



# WATERFALL *within*

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 0

AMY STRAYER'S  
MUSINGS ON THE  
JOURNEY OF LOVE



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# MAY'S *journey*

## *Returning*

May has been saying that she wanted God to change her life since I first arrived in Pattaya, Thailand six months ago. In the beginning, she hated working the streets and wanted God to give her a “better” job working in a bar. “God has a good plan for your life,” we would say, “So let’s pray that He shows you His best plan for your life.” Never once did our team tell May that working in prostitution was wrong. We felt that our job was to love and to display the grace God’s shown us. At times, God would tell me to say things like, “I understand why you wouldn’t like your job. It’s not good for your body or your heart.” Other times, I would declare who God is and how He cannot give us bad things. And we all watched in awe as God, through us, loved May to life.

May began turning her heart to God in worship. Then she grew passionate about sharing the gospel and studying the Bible. Slowly, she began to dream outside of the box she was in and began to ask that God would give her a job helping people. Then, in late October, she told me she had a dream that she was in Cambodia in the church or another Christian organization and she was working there. I excitedly told her that I felt God had shown her a part of His good plan for her life. Despite God moving May to change career paths, her being an illegal Khmer in Thailand meant our hands were tied until her legal status was cleared up.

Within a week of May’s dream, God had connected me through a friend to Daughters of Cambodia, a Christian organization in Cambodia that helps young women and ladyboys who want to leave the brothel life behind. When I first told May about the opportunity to work with Daughters, she said she wanted to go, but maybe not until after Songkran (in April). Just two days after that, May came to a Bible study I was leading. She was the only one who came that night, but she began opening up and telling myself and my teammate about how she had been reading in Romans how God does not allow a man to sleep with a man and felt it was for her. We affirmed that God was speaking to her and that God must love her a lot to show her this. Later when May began sharing this story she said, “God is so good and so kind. He’s so perfect. I read Romans...” (Wow, if only we all had this perspective on Heavenly discipline.)

That night, I took May out to celebrate God’s goodness in showing this to her. Over ice cream, I asked May if she had thought about going to Cambodia. After some discussion and thought she said she wanted to go after Pattaya Praise, which was just two weeks away. I kicked my search for the best way for her to go into high gear. Pattaya Praise came and May went to all of the four day worship event. And I still did not have a plan for helping May get safely across the border. But during those days, of Pattaya Praise, God was giving May another piece of vision for her life. At one point, she asked me, “Do you think they have a Cambodia Praise?” I told her I didn’t know but “Maybe you’ll start it!”





By the end of November, we still hadn't found a good way for May to go to Cambodia. But we had discovered that May going was not as hard or dangerous as we had been led to believe. It was actually quite simple. So in the midst of another worship event, we blessed May with the funds to go, gathered around her and prayed her out. And we sang "Give Thanks," one of her favorite worship songs, over her as she cried.

A few short hours later, I got a call at 3:45am. Unlike during another 3am call I had received from May on a night when she had a bad customer, this time her voice was filled with excitement. "I'm at the Cambodia office. Come see me!" I quickly rolled out of bed and threw on some clothes to go see this dear one off. Our time was short, but precious. Before I knew it, May was boarding the van that would take her back to the home country she hadn't seen in six years. A few hours after that, my phone rang again. May couldn't contain the joy in her voice as she told me, "I'm in Cambodia!"

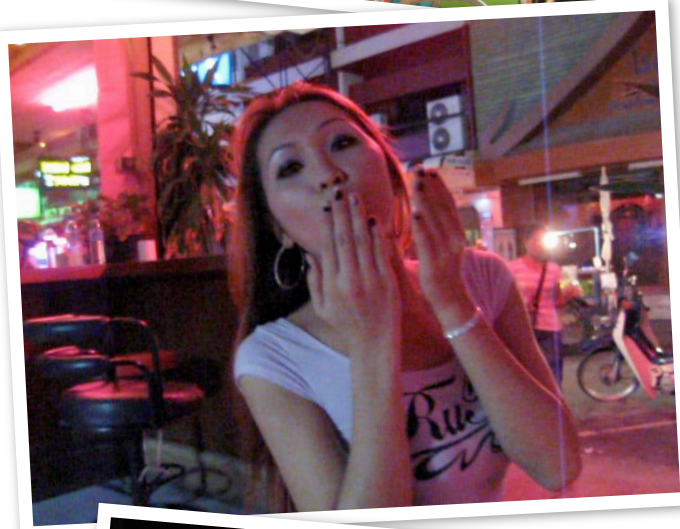
Over the next few days I talked with May a few more times, each time she thanked me for everything I had done for her. But she also began to say that he wasn't sure if he could stay at Daughters, as the money she would make working with them was not much. I told her it was ok. To keep asking God what to do and trust that God would show her the next steps. May isn't sure yet what the journey ahead will hold. Perhaps she will stay on Daughters. Maybe she will get to live her dream and go to Bible school. Or maybe she will get a passport and visa and return to Thailand where she hopes to get a job helping people. No matter what the future holds for May, she now has the freedom to choose.

## LISA'S *journey*

*Eyes to See*

My heart holds a special place for Lisa. In August, I got to go to see her at her bar and spent about two hours with her, just talking. She was turning away potential customers the entire time and wouldn't let us tip her but insisted on us using the money to take a taxi home. Not only did she generously share her time with me and my friend that night, she also began to open up and share about what it was like to grow up in Vietnam.

In the months that followed she shared more of her story in bits and pieces... but what amazed me the most was the ways in which God has pursued and called Lisa. When she was young, she saw an open vision of God, dressed in white like in the book of Revelation.... little does she know how so many have longed to see Him in the ways she has. Her knowledge of Him has brought her into the place of longing for souls. And of longing for God to change her life. In October, Lisa quit working at the bar, and is still believing that God will make a way for her, like He has for her dear friend May, to begin life afresh. Whatever His plans for His dear one are, they are good and He will give this one eyes to see them.







# My journey

*Where these feet have trod...*

So it has been an adventure! Standing at the end of this rugged path my feet have trod over the past six months, I am in awe of God's faithfulness to carry me through it! There is no way that I could have done this without you standing behind me in prayer and loving support. Thank you does not even come close to expressing how much gratitude is in not only my heart, but the hearts of May and Lisa and the many others I've befriended along the way. I am missing all of them as I spend the Christmas season here.



As I look over the past six months, a few highlights are:

- Worshipping alongside ladyboys, bar girls, those journeying to healing, and break dancers and loving them to life.
- Partnering with Pattaya House of Prayer in leading prayer walks on Soi 6 and joining in prophetic worship and soaking sets whenever possible.
- Becoming an "aunt" to three of the most lovely blonde Canadian boys ever.
- Discovering the ministry of hugs and tears breaks down walls in hearts.
- Learning more of the depths of God's love and the bliss found in the Cross of my Jesus.

Thanks for standing with me in the journey. As He leads, please continue to cover these dear ones in prayer. Also, please pray for me for wisdom to know the next step. Hope to connect with you soon! Have an amazing Christmas celebrating His unending, never failing, always enough, extravagant LOVE.

Blessings and love,

*Amy Strayer*

