

## Our Journey, His Story Gooch Life

# A Year End Update from Mike and Jeanine Gooch

Despite the busyness and what appears to be chaotic hustle and bustle in Phnom Penh, it's almost like time has slowed down since leaving the US for Cambodia. What feels like six months has been only three. **And we have loved every minute of it!**

In these three months, we have experienced quite a bit. Here is a bit of what has been happening:



### *Family and Living*

We spent the first month living with our family, the Baillies. Although it had been over a year since we last saw them, we didn't miss a beat when re-connecting with the grandkids. Timing of our arrival couldn't have been better. With varying restrictions due to the pandemic, school closures were frequent meaning all four kids needed to be home schooled. Jeanine has spent everyday with her daughter and helping teach the kids and aiding in their online school. In November, we found a nice, modern, and furnished apartment not far from the family. Its on the 4th floor where we can enjoy a wonderful view and a much welcomed breeze. Slowly we've been acquiring kitchenware, small appliances, and figuring out where to find other household items. We're fortunate to have some modern grocery stores nearby that have some familiar items on the shelves.

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### *Transport*

Jeanine's method of transportation is by tuk tuk. Using an app called Passapp, which is similar to Uber in the US, she simply orders a ride to where she wants to go on the map. Most tuk tuks are small Rickshaw cars, which is a small buggy that fits about two or three people in a rear passenger seat and a small seat for the driver in front. Steered by handle bars instead of a wheel, the sides are open with a canvas top. Most of the drivers speak a little to no English, but the app helps with navigation. Jeanine is good at directing when and where to turn when going to place she is familiar.



Mike has acquired a 125cc motorbike, the most common method of travel. Among a sea of motorbikes weaving in and out of traffic, Mike has found his happy

drive in between cars at stop lights, perhaps on the sidewalks when it's really backed up. Its not uncommon to ride on the opposite side of the road facing oncoming traffic racing to the front on long line of stopped cars before the light turns green again. Although the constant dodging of other motorbikes, cars, and bicycles at every intersection sounds extremely dangerous and chaotic, it somehow works.



### *Work and Ministry*

Mike has been working with an organization, Khalibre, which is creating an online social platform for missionaries around the world. He is working on a number of projects doing various roles including data and analytics, project management, and customer success. The team is technically capable and very skilled, however he faces challenges of learning how to encourage and drive productivity in a foreign culture. He gets along ok with English, but learning Khmer will greatly help him in his work. He is also developing relationships with many of the staff, many of which don't know The Lord. He is excited about the opportunity to share his faith with them.

Jeanine has been a huge blessing for her daughter Nikki and four grandchildren. The kids are always excited to see her when she arrives in the mornings in the Passapp. In the coming semester, she is starting at HOPE International School as an Art Teacher and Library Assistant. HOPE is a Christ-centered primary school where Jeanine will use her passion for teaching, skills in arts & crafts, and love for children to work directly with countless children. She is also blessed to have two grandchildren as students at the school.

We are very excited about the opportunities that God is opening up for us. We truly do feel at home here. We love going for rides through the city and exploring. We fit right in when carrying a handful of grocery bags or other cargo on the motorbike. To date, we've managed to successfully transport via motorbike an ironing board, a 16 inch fan, a couple of lamps, and a Christmas tree (not all at once). We're enjoying the little interactions we have with local people, and the relationships we are starting to build. Not to mention we are truly blessed to once again be close to our family here.

We also know we have a long road ahead in language studies, finding a church community (most churches are still closed due to COVID), and figuring out life here long term. We do also miss so many people (and Riko). We ask that you please pray for our settling here, for the work we are doing / will be doing, and for our health.

We're also encouraging folks that feel led to do year end offering to consider [giving to our ministry](#), to [Ryan & Nikki Baillie](#) (our family here in Cambodia), or to one of the missionaries from our church in Surprise, Arizona- [Calvary Chapel FourteenSix](#). Each are doing amazing work and need support in their ministries.

God Bless and Happy Holidays,  
Mike and Jeanine

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## We added a Blog!

We're capturing and sharing our adventures through quick videos, a few quick posts, pictures, and devotions on a blog page on our [website](#).

Check it out!

