



# DEGRAAF NEWS

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## We are moved in!

Maybe it wasn't smart to rent a third level apartment – especially when the way to get to the 3<sup>rd</sup> level is by 45 narrow steps. But being a 3 bedroom unit in a relatively new building, a reasonable rent, very close to the office (less than half a block away) and only a block to of one of the better markets in the city – we couldn't resist. Who likes to drive to work anyway?



But how do you get the fridge, the mattresses and even the potted plants up those narrow stairs? You don't – especially if there is not a boom truck available to do the lifting.

And that's what we did. We spent that first week shopping – buying our table and chairs, beds, a living room set, a desk, several bookcases and wardrobes, fridge, stove, washer, desk, work tables. We even purchased a TV because CNN and BBC



are available by cable in our neighbourhood. Once our purchases arrived, our landlord on the ground floor kept them safe until the truck arrived. Then Sochi (our office driver) and the two men who came with the boom

truck, and our own 'elbow grease' – we spent the next 3 hours elevating our furnishings to the 3<sup>rd</sup> level. It reminded me so much of the tall houses in Amsterdam that have a rope and pulley system built-in for just that purpose.

We are moved in and are feeling comfortable here now – even despite the daily highs of 35°C! So far the power has been reliable so our AC in our bedroom stays on and we are able to sleep well.

Now that we are moved in our work has really begun. For both us that means language study – every day. Given our 50+ years, our brains are a bit rebellious; refusing to retain the words and the pronunciations without lots of rote memorization – much to our frustration – and it sometimes causes stress between us: "I'm sure our tutor said it this way...I don't think so, are you sure?" We often go to bed by 9 or 9:30 in the evening – simply brain exhausted. Besides we like to get up by 6:30 am at the latest anyway.



Since the office is close by, our language tutor meets us there. We start each day at the office arriving at 8 am with opening devotions. There are about 12 of us around the table (often less when the staff are on field visits) and several of the staff translate for us. After language lessons, Edith usually goes to the market and Rick gets involved in managing the affairs of CRWRC in Cambodia – often meeting with key staff in decision making.

That's all for now – we hope to post newsletters frequently – so we'll keep them short and to the point.

### At this time we ask you to pray for a few things:

- Give thanks for a good initial adjustment and a nice and secure place to live – with a good landlord.
- For technology – we have been able to connect with family in Canada through the internet
- For our fine Cambodian and expatriate staff – we really have come to appreciate them.
- For our language study. It is a challenge – we need all the help we can get to 'get it'!

Greetings and thanks for your support,

~ Rick and Edith DeGraaf



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