



Prayer walk near Chalamain Gap in the Scottish Highlands

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World Team Cambodia Field
Preah Vihear, Cambodia

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NEWS FROM PREAH VIHEAR

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Pilgrimage



At Castle Roy near Nethy Bridge

“Blessed is the one whose strength is in You, whose heart is set on pilgrimage.” - Psalm 84:5

Pilgrimage – With God in search of God.

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings from Michigan,

It is hard to believe it is September already. The summer is nearing its end, and the long rainy season continues in Cambodia. I am just returned from a 21-day prayer retreat in Inverness-shire, Scotland. I have just realized that it has been 3 months since my last update. So much has transpired, both in Cambodia and on our retreat. It is difficult to put into words what we experienced during our prayer retreat. I am currently trying to formulate my thoughts to communicate what we learned during our time focusing on prayer and centering on God. Until I make progress on that, I will send this short update with some gleanings, ministry happenings and prayer requests.

Desert Pilgrims Prayer Retreat.

During our 3C Global Meetings in Thailand last year, Betsy and I led a workshop on contemplative prayer. Out of that, four of us felt God’s leading to devote some significant time to seeking God through an extended time of prayer, much like the Desert Fathers and Mothers in the early church. A year later, in the month of August, we all met in the Highlands of Scotland for a 3 week prayer retreat. Below were some of our highlights and activities:

- Personal times of Bible study, reflection, reading, listening and prayer walks
- Group times of prayer, listening to Lectio 365, sharing what God was saying to us, worship, fellowship and group prayer walks
- Worshiping in the community and sharing the gospel, enjoying fellowship with the local believers
- Reading devotional books on prayer and journaling.
- Exploring God’s creation on prayer walks in the Highlands, on the coast, at Lochs and in the woods on many forest trails

We spent time in the evenings fixing supper and then sharing and listening to songs, watching biographies, praying and listening to night devotionals from Lexio 365. Several major themes came out during our time, including Repentance, Obedience, a Theology of Suffering, Bearing Fruit, intercessory prayer (including 24/7 prayer) and Pilgrimage. We are all still processing this, but God showed up in some amazing and unlooked for ways and encouraged us as we set our minds and hearts on seeking Him. I have much more to share on this, but it will have to wait a week or so until I get back to Cambodia.

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World Team

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website: <https://www.worldteam.org>

Ministry Update & Prayer Points, September, 2024

Currently I am in Michigan visiting family and will be returning to Cambodia on the 16th of September as we will be having our World Team Cambodia Annual Field Conference at the end of this month. Much has been happening in Cambodia as well. Please do take a look at the prayer requests below.

- Pray for 7 students who have gone to attend YWAM training for discipling and church planting training
- Pray for our Church Planting team is continuing to work and prepare for a new season of outreach
- Pray for 12 Plas Prai students who will be graduating. Some are hoping to get further training at YWAM
- Praise God! We interviewed 45 9th grade students from remote areas. 13 were accepted for the new school year
- We are prayerfully moving forward with a new project which will open up many new opportunities for ministry
- Jim and Carolyn Gabriels are returning to Cambodia after their 8-month Home Ministry Assignment. Pray for a smooth re-entry.
- Pray for our upcoming Annual Field Conference from September 29th to October 4th. Pray for the Tychicus Team coming to work with the children and the training team who are coming to facilitate several workshops

As I prepare to head back to Cambodia, I am thankful for the time I had to follow the [Sons of Korah \(Psalm 84:5\)](#) in setting my heart on pilgrimage and to see Scotland, the land of my ancestors. This was on my bucket list, and I want to return to explore that amazing land and its [spiritual history](#).

Look for more stories and updates in the weeks to come as I process our time together and formulate some thoughts. Until then, thank you for standing in the gap with us as we commit God’s work in Cambodia into His hands and look to Him for wisdom, the filling of His Spirit and fruitfulness.

Yours in His Service, *Joel*



Visiting our YWAM students



Visiting our students at YWAM, Battambang



Recruiting 9th grade students for Plas Prai



Sunday School Ministry



Heading out for Plas Prai recruiting trip



Silat and Chantha



Joel met this old believer in Battambang



1st Day in Scotland



The Elgin Cathedral



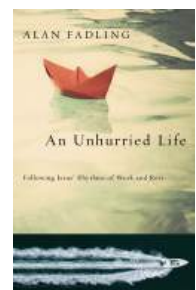
Our Prayer Room at the Grey House



A prayer trail in the Scottish Highlands



Our group: Dave, Suzy, Betsy and Joel



An Unhurried Life: Following Jesus' Rhythms of Work and Rest by Alan Fadling. Recommended!

