

Samuel Murugasu, 12 years

Location: Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Mission: To help at Don Bosco Schools with ACTS, Dec 2012

Duration: Approximately 1 week

Takeaways

On the children:

When we set foot onto the compound of Teuk Thla (Don Bosco School), I was ecstatic to be able to see the cheerful children again. They always smiled or greeted us with a wave of the hand when we walked past each other. We did not speak the same language but the loving kids overcame that barrier easily and treated us with love and care, despite being total strangers in the beginning. I have never met children as friendly as them.

I was touched by the Cambodian children – their smiles, laughter and enthusiasm. While to them it may have been a gift from God for us to have spent time with them, in return their joyful presence was a gift from God to me. I will always cherish the time spent in Cambodia. May God shower the children at Teuk Thla with abundant blessings.

On volunteering – teaching in the school:

While teaching the children whatever we could, I could see that they were clearly interested to learn. The Salesian Sisters who run the school, treat the children with much motherly love despite more than 90 percent of the students being non-Catholic. Towards the last few days of the mission, many of us were given Christmas cards and small gifts from the primary school children. Even students whom I did not recognise gave me their tokens of appreciation and indeed, it made me feel loved.

