



# ACTION

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Sowing the seeds of a new tomorrow for Cambodia



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# Cambodia Action

Registered Name:  
Southeast Asian Outreach  
UK Charity Number: 293382

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Cambodia Action is an evangelical inter-denominational mission and development agency, founded in 1973 by Major Taing Chhirc of the Cambodian Evangelical Church. The object is to promote the Christian faith and relieve poverty and distress among the peoples of Southeast Asia. Work is now solely amongst Cambodians.

Cambodia Action is a member of International Co-operation Cambodia (ICC), Global Connections and the Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia (EFC).

## DONATIONS

We rely on God to meet our needs through gifts. All donations are acknowledged unless otherwise requested. General gifts may be allocated to the greatest need, although donors can indicate a preference. Funds given for a specific appeal will be used for that purpose.

Cheques should be made payable to "Cambodia Action" and sent to the Bawtry Office.

## BANKERS

National Westminster Bank Plc, 23, Market Place, Bawtry, Doncaster, DN10 6JL, UK.  
Current A/C: 69404054;  
Sort Code: 60-02-20  
A/C name: Cambodia Action

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Cambodia Action is working in partnership in Cambodia with three other missions as part of International Co-operation Cambodia (ICC)

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## Become a Cambodia Action Representative

If you have a heart for mission and able to communicate and to look for opportunities in different groups, consider becoming a Cambodia Action representative.

If you are available and feel this could be you, contact us and we will send you a Representative Pack, consisting of a briefing about our work; a PowerPoint presentation, newsletters and brochures.

Contact Chris Catlin,  
c.catlin@cambodiaaction.org



## &gt;&gt; EDITORIAL -

Dear Friends

2015 has come and gone and as I look back over the first year that I have been given the opportunity to head up Cambodia Action, many grateful moments come to remembrance.

I remember my first trip out to Cambodia, and wondered how I would recognize my host Zoran Sulc who I had never met before. Thank God that the first person I saw, standing head and shoulders above everyone else and waving his arm, was my host. My first impression of the city of Phnom Penh was interesting, it felt all very familiar, the roads, the busyness, sight, smells and sounds all brought a remembrance of many African cities.

During this past year, I have been on a journey. I have met many new people both in the UK and Cambodia; I have travelled to and spoken to varied different groups about our work out in Southeast Asia, eaten strange but delicious foods in strange and obscure places all in the Kingdom of Wonder.

Various people joined me on my journey this past year. I recall with fondness the way that many have offered service to me, prayed for me and given me encouragement and input and I see them all as partnering in the Gospel, just like the church in Philippi did with the Apostle Paul.

I thank God for those that have approached me during this year and spoken of how they pray for Cambodia

and for the Good News being preached in that country. This year I am truly grateful for those that have volunteered their time and talents, and for the kind financial donations that we have received.

There is one thing that is clear to me from my journey during the last year; every nation is on the heart of God and He longs to be reconciled with them. He does not overlook any nation; He knows them...and Cambodia with its 15 million people are included in His sights.

Lastly, I would like to mention the wonderful team and staff that Cambodia Action has, be they in the field or in our office. Through their commitment they have, in many different ways, contributed in bringing life and hope to this nation. I look forward to 2016. I look forward to experiencing more wisdom and grace being poured out on us as we continue to serve the Lord in the Kingdom of Wonder, Cambodia.

Chris Catlin,  
Executive Director



## >> ICC FIELD TRIP

During the month of November, Mission Agency reps; ICC board guests and the ICC Design Intervention Committee travelled to the province of Takeo, to participate in a workshop that involved a number of young people aged 16-25.

Cambodia Action's Exec. Director Chris Catlin; CA's chairman David Adams & his wife were part of this field trip that was designed to get a snapshot into what the youth of Cambodia thought concerning their futures.

After travelling about 50 km outside the city into the countryside it became obvious that rural directions are difficult to follow. This became clearer after crossing a railway track a number of times, and noticing our driver stopping each farmer along the way to have a chat. He was asking for the way!

The brightly decorated Assemblies of God church was the venue for our day's activities and we were all warmly greeted by our host the pastor, a Cambodian lady who was very well respected in the villages. One could see from the brightly colored murals covering the walls inside the church that we were in a community that loved and respected this church.

The morning's events quickly got off to the usual Cambodian way of workshoping. One of the ICC staff spoke on a topic and then the youngsters broke into groups to discuss and report back their findings. The guests that had joined the day's outing were also put into the groups - we would not be observers.



