

GOOD REAL MEN



Issue 9. January 2017

2016 has left us with good memories as we have continued to learn how to reach men. From the outset we have tried to convince and envision the Church, individual churches and denominations, about the great importance and need of effective ministry that reaches, disciples and transforms men.

Although our initial expectations were disappointed and, generally, senior church leaders have not taken up our offers of help, we have found individual Christian workers who are willing to take action to see men transformed. We have also seen some church leaders who initially didn't respