

June 23, 1980 – Monday

War – a horrible experience – so frightening!

John 21, 15 – 23

Lord, You know I love You and I know you have a tremendous love for me! God, the fear I had with the bombing today – these poor people, our poor soldiers who must go through this constant horror – the blast of the bomb, the smoke, the constant fear of being hit and losing their life. I never want to hear a fire cracker. Now I know a little of what our Sisters experienced. You have loved so much, yet many innocent suffer because of the power struggles of a few. How true the words, “When you were young, you did as you pleased. As you grow old, someone else leads you, often where not desired.”



Invasion today

The people move toward Thailand – they carry everything they own on their back!

We take so much for granted ~

And often think we need so many “things” to survive!

June 24, 1980 – Tuesday

War situation in Thailand –

Vietnamese have moved into Thailand – retaliation for repatriation – sending Khmers back to Cambodia.” Many were killed and wounded on both Thai and Vietnam forces. I am on stand-by with the Japanese Team but other teams were formed to go in for immediate care of the wounded. Vietnamese are one kilometer into Thailand and have overtaken villages and have strong strategic spots. There is much shelling and fighting. I take this as a day of prayer for You alone Lord, can do all things – I never want to forget Your Presence among us. Please bring Peace to this war torn land!

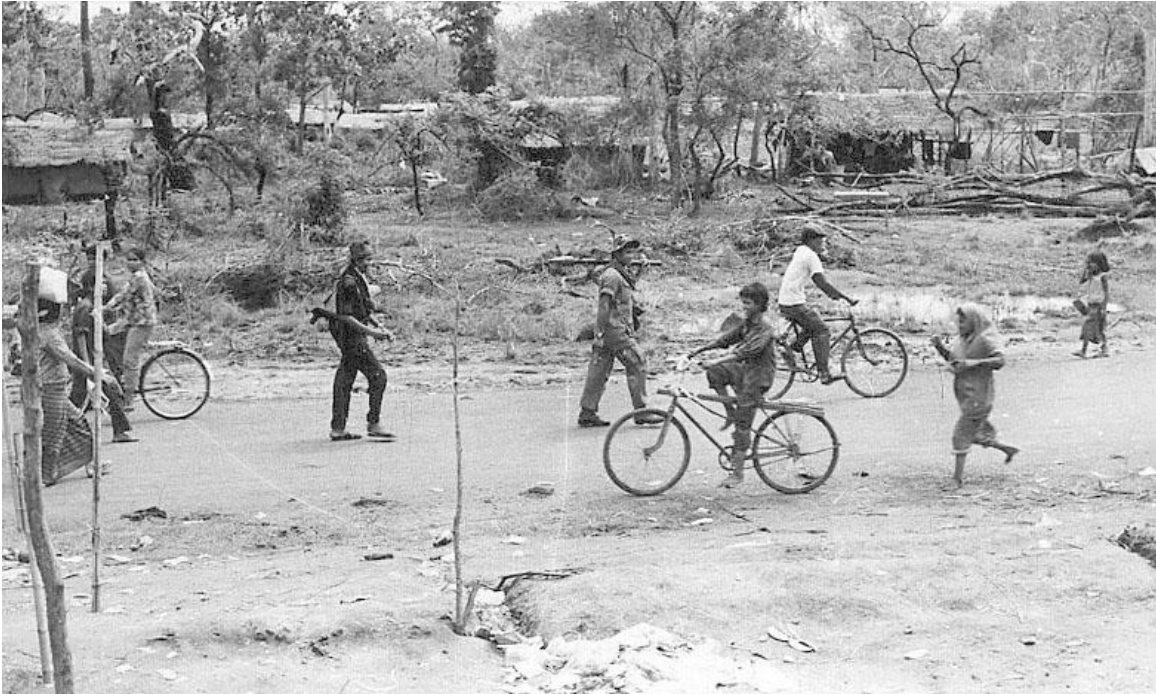
June 25, 1980 – Wednesday

Spent a day as supply nurse at Khao I Dong check point

The new and young nurses are so anxious to get in there where the action is – once you get older like I, the thrilling aspect is not so great anymore and one contemplates on the utter meaninglessness of it all. So many lives are destroyed because of war.

There are so many tanks and soldiers at the boarder – Vietnamese are sitting right at the edge. You can see the young soldiers are excited for action while we older ones value our life.

Lord, again I beg You to bring Peace to this troubled and war torn land.



June 26, 1980 – Thursday

Lord, I just cannot believe the resilience of these people – they moved again further into Thailand to get away from the fighting. They immediately set up new homes made from blue plastic. The barber shop, bicycle shop, market were started in the new area as if nothing happened. The children were happy, running around, “ok – bye-bye” – their usual selves. These people are always so full of hope in a hopeless situation – what a meditation. I feel so sorry for the young people who are homeless and utterly on their own – they have sad faces, broken bodies – deep crying inside.





June 27, 1980 – Friday

“Come then my Love, My lovely one, come!”

Song of Songs 2, 8 – 3, 4

Lord, I feel so deeply in love with You and long for our Eternal Union together. In the tragedy of what I have been experiencing, my only strength is a swelling of Love within me – love for You in each of Your beloved people! I am so very grateful for having created me a woman who can love deeply and who has experienced these feelings of love – giving and receiving. I have found You and now I hold fast for You are my life’s support in this land of sorrow and tears. I could cry my heart out in the Comfort of Your love.



Sister Ann Catherine with one of the many babies entrusted to her care while in the camp.

"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another... And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection... And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Colossians: 3, 12-17

June 28, 1980 – Saturday

Lord, my heart is breaking at the great sorrow of these people. They are desperate to be free and are so full of fears – I fear for them. Pierre Pirren and Robert Ashe have been captured by the Vietnamese – truly we are in a war situation. Only You alone can bring peace to this troubled land. I come before you begging Peace. Thanks Lord.

June 29, 1980 – Sunday

Lord, my energy is rapidly decreasing so as I slow down, I study the faces of these dear people – so many blank stares, a pathetic loneliness radiating from them. The young children are just desperate for food – will almost kill each other for bread. The people are so afraid; many look tired, swollen, and weak. What will happen to them and their country?



June 30, 1980 – Monday

Lord, my heart longs for your Eternal Love! Song of Songs Chapter 5

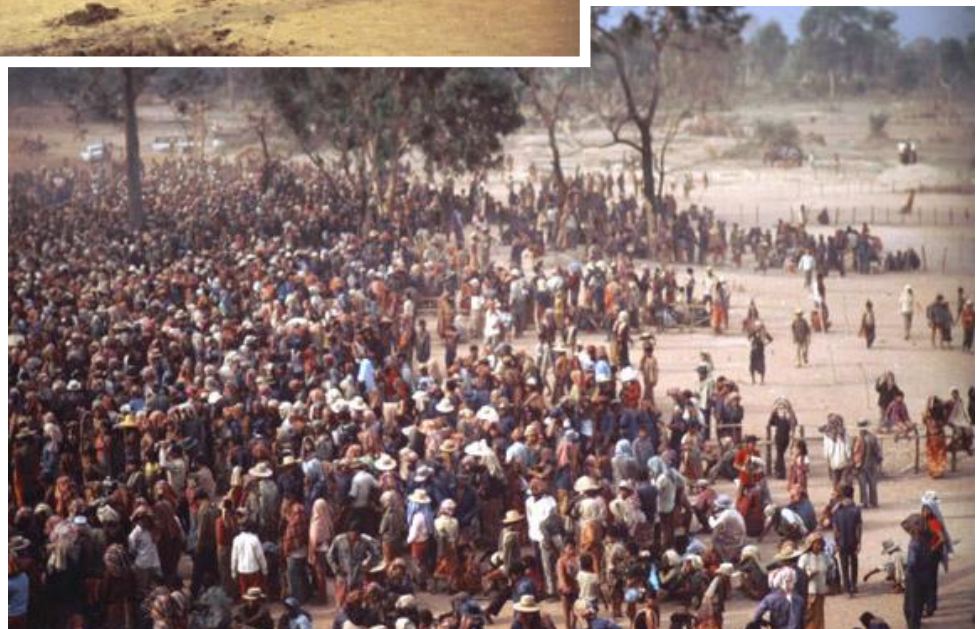
Lord, my heart is filled with love for You and all creation! But my heart is low at the tragedy seen around me. I long for the human closeness of another yet in this desire, my vow of Chastity has become more meaningful and my longing for Your constant closeness more intense. How often have I refused You, been caught up in this world's "goods", yet what are the true values of life.

Eternal peace will only come in union with You – may my life reflect Your Peace to give a sense of hope to all who are suffering so intensely now.

July 1, 1980 – Tuesday

Lord, our personnel are just desperate to get out of the camp. They sense some horrible times will come. I feel so helpless for there is so much corruption among administration – the rich are getting richer and the poor, poorer even in the refugee camp – hard to believe people taking advantage of each other here.

