Asia. Hope for Billions.

**“There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read to the whole assembly of Israel, including the women and children, and the foreigners who lived among them.” Joshua 8:35**

Dear friends,

On Sunday we invited Heng to our house for lunch. Heng is a Khmer student in Manchester – it was wonderful to get to know him a little, and as a family reminisce with him about Cambodia. He comes from Poipet in western Cambodia and was a high school student in Phnom Penh during the 9 years we lived there. He even lived within a couple of miles from us and yet I had never met him until yesterday! Two weeks ago, Heng chose to follow Jesus as his Creator, Saviour and King. He shared the significance on his faith journey of the university Christian Union & church student Bible studies. It was a privilege to spend time with him, hear his story and cheer him on. Do pray for Heng in these early days as a believer that he would grow safely, rooted in God's word. After tea, Isobel and I went to Holy Trinity Platt for the evening service – where we heard of God's desire to see all peoples praising his name. Praise the Lord that Heng is a part of that multitude.

## Mobilisation & Media (M&M) Team Update:

This past month I had the privilege at sharing the introductory devotion at two events – the OMF Ireland Annual conference and the OMF North Area prayer gathering. Both events went well, thank you for your prayers. The first was on Zoom and the second was a hybrid 'zoom & in person' meeting. In both events speakers 'zoomed in' from both the UK & East Asia – sharing how God is working and points for prayer. I observed that the pandemic has not daunted people's desire to see the nations hear the good news of Jesus Christ across the street in our local communities and across the world in the countries of East Asia. At such an exciting time as this - all of us can be engaged in cross-cultural missions.

*From Grace:*

*On Saturday, a small group from Platt gathered in our home to share our reactions to Oakhill's Mind the Gap: Cross-Cultural Church online training. There were just 7 of us but Africa, Asia and Europe were all represented. We were able to discuss the training together and suggest possible implications for Platt. One thing we all agreed on was the importance of the small house-groups especially in such a large church. It was felt this was one of the only places where we can get to know one another and learn how to notice and then bridge cross-cultural differences and learn from one another...but interestingly when I asked who attended house-group, we were firmly divided along lines of ethnicity – the white Brits all attended house-group and those with Asian & African ethnicity didn't! All had experience of being in a Platt house group in the past but as one lady shared, 'Perhaps people feel they don't belong!' So...we can do more to encourage and facilitate people being part of house-groups but how can we ensure that people feel like they belong??*

**Cambodia Prayer Point:** All schools in Cambodia will re-open with strict measures in November. Many children have stopped formal learning since last year, although some could have studied online. More cases of child abuse, violence, and exploitation have been reported during the Covid time. Please pray for safety for children, and pray too, that school children can grow their knowledge and their parents can support their education well.

## Give thanks:

- for the blessing for all of us to meet a Khmer Christian (see above)
- for a good half of term for Isobel & Sally – both academically and on the basketball court!
- for Grace's improved health.

## Pray for:

- the ongoing recruitment of a Workplace Ministries Project Manager. 5 interviews are planned for mid-November. Do pray for an appointment.
- the next Mobilisation & Media event is being held in Borough Green (also in mid-November) pray for a good time of fellowship, training & planning.
- the coming together of a Platt intercultural team – I have several interested and super-capable women but need a couple of men too!



**Thank you for your prayer,  
God Bless, lots of love from Paul, Grace, Isobel & Sally**