The schedule and main objective of the day was to find out more of what the youth of Cambodia thought about themselves and their futures. These young aspirant Cambodians are no different from young people in any given country; they have both hopes & dreams - and fears & concerns. I found it interesting that many shared an interest in leaving the rural life behind and making it in the big city. This plays out story after story on the streets of Phnom Penh, where young people have left the old ways of life to get a job in the city. English and learning to speak it was a top priority among many of the young people that day...learn English and you could land a good job.

Part of our group participation was to dramatize some of the things that could prevent youth today fulfilling their choices and dreams, this was fun to see how both the Expats and local youth worked together to get a point across.

The full day's outing included lunch and a time to sit and chat with the hopeful young people before we headed back to Phnom Penh. This time round we only crossed the railway line once!

Chris Catlin

## >>MORE NEWS FROM MY NOVEMBER TRIP

### **Team retreat at Phnom Pehn**

Whenever I travel through to Cambodia, I always make it a priority to visit each of the team and their families, be it for a meal and fellowship. This gives me a good opportunity to see how things are going with our folks out in the field. This last trip was a real treat, because not only did I meet up with them individually but most of the team also met together at a local hotel in the city. We spent valuable time sharing the word of God together, breaking bread topped off with a lovely lunch. The team also shared some of their stories and prayer needs. David Adams, our Chairman and his wife Jan planned their trip to Southeast Asia, to attend this event and it was also wonderful that Jez and Jacqui Heasman with their son Paul, (team from Siem Reap), could join us as a family during this time as well.

### **Meeting the local leadership of M'lup Russey**

In our publications a lot has been written about the work that M'lup Russey do and are involved in. Sarah Chinn, M'lup Russey's Strategic & Technical Advisor, who is serving in Cambodia with Cambodia Action, arranged a sit and meet time with the local leadership. During my really informative time with the Executive Director and her team, I gained a better understanding of what it takes to be involved in a ministry that swims up-stream in today's orphan care 'culture'. Most people today want to tackle the problem of orphans by setting up orphanages, but M'lup Russey's vision is to see institutionalised care become the very last resort for any child. They are working hard at changing minds and paradigms when it comes to choices for any child that seems to have no parents. The team I met are part of the solution in looking for ways to reconcile children separated from many living relatives. I salute them all for the hard work and dedication shown towards Cambodian future generation.



**Visit with M'lup Russey,  
local leadership**

### **Dormitory ministry with Good Real Men**

Good Real Men, headed up by Nou Deth and advised by Zoran Sulc, a Cambodia Action team member, invited me to minister to group of around 25 young men one really hot evening on the outskirts of the city. After arriving by Tuk-tuk, making our introductions, a prayer and song, I launched into my testimony of being a young man that persued anything that could fill the hole in my heart. Good Real Men have more and more openings to minister into many similar groups around the city, it is called dormitory ministry. These three story houses, set up by different churches, can house up to 25 young men that come to the city looking for a job. It is a growing open door to Good Real Men and Cambodia Action is happy to support this work.

## >> Latest opportunities in Cambodia

Featured here are a number of roles that need to be filled with the different organizations that Cambodia Action is in partnership with. In order to see the Kingdom of God come to Cambodia we serve to seek out possible candidates to fill these and other roles.

**Communications Assistant:-  
Mondulakiri/Ratanakiri  
Province:** Work alongside the IBCDE management team, compiling and editing reports, writing up documents for internal and external use. Building the English language among team.

**Elementary/Primary Principal-  
Phnom Penh :** Hope International School are looking for a suitably qualified and dynamic Elementary/Primary School Principal to come and join our team at HOPE in Cambodia.

**Palliative care - Phnom  
Penh:** To bring technical expertise to ICC on Palliative care, explore and develop ICC's involvement in the sector.

**Short term tasks- head  
office and projects:** ICC has different areas of needs roles involve teaching English, research and public relations. Minimum 6 months.

**Science Teacher- Siem Reap:** Are you a qualified Science Teacher with the ability to inspire and motivate students in Years 6 - 10? We are looking for a Science Teacher to come and join our team at HOPE in Cambodia based at our campus in Siem Reap.

**Fundraiser - Phnom Penh:** To support the leadership and fundraising team in donor networking and fundraising.

**High School Principals- Phnom Penh and Siem Reap :** Hope International School has need to recruit two high school principals to lead the campuses from Preschool to year 10 serving the Christian and missionary expat community from over 20 different countries.

**Chief Finance Officer- Phnom Penh:** Work in coordination with the Director, school management team and Board to define, update and document financial policies and practices, maintaining the financial integrity of the school.

**Anti-human Trafficking resource person- Phnom Penh and provinces:** to assist in the implementation of Trafficking response pilot project.

