

My Adventure to Cambodia ©

Hey everyone.

My name is Laura Bertucci.

This summer I did something that I have wanted to do for a long time and went on a missions trip to Cambodia.

I was in Cambodia for around 3.5 weeks. I went over with a lady who has been there eight times and has actually started a village called 'Happy Village' and a school called 'Tarsha's Legacy Centre'. This was named after her niece who had died.

The handful of families and the many kids have come from the dump and also from being alcoholics and having no future, to having a house and having found Jesus Christ. They are now looking forward to a future and an eternity with Him.

The children at TLC can all speak English now and are surprisingly smart as I found out when they could do maths a lot faster than me.

We stayed in Phnum Penh, the capital, and from there we went out to different villages and did a variety of things. We painted, plastered toilet blocks, de-liced what felt like thousands of children. We brought out blankets, tarps, mosquito nets and medicine.

It was such a great feeling to hand someone their own package of stuff and to see their face light up as they thanked us "Aw Koon". The people are just like us, the teenagers try as hard as they can with what they have to look good and the parents try urgently hard to feed their children.

It was so good to be able to give these people just a little gift which to them was so good. There were really challenging times that you had to hold back tears, like a village we went to where most people had AIDS. It was here that this woman showed us her little one room house which she rented out for \$13 a week down under a house with the animals.

At this stage I was feeling extremely grateful for what I have in my beautiful country.

Another hard time was when we saw a young man who had a massive tumour going from his head and dangled down like a massive sack filled with fluid, down to his shoulder. The tumour covered one of his eyes but from the other eye he had one tear coming down. That really upset me, and the fact that we couldn't do much didn't help.

Along with sadness there was a lot of happiness. The people's hearts were just golden. I got so much from going to Cambodia the experience is one that will stay with me for a long time.

Just seeing what a blessed country we have. WE ARE INDEED A BLESSED COUNTRY. Also, just seeing how many material possessions we have that make so much of an impact on our lives has challenged me.

These people have next to nothing, no shiny cars, flat screens or the newest I-pod, yet they have joy and peace within themselves because they have Jesus and to them, that is all they need.

Thank you so much to everyone that supported me on going. It was such an amazing experience, one that I will never forget.