

Bob and Lori Thurston

Served in the Cambodia Phnom Penh Mission



On their first mission together, Bob and Lori Thurston learned that meaningful ministering can happen despite language barriers and cultural differences because we are all children of God.

LESLIE NILSSON, PHOTOGRAPHER

Bob:

One day we could hear music blaring, and we noticed a tent was being set up. In Cambodia, that either means somebody is getting married or somebody has died.

Lori:

We found out that a mother of five or six kids had just died. There was no husband to speak of. The children just woke up and realized their mom was dead.

One daughter was just sobbing. Through a translator, she said, "I'm the oldest. I've got all these siblings. I don't know what I'm going to do."

I just scooped her up in my arms. How could I not? This girl just lost her mother. I spoke to her in English and said, "I know you don't understand me, but I promise you will see your mother again. You are going to be OK. You are not going to be left alone."

So many experiences like this have given us a special connection with the people of Cambodia.

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