

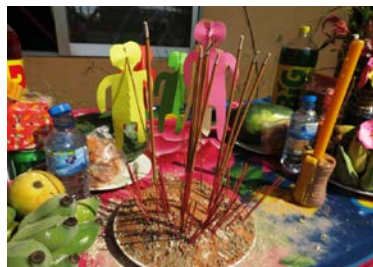


Siem Reap, Cambodia, April 2017

Good morning **Benefactors & Friends!**

With this newsletter we celebrate with you the **KHMER NEW YEAR!**

The **14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of April** are especially important for the **New Year** Celebrations here in **Cambodia**, which also coincide with the Khmer school holidays.



\*\*\* DAY 7<sup>th</sup> April

In all schools parties were held, teachers and students sharing the previous **Khmer New Year celebration**, as well as celebrating the **end of the first academic semester and school holidays**. Naturally we could not miss this important event, so on 7 April, we wear **JAVI SCHOOL** of colors with balloons, and the most original paper ornaments.



What a great celebration we had - the fantastic music with the songs and choreographies of the moment, traditional games, and hot dogs with drinks for everyone!!!. The party started at 4 pm and ended at 9 pm, with all the preparations carried out by the students, which made it even more special.



\*\*\* DAY 12<sup>th</sup> April

We visited and delivered food to the people that make up the **DIAMOND Program (disadvantaged elders and children)**, so that all of the families that are part of our organization will remain can join in and **celebrate the Khmer New Year as they deserve**. On this occasion, some of the youth who lived in DEI KOMA participated in the delivery, so that they understood the necessary approach to the most vulnerable people in the community, and they had the same right to celebrate the holidays with dignity.



\*\*\* DAY 14<sup>th</sup> April

On the 14th at 3 AM the gods arrived, we waited for them with the offerings (food and drinks) prepared on an altar and with burning of incense, as well as a big star hung at the main entrance and in other corners, which facilitates to the gods the way to reach each house at that time.

At midmorning we went to the pagoda to deliver food and gifts to the monks, being blessed by them.



Before going to the pagoda, and fulfilling the traditions, **the children are to feed the parents**, and thank them for caring for them, receiving the blessing of their parents or guardians, and thus we fulfill ourselves with so solemn tradition one more year.



That same day, our Benefactor and friend, CARLOS FS, came to Siem Reap to share with us these days, and this time he was accompanied by a good friend, Estrella, whom the children and young people called Dara, which is the Khmer translation.



Another tradition of the care that **the children have towards the parents is to wash their feet and perfume them**, as an offering of gratitude, and symbolizing the purity to begin a new stage. The children and young people of DEI KOMA prepared a beautiful bowl of perfumed water, flowers and talcum powder, inviting us to participate in such an offering ... and of course, it starts with a traditional children's parents' bath, but it ends with a battle of water everywhere and for all.



In the afternoon it was time for the kitchen, and on popular request we cooked pasta in the purest western style, all prepared by the young inhabitants of DEI KOMA, wash, cut, saute, bake, strain, mix ... some delicious macaroni to the Bolognese style!.Not only did they make perfect pasta, they also cleaned and washed the kitchen so that it was perfect and sparkling as new.



### \*\*\* DAY 15<sup>th</sup> April

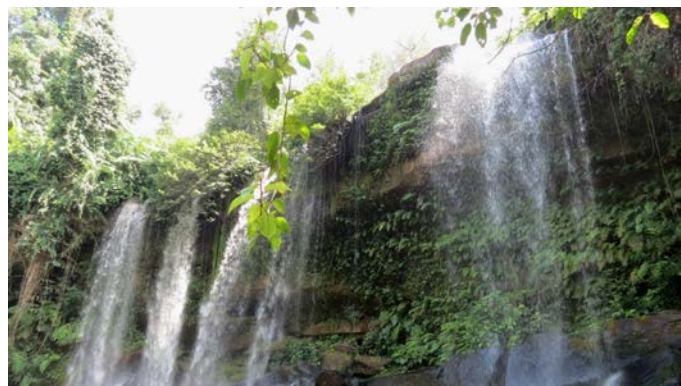
Outing to **PHNOM KULEN**, at an hour of the city, the mountain that was quarry for the construction of the Angkorian temples, where several waterfalls and rivers delight visitors, besides a Buddha carved in the top with floral offerings, incense and small money.



We did a good walk in the pagoda, we visited the carved Buddha. The monks blessed the whole group and we made several incense offerings, in order to open the doors to the Good Luck, long life and Prosperity.



The food tasted of glory, which, as in every outing that counts, it was prepared before leaving home, we sit down by the river and enjoy a home lunch, after which a dip followed another in a river full of Cambodian families which celebrated as we did the family unit; The more adventurous went to the major waterfall and ventured into it.



At the end of the day, we were all exhausted returned home. CARLOS & ESTRELLA (Dara) enjoyed with us.



**DAY 16<sup>th</sup> April**

\*Popular dances by the river, to which we do not hesitate to participate.

\*Time for the CINEMA, we went to see a local movie of humor.

\*Visit to the temples of ANGKOR, where traditional games and water battles were celebrated everywhere.

Being part of the popular traditions, respecting and enjoying the festivities and all its details is a subject of social education, adding a few drops of other cultures makes it even more intense.

Many THANKS to CARLOS & ESTRELLA (Dara), for sharing with us many of these moments. For their sympathy, affection and great heart.



SUOSADAI KHMER CHNAM THAMAI – FELIZ ANYO NUEVO JEMER – HAPPY KHMER NEW YEAR

THANK YOU for trust, for devotion, for enthusiasm and above all, for LOVE.

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