We had an excellent clinic near NW-9. We made up canned milk and gave this with high protein biscuits to the kids. We played games and ball with the kids. They screamed with delight – it was greatly uplifting in such a dismal situation. How I love these people so much!



July 2, 1980 – Wednesday

What an unbelievable sight – a great Exodus!

10's of thousands of people moved back toward Cambodia in less than three hours! They each had a bag with their life's belongings! The same site where we had a great clinic yesterday is now completely barren! Little kids are carrying pots and pans, buckets of supplies, chickens on sticks over their shoulder. They were packed together, not much spoken. Their eyes and faces seemed blank although the kids still laughed and the people were so friendly when they saw us.

I stood back in utter amazement! These people are great movers – when will they have a “home.”



July 3, 1980 – Thursday

Lord, I leave our Camp with many good memories – the gentleness of the people, the laughter of the kids, the great Hope portrayed by the people. Although I have been working in a tragic situation, my heart is light – it is so positive.

I hope someday to have another mission like this. I take pictures home, but who would understand the reality of the situation unless they were here.

Rat has made it to Kang I Dong safely. Grant this poor man some type of peace. So many die in this type of escape. Will these people ever know peace and stability?

*"Today is the day the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:24
There is always hope and healing.*

July 4, 1980 – Friday

Lord, I am homesick. I am recalling our celebrations.

Lord, will these people ever celebrate an Independence Day in their lives – will they know freedom.

Have been buying some pants for the little boys and tops for the girls – so hard to give them to the Khmers. Even the little kids use everything to sell on the black market.

I am looking forward to sharing the great experiences of this time with my Sisters and friends of USA. I am feeling my energy going down more and more and there are now excellent nurses to take our place and carry on our work.

July 5, 1980 – Saturday

Up to Pimai – North East part of Thailand

From Wathena went through mountains – beautiful. The ancient Temple is Khmer – I guess there are several like it. I was fascinated by the immensity and grandeur of the place. Then we drove along Cambodian border. There are flat lands like Samet. We got lost – what a scare. Thanks for getting us home, Lord!



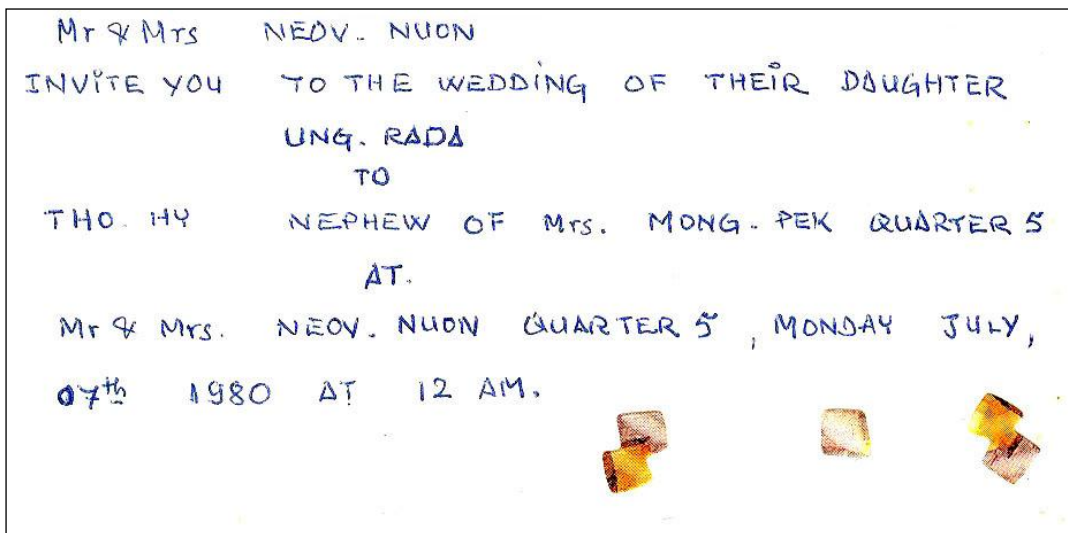
July 6, 1980 – Sunday

Visited Italian Hospital near Tapaya – absolutely beautiful. Italian flag is hanging next to Thai flag. It was a well equipped hospital and delivery room, run by Italian staff most of whom speak only Italian. They hope to turn over the hospital to the Thai government within the next few months. It is a lovely, quiet setting and serves both Thai and Khmer patients – a great tribute to the Italian government.



