

HARE TODAY

MARCH 17,
2023

CARABAO, BULLFROGS AND FLIES



Dear Friends,



HOUSE FLIES BY THE MILLIONS

If you had been there, you would never forget this remote area of the world. I know I haven't. A huge Carabao guided by a small man was plowing a rice paddy, getting ready for the next harvest. It was amazing to see the size and strength of that animal, compared to the diminutive force controlling him.

Even more amazing is the powerful photo captured by my friend and photographer Dale Stroud! I look at it often. Let me tell you the back story.

We learned that once the rice paddies are plowed, they are flooded. They grow the rice and raise brine shrimp in the shallow water. The rice paddies attract giant bullfrogs. Rice, shrimp, and bullfrogs become a part of the food chain. We ate them every meal while we were there.

A plate of rice, a few boiled brine shrimps, and a fried frog were prepared. After my first attempts, they showed me how to eat the brine shrimp including the head. Frog legs are a delicacy in some parts of the world. But here, you eat the whole frog including the heads and eyes. My granddaughter asked, "even the little feet Grandpa?" All was very tasty.

Years before the United Nations arrived to teach the people how to make their own fertilizer for better rice harvests. The village people followed their instructions and soon each house had a huge fresh pile of fertilizer in their yard. However, the UN failed to tell the people that it would attract and produce millions of house flies. The flies were everywhere. They were on our rice, our brine shrimp, and even the tasty frogs. There was always a cloud of flies around our faces and on our arms and legs and spoons and plates of food. Children were engaged to wave a fan as Dale and I tried to get the next bite of food into our mouths.

What an adventure to be there and see this little village, their life, and meet each person. The great news is these people know the Gospel and have a growing church in their midst. Missionaries spent years learning their language and sharing God's message with them.

This is what it's all about; Sharing the Lord with others. Many of you are involved in this ministry with us. Thanks for your partnership.

Macon and I are recovering well from surgeries. We are in therapy. Macon hopes to soon be allowed to put weight on his new ankle; then begin walking again. Thanks for your prayers!