

"Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth"
Proverbs 27:1

Dear Praying Friends,

During the last month, God has been reminding me that our plans are always in complete subjection to God's plan, and He asks that we stay surrendered to Him every day and every moment.

Our plan was to arrive in America on May 1st to attend Ryan's graduation from college, re-connect and serve with our sending church, attend Rhadee's graduation from high school, help our children adjust to life in America, and then return to Cambodia on June 27th to a very full schedule. Everything was going as planned until the eve of Rhadee's high school commencement service. On that night, Becky's mom was taken to the emergency room and we were told that she had a large brain tumor. Becky travelled with her mom to Tennessee for a battery of tests, and two weeks after finding the tumor Becky's family was given the bad news that this tumor was inoperable. The doctors gave Mom a maximum of 5 months to live. They also said that her tumor could rupture at any time.

We are so thankful that Becky and I were home for this time. We are also very thankful that our children were all able to come spend some time with Grandma while she is still coherent. Grandma's faith, strength, hope, and joy is a huge encouragement and challenge to our family and to many others.

During the last four weeks, God has continually shown us that He is working in and through this situation first and foremost in our own family but also in the lives of many others. It has also been very encouraging to see so many people writing notes, making phone calls, and travelling long distances to say thank you. Becky's parents have invested in and impacted so many lives! What a huge encouragement this has been to our whole family!

As I mentioned above, Becky and I were scheduled to leave on June 27th, and I now sit in Tennessee writing this letter on June 30th. Becky and I have obviously postponed our return, and we are asking for your prayers and patience with us as we seek God's guidance for decisions we must make regarding our ministry and return to Cambodia. Just to be clear, we still believe with all our hearts that God has more for us to do in Cambodia.

Since September of 2016, I have been pastoring Good News Baptist Church in Phnom Penh while my friend, Stephen Benefield, has been on furlough. The Benefields are not returning to Cambodia until September, so for the next couple of months, the care of this ministry was the biggest need we had to fill. Thank the Lord for missionaries Matt and Nikki Brown! They are coming down from a province in the northeast to serve in Brother Benefields ministry. We had the privilege of mentoring Matt and Nikki when they first arrived on the field, and we have the utmost confidence in what God can do through them. My in-laws also had a great impact on Matt and Nikki during their college years, so they feel this is something they can do to be a blessing to them as well.

With God's help, I plan to finish writing a discipleship series that I have been working on for some time. Most of what is written is already translated into Khmer. A couple of the national pastors who have been using it are awaiting the rest of the series.

- Please pray for God to be glorified in every situation regarding Becky's mom.
- Pray for God to use our absence from Cambodia to challenge believers there to "step up" and be more involved.
- Pray for me to finish this discipleship series mentioned above.
- Pray for God to use us where we are.

Serving Him Where We Are,



Rodney Ruppel