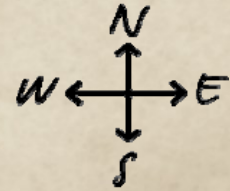


# Hansen Journey Log



*Log Entry Date: September 27, 2008*

"You just want to hurt me!" Kosal yelled, tears streaming down his face. He sat alone on the small rattan couch in our office, his body shaking with emotion.

"I know it doesn't feel like it, but we love you," Joe said quietly.

"You're a liar. I can't trust you," Kosal yelled back. Turning away from Joe he stared blankly at the wall.

"If you keep making these choices, your life will be very sad," I said as gently as I could. "We want your life to be happy. We are only trying to help you."

Kosal shook his head in disgust. "I'll run away," he breathed bitterly.

"If you left a lot of people would be sad... **we** would be sad." Joe said leaning forward to look into Kosal's eyes.

"I don't care about anybody. I'm just living for myself!" Kosal shouted.

Kosal is learning a hard lesson about the importance of doing homework. This is an excerpt from several hours of "conversation" we had with him about it. Kosal's end of the conversation included sullen silences, screaming rages, plenty of eye rolling and two retreats to the peak of the roof about three stories off the ground. An invitation for Joe and me to have dinner at a friend's house brought a much needed reprieve for all of us.

Several hours later when we drove back through our gate Kosal came running up to us with a big smile. "You're home!" He shouted excitedly. "Do you notice anything different?"

I wanted to say, "You're down from the roof?" But instead I said, "Hmmm, let's see..."

"I have a scratch!" Kosal announced, holding his arm up like a trophy.

"Wow!" Joe and I admired.

That night Kosal crept up to me and said softly, "I'm sorry I screamed at you."

"I forgive you," I said.

Later when Joe was sitting at his desk Kosal whispered in his ear, "I'm sorry," then ran off to bed.

I can't help but see myself in Kosal. Sometimes I'm angry at God. Sometimes I refuse to trust Him. Sometimes I run away. But He just keeps on loving me and reminding me of the truth. He is always there, ready to forgive me and delight in me.

Life in Cambodia can be pretty hard but we are here with the hope that our love will open Kosal's heart to receive the much greater love God has for him. Someday when Kosal is sitting high up on that roof he will see not only us, but God, patiently waiting for him to climb down and grow into the man he was created to be.

We couldn't be here without your support and encouragement.

*Thanks for journeying with us,*

*Joe and Rene*



Rene, Kosal and Joe