

## **Friday 29th November and Saturday 30th November 2024**

### **Friday 29th November, 2024.**

We walked in to town, stopping on the way to book in for a hair cut with a local salon. They remembered me from when I taught at Anjali... I had one of the children.

Hair cut and colour and head and neck massage for \$15. Probably dear! But very convenient. They apologised because they were busy because there was a wedding that night...

I went to my two language classes... getting near the end of the book for writing... lots of tricky exceptions to learn. I have to learn the numbers at home!

Then we got ready for the wedding reception and caught a tuk tuk to the reception centre. The traffic was crazy busy along Highway 6 (National Road 6) but we got there...

We had our photos taken with the groom and bride (we see them nearly every week at home) and then were taken in to sit at a table.

The man next to me very politely (and in a friendly manner) chatted a bit in English and I did my best to try to answer in Khmer. They like it when you try, even if you mess up!

The reception centre had more than 60 tables (with ten seats at each), plus a stage, an area for the band and a large dancing area between the tables and the stage.

The food was great. Some of the things we ate were battered fish (like sardines... not so strong with the batter), a meatloaf, glass noodle salad, cold chicken terrine, cold pressed meat, prawns in another salad, two soups (individually served... crab soup and a soup with abalone and duck feet! Actually, it tasted very nice, but I didn't eat the duck foot!), a hot pot of prawn Tom Yum and baked fish served in a soup (both in small Bay Marie's/ food warmers set on the lazy Susan in the centre of the table), fried spring rolls and cashew nuts. Dessert was matcha pannacotta, individually served.

The clothes were lovely too. Many of the women wore beautiful lace and sequin / beaded dresses (with high heeled shoes) in all the colours you could imagine. Others wore the more traditional prints, made into "formal" fitted dresses with large bows on their shoulders or their backs. The men were mostly nicely dressed (but some were a bit scruffy in polo shirts and trousers).

We know most of the family (and had met even more of them, from overseas, staying in the apartments in the building with us), so we had people to smile to (the music was very loud... three singers and the band). I was taken up to dance (thank-you language school for teaching me several traditional dances, so I could follow along).

Guess who I saw there dancing? My hair dresser! We couldn't chat, because the music was too loud.

We waited for the couple to walk “down the aisle”... dressed in a suit and wedding dress (second change of clothes at this reception). We watched them throw the bouquet (and we know who caught it, so we will see if that happens in the near future) and then headed out and home. Many of the guests had left before us (and as a table of guests left, the reception staff would clear it and reset it, and more people were shown in and seated.

### **Saturday 30th November, 2024.**

Having had a late night (late for us) on Friday, we caught a Tuktuk to Angkor supermarket and home again.

Coming back inside our “compound”, we asked our landlord to order us gas (the bottle ran out on Thursday and they were busy!). We went upstairs and before we had unpacked the shopping, the man came, carrying the gas cylinder, taking the old one out, fitting the new one and checking it. 65 000 R = \$16

In the afternoon, we took a quick trip on the motorbike to another Tee Tee market, think \$2:00 shop, but with a bit more variety and not a lot of prices marked. We bought some cheap things for the little kids for Christmas.