**IB English Teacher- Phnom Penh:** Are you a qualified Secondary English teacher looking to teach students in Years 11 and 12 using the International Baccalaureate Program? We are looking for English teachers to come and join our team at HOPE in Cambodia and will provide IB training for all teachers who are successfully employed.

**Not all the roles that are currently available are featured here so please contact Chris Catlin for a complete list. [c.catlin@cambodiaaction.org](mailto:c.catlin@cambodiaaction.org)**

## >> Saying Goodbye to David Sriyoheswaran



David and Miri

### **On Arrival**

March 1st 2014, my first day in Cambodia, seems so long ago now! A lot happened in my first week including buying a moto, finding a new flat to stay and beginning Khmer language classes. This was a real blessing as it allowed me to settle in quickly. In the following month I found a great church to be part of and had developed great friendships with my colleagues. I felt an overwhelming sense of God being with me and being at home in Cambodia. To celebrate, in April I did what I love most, cycled 450kms in three days across the countryside and coast. It was my first trip to the provinces and I met many wonderful Cambodians on my many ice coffee breaks from the scorching heat, during which I got to practice my very limited Khmer.

### **Work in Cambodia**

I have been very blessed to have been involved in so many different areas of work. At ICC my role was to help the finance teams with training in internal audit, reviewing financial processes

used by community savings groups in the rural provinces, developing finance manuals, meeting with churches/community based groups in the provinces to seek out potential social businesses which can be invested in and seeking out new donors for current and planned projects. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity I have had to see first-hand work in the rural and remote provinces.

In Prison Fellowship Cambodia, my role was to mentor the finance manager and to assist her in reviewing and updating all financial processes, to play the role of an acting finance manager for four months while we recruited a new manager and to mentor the new finance manager. Miri and I also had the opportunity to lead one of the bible studies in the Kandal prison.

And finally, in M'Lup Russey my role was to mentor the finance manager as well as provide support in the areas of financial policy development, budgeting and helping to overhaul our financial system following changes to the structure of the organisation and funding. Saren, the finance manager, became one of my best friends in Cambodia. In the last six months Miri and I have been working to document the procedures of the organisation so that they can use it as they expand their work into new provinces and to share with other organisations their good practice. It was a real answer to prayer and the fulfilment of prophetic words given before I came out, that God would use us both in a strategic way in transforming the lives of vulnerable children.

### **Belonging to a Body**

I have been a part of Liberty Family

Church, the same church the Saunders family attend. The church is mainly made up of young Cambodians with a



number of long and short term expats. There is definitely life in the church, we experience God, share His life with others and we have a lot of fun in the process! Miri and I have been part of the church during the transition from foreign to Cambodian leadership which has been exciting. Both of us are in small groups with other expats which has provided us with much needed friendship and support. The church's heart is for Cambodian and foreign believers to serve together in order to see many Cambodians come to know and experience God's freedom. Being part of such a church has given a sense of belonging to others who share the same heart for the nation, which is so vital when serving overseas!

### **Play in Cambodia**

As someone who loves cycling and running, living in a country where temperatures regularly soars above 40 degrees makes it difficult to do these things. So queue early mornings! Almost every day Miri and I wake up at 5:00am-5:30am to cycle or run before the heat and traffic. It has provided much needed 'me' time during the last two years, as well as an opportunity to

explore the provinces and to socialise with those who share my interests. In two years, I have cycled just over 10,000kms and ran 1,750kms including full and half marathons around Angkor Wat, that is a lot of early starts!

### **Getting ready to leave**

As I write this, Miri and I have less than two months remaining in Cambodia. As this beautiful nation and people have become my home and family, it is extremely difficult saying goodbye. But knowing that God has amazing plans to pour out His Spirit on this nation, and that He is already preparing and equipping people to funnel His life, we go back grateful that we could play any part in this nation's transformation.

We are looking forward to again being close to our families and friends in Europe. It also means we are in the process of reducing our belongings to 30kg each (including our bikes!) by selling and blessing others with our possessions.

In London, Miri will be continuing with her masters and I will be looking for a job in finance. We believe our time in Europe is for a season only, and that this is not our 'goodbye' to Asia, but only a 'see you soon'. We are excited about what God wants to do in our lives and through us in Europe.

We are very grateful not only for family and friends who supported us with prayers, encouragement and finances etc. but also to those of you who we have not met in person but who pray for the work of the CA team here. Thank you!

David and Miri Sriyoheswaran

## >> A new church plant among the garment workers

The garment and shoe industry in Cambodia has been steadily growing year on year since the 1990's and has an estimated work force of over 700,000 which is around 8% of the total work force of the country. Many of these would have come from rural areas to the city in hope of work and better life. But life is not always better working six days per week, for very little wages, spending a lot of their money on food and squalid housing, it is a life that has little hope or joy. But among these poor people the light of gospel is ringing out. Zoran, Margaret and I visited a church that has recently been planted among these that are in desperate need of hope and love.



