

原來我們擁有很多



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有很多身邊的朋友會跟我說：「你存錢又不花，現在不享受你打算等到甚麼時候呢？」

我也會想：「真的！究竟錢花在哪裏才有意義？」

直到上年我在香港基督徒音樂事工聯會（HKACM）見到有一個與密匠合作的柬埔寨短宣活動，作為「信二代」的我，父母當然很想我參加。當我向教會的人分享，他們都認為我這小小年紀能有機會去外地事奉，是一件很感恩的事，但生活在一個有四個小朋友的家庭，作為大家姐的我，擔心爸媽未必能支持我及妹妹去短宣的費用。後來經過祈禱，我們決定邀請身邊的朋友在金錢上支持我們。在上帝的帶領下，我們成功籌得每人港幣8,000元的團費。

短宣期間，我們教當地小朋友英文、樂器、甚至中文，他們都很快掌握。他們很有天份，只不過是欠缺了一些機會。此外，探訪鄉村的時候，見到很多家庭住在鐵皮屋裡，也有很多孩子沒有衣服穿，生活十分刻苦。

上年年底密匠在香港舉行的籌款音樂會，我可以與柬埔寨的朋友重聚，感覺到大家這份真摯的友情，便與短宣的隊友下定決心儲錢再參與短宣。我不知道有多少人會將這份承諾放在心裡，但我就找到一個有意義的目標去儲錢，更要每日一點一點地實踐大使命：「你們要去，使萬民作我的門徒，奉父、子、聖靈的名給他們施洗，凡我所吩咐你們的，都教訓他們遵守。」（馬太福音28章19-20節上）

儲錢的方法可以很簡單……以前我平均一個星期喝一次珍珠奶茶，為了努力儲錢，我兩、三個月才喝一次。雖然看似容易，但對我來說卻殊不簡單；與朋友逛街，當看見他們買衫、玩具、雪糕等等時，我也擔心自己因為不一起消費而被感到不合群，但當我想起柬埔寨小朋友的生活，又明白自己其實很幸福，就有動力去消除想買非必需品的念頭。

今年能成功儲錢再去柬埔寨，見到中心的孩子真是十分有親切感。雖然一年沒有見面，但我們很快便投入一起分享，互相支持。我們付出的確實很少，卻能參與密匠改變孩子生命的工作，我們只需要犧牲少少娛樂的花費，買少一樣零食或飲品，無論是30元、50元、100元、或是300元，對密匠的孩子來說都是一個脫離行乞、可以讀書及改善生活的機會，真是十分有意義。

Realizing the Riches We Have

Many friends often tell me, "You save money but never spend it. When do you plan to enjoy it?" This makes me ponder, "Really! How to spend money in a meaningful way?"

Last year, I came across a mission trip to Cambodia organized by Hong Kong Association of Christian Music Ministry Limited (HKACM) and Metta. As a "second-generation believer," my parents were eager for me to join. When I shared this with people at my church, they felt it was a wonderful opportunity for someone like my age to serve abroad. However, as the eldest sibling in a family with four children, I worried that my parents might struggle to support my sister and me financially for the trip. After praying about it, we decided to reach out to friends for financial support. With God's guidance, we successfully raised HK\$8,000 each for the trip.

During the mission, we taught local children English, musical instruments, and even some Chinese. They quickly grasped the lessons. Actually they are quite talented but just lack of opportunities. Additionally, during our visits to rural areas, I saw many families living in metal shacks and many children without proper clothing, enduring very harsh conditions.

At the end of last year, Metta held a fundraising concert in Hong Kong, where I reunited with friends from Cambodia. I felt the sincerity of our friendship and, along with my mission teammates, decided to save money to participate in another mission trip. I did not know how many people would keep this commitment in their hearts, but I found a meaningful goal for saving. I realized I needed to practice the Great Commission a little bit every day: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28: 19-20a, NIV)

Saving money can be quite simple. In the past, I would have bubble tea once a week, but to save, I now limit myself to once every two or three months. While this might seem easy, it's not simple for me. When I go shopping with friends and see them buying clothes, toys, ice cream, and more, I worry about feeling excluded because I am not spending. However, when I remember the lives of the children in Cambodia, I realize how blessed I am, which motivates me to resist the urge to buy non-essentials.

This year, being able to save money and returned to Cambodia, when I saw the children at the centre, I felt very familiar. Although we had not seen each other for a year, we quickly engaged in sharing and supporting one another. What we contributed was minimal, yet we were able to participate in Metta's work of transforming the lives of these children. We only needed to sacrifice a little entertainment spending, buying one less snack or drink, whether it's HK\$30, HK\$50, HK\$100, or HK\$300, to provide these children with opportunities to escape begging, receive an education, and improve their lives. That is truly meaningful.

