



Bong Wi and Eunice Massar

## I just stood and watched...

A little part of a Tuesday not so long ago in Phnom Penh. Would you join us in prayer for Bong Wi?

"This morning I went swimming, just like I do every Tuesday morning at the Phnom Penh sports club. It's my 'free' morning. Sak takes care of the kids. Joy and Micha make their home-work and in the afternoon they have homeschooling via Skype with the grandma. That is always great fun! Most of the time we enjoy a good connection and they have a lot to tell each other. They sing together, grandma tell's a Bible story and reads a good book to them. They play with the Lego's or Play-mobil, all via the screen, but for the kids and their grandma that's no limitation to enjoy it to the full;-)

I enjoy to have this moment alone. I travel there with a 'moto-dup', a motor taxi, have a swim there and walk back home. After the swimming I decide to visit Bong Wi, a lady who lives close to our house, 38 years old. We always buy our fruit at her little shop. She is married and does have a son of 15 years old. Not long ago she invited us for dinner at her house together with her two sisters. About a week ago Mart-Jan has been to the shop to have some fruits before she went to the country side to visit her family. It's time to visit her again.

Of course I have so sit down, and have a cup of cane-sugar 'juice', with ice. Funny thing is that it's normally served in a normal cup, but this time it come's in a real glass cup. Her son needs to

get it from inside the house. Would it have a meaning? And if so, what?

We talk for a little while, I ask about the Pchum Ben festival (15 days festival in Cambodia when food is offered to the ancestors) and about the time in the rural when she visited her family. She talks enthusiastically about it. They enjoyed 4 days full of games, eating together, having all the family together.

After been their for a while and after she has helped some customers she suddenly tells her son: 'Koown' (= child) get me the book, bring me 'Preah Kompie' (= Bible)". I look up a bit surprised, did I understand it correctly? But yes, a moment later bong Wi's son comes out of the house with a Bible! I almost can't believe my eyes. What is happening here? Bong Wi tells that this Bible was given when her husband helped building a church. Her husband did tell me about it some time ago and showed some picture's together with the program of the service. Bong Wi says: "I started reading the Bible". She tells me that she has never been to school for long because her parents are poor, but she did learn to read. She said she had only read a little bit and it is such a big book;-) Then she pics up the Bible and starts reading from Genesis 1. Just there in the middle of her fruit-shop, and everyone who is willing can listen as well. Ze helps me to follow the Khmer and sometimes when she has to look for the right words herself, laughing follows when she pronounces it wrongly.

I think she does not see it, but what is happening does touch me deeply. I just stand there, or to be more correct, sit there and watch... I am granted to simply see what God is doing. And to

be honest, I'm doing nothing. What is happening in this ladies hart? What's happening in her family? What will happen after this? I do speak a bit of Khmer, the relation with this woman is growing slowly but steadily (and she pushes harder than we do), but I feel not ready enough to speak a lot of the spiritual - royal language with her. The royal language that is used for the Bible and religion is so different from the 'daily' language. And than there is the Cambodian culture. What does she know, and what does she understand? What can I say and what not? I often feel small and weak. Since we began to know this family we do pray for them and hope they will see Jesus in our lives. And now I am just granted to see a little bit of what God is doing. It helps me to keep seeing things in the right perspective. God is in control, it is His mission!

Bong Wi is continuing the reading. When she sees a word that is unfamiliar she underlines it. "I will ask my son what it means" she says. She reads about 15 minutes and summarises for me from time to time. By the time she finishes she remarks "so, now it's time to buy your fruits and go home to have dinner". I buy 2 kilo's of apples, some watermelon, a pomelo and start walking home. I am quiet ad amazed...

I ask you to pray for bong Wi, for her family brothers and sisters. Pray that when she reads the bible the Holy Spirit will work in her heart powerfully. Pray that she will understand who the Lord is, and who she is. It would be such a wonderful thing when she would come to believe in Jesus.

Please also pray for her protection. Cambodia is a dark place.