Once again we made use of our usual mode of transport, a local Tuk-tuk driver to the meeting point where we would be met by Pastor Chhinho Saing's wife, Samphors, who would take us to the new church plant. Driving through the badly potholed roads, I immediately took note that this was a more populated area with laundry hanging out of windows or apartments. This was the world of the garment factory workers where I was told a small apartment could house

from 2 to 7 people to a room. This new church plant is currently housed in a single room, with no room for chairs; in fact I did not see any furniture at all. After the common Cambodian greetings were out the way, greeting all 10 adults present, a young man began to strum on a guitar and we worshiped the Lord be it in English or Khmer.

Zoran preached the word with us all sitting on the floor and after the message he asked for a response and three people rededicated their lives back to the Lord. There arose a number of prayer requests and we were able ask God to heal and bless those that congregated in that small room.

The bible says that we are not to despise the day of small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begun. During the Christmas break, Zoran returned to the now budding little church and reported with joy that the numbers have grown to 17 adults. Please pray for the church among those that work in the garment industry that God would continue to bless the work and that they would find better more suitable premises.



## >> Christmas Gift Appeal 2015



Through your generous giving to the Christmas gift appeal, close to 1500.00 pounds has been raised that will go towards transforming lives of the poor and marginalised in Cambodia. The funds that were sent in has gone to three Cambodia Action partner organizations working in Cambodia namely, PPC's bright futures program and Yes projects; M'lup Russey's foster care, youth and social worker programs and CVM's building materials appeal.

Thankyou to all that supported these projects. God bless

## >> Phnom Pehn - a city that is growing and growing

Many of our team members make the capital city of Cambodia their home and have done so for many years. Some stay in high rise apartments as they are called there, others in modern day homes called Pteah Lveng, translated long house.

I am amazed by the pace at which this city moves. The roads are always busy and at any given major intersection one could see trucks, cars, motorbikes and pedestrians pulling merchandise to sell, all vying for some advantage to get ahead. I have seen motorbikes ride on sidewalks and I have seen people standing in the middle of the road on zebra crossings with no one taking any notice of their need to cross. My host Zoran Sulc tells me often that although Phnom Penh is busy, two things are evident - firstly, the pace is slow and constant like an ever moving river and secondly there seems to be no road rage, people are patient with each other.

In this growing city, you need both patience and nerves of steel. I experienced this once having been dropped off by my transport and tasked with having to cross one of the busiest roads in the city, it was quite an experience. But the city seems to have a pace and beat of its own, its people and occupants live with constant movement and noise, the noise of a growing city.

Standing on the balcony for the apartment that hosts me on my trips, I count over 12 high rise buildings being developed in my 180 degree view. I see trucks deliver cement, bricks and sand at 5am in the morning to miss the rush hour, to the multiple building sites. In the early morning one often hears vendors calling out the products they have to sell while pushing their home made wagons moving up and down the streets. This is a city that does not distinguish one day from the next.

## >> Phnom Pehn continued)

Only during the Cambodia New Year celebrations does the city 'empty out', as most families head out to the rural areas to visit family.



With growth, comes an influx of hopeful people looking to the city for a job. Many of these that migrate, end up in the garment factories working hard for six days a week. It is estimated that this industry employs 700,000 people and that last year's garment exports totalled \$5.7 billion.

The latest figures state that one in ten Cambodians live in this city, and with little to no public transport, getting around the city is difficult and at times very slow. This was brought home to me on one of the evening's ministry outings to preach to some young men in a dormitory. My transport, a motorcycle with carriage on the back called a tuk-tuk became sandwiched between a large truck on one side and a number of cars on the other.

Unfazed by the congestion, our driver manoeuvred into a position on the pavement and patiently waited for a gap to open among the jam, as we waited along with hundreds of other hopefuls, a small 125cc motorbike carrying 5 people raced pass, a familiar sight in this growing city. Traffic is becoming a huge problem in the city so much so that the government are urgently seeking ways to curb the congestion that is growing.

But with all the growth, the high rise buildings springing up all over town, new cars on the streets, it estimated that 18 percent of Cambodians continue to live in dire poverty, many still lacking access to basic education and health care - and close to 8 million Cambodians are considered near-poor. Cambodia Action and the team that make the bright new growing city of Phnom Pehn their home, continue to look for ways of bringing hope and light into some of the darker stories of those who live there.

**Please pray for this city.**



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