July 7, 1980 – Monday

Wedding of Mr. Hy



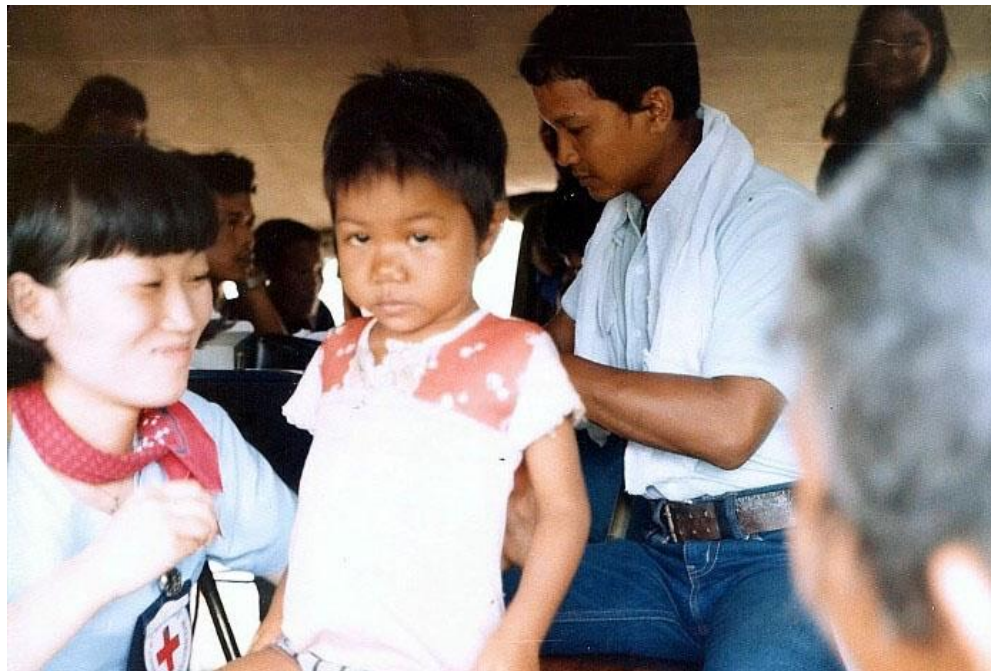
A beautiful day! I should have been a recreational director – 3 groups of kids jumping rope, 2 groups playing volleyball and soccer, another hopscotch! This is just as important as any meds – cares for the total person.

Mr. Hy – a beautiful man and Rada, a charming wife! String is tied around each one’s wrist (bride and groom) by all who attend the ceremony to symbolize the unity between them. Their smiles were radiant! In the midst of squalor and poverty, there is also a light hearted laughter and joy of a wedding. A simple wedding of two wonderful people – grant them blessings Lord!





*Mr. Hy, our barefoot
Doctor, working in
the clinic*



July 8, 1980 – Tuesday

Last day of work!

Last rounds of Samet! OPD 1 is completely gone. A new hospital is being built today in one day. Mobile OPD's. Fear of another invasion. I saw many of our workers and other people ex. "Maria" we have know for these four months.

A symbol of the pain of this situation: all the fruit, candy, nuts I brought was stolen. If all was going well, these people would not feel this obsession for corruption.

The last person I saw as we left Kang I Dong was Rat. Just waved good bye as our car was racing away. Again, he is a symbol of the tragedy of the situation: no freedom, broken family. Yet I will never forget the final cheering as I left Samet by the many kids – "ok" "bye-bye" – many smiles!

July 9, 1980 – Wednesday

Leaving Wathena – “Home” for 4 months!

Leaving with many happy feelings – have met some great people here. I have had happy and peaceful times. I am filled with new life to live this day fully and face the challenges of a new future.

The people: The kind little “laundry” man

“Grandpa” at our party last night – wondered in off the streets, no shoes, no place to go.

Matthew the cook and all who helped.

Addie and Arthur – treated us as their family.

All the Thai people who did their jobs here so quietly, leisurely and seemed peaceful.

Lord, thank you for the gift of this experience.

Home, Sweet home.
Tired but every moment
so enriching.
Thanks Lord!



July 10, 1980 – Thursday

Bangkok – Debriefing

Lord, what can I say but thank you for the gift of this experience. I have some fears about the long trip ahead yet where is my trust – how could You forget and not protect your bride. If only I could live the gentle mannerisms these people have – the Thai will do anything for us.

This has been a very positive experience. It is important to be flexible – not be extremely professional but caring and concerned about others. It is a deeply Spiritual experience – I discussed this in my debriefing session.

Nurses served from many countries of the World, including:

