

Audrey & Yeong Phang

Serving with: ACTS

Location: Cambodia



Where have you been?

What was your role on these trips?

It has been 'no turning back' for our family of 6 since our first mission trip with ACTS in 2009. The experience each year is unique to each of us as we are all assigned different 'jobs' to suit our skills and interests.

Audrey started off catechesis programmes and bringing God's Word to the Children of Cambodia. It is inspiring as the children hunger to learn. They are mesmerised by the hand-crafted wooden figurines that make the Word come to life by a tactile and visual experience.

Andrew's first mission trip was after his PSLE. He helped to teach the children moves for a mass dance, which the entire school (over 1000 students as well as the nuns) mastered and danced for the Christmas party on the closing night!

Would you continue with mission trips? Why?

ACTS has become part of our family and we plan to involve all our four children once the youngest turns 12. It is a wonderful way for us to serve together in a meaningful cause. It is also a time to live life more simply and be thankful for all God has blessed us with. On our plane ride home in 2010, our eldest daughter Andrea, who was on her first mission trip then, requested that our family make this our annual trip.

One of the students that year presented me with a card that brought tears immediately to my eyes. Attached to a photograph of her was a short message which read, "Can you be my mummy?" How could I be a mummy to her when we lived miles apart? The Sisters suggested that we sponsor her for school and boarding. Each year, we look forward to seeing Thida. We have even more reason to be excited as plans to build the first Catholic-run secondary school are underway, bringing greater educational opportunities for this very special girl, who has a beautiful personality and love for our Lord. She is, incidentally, a baptised Catholic too!

Go with an open heart and the children will teach us more than we could ever teach them – gratitude and finding joy in the smallest things. Remembering that "whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." (Colossians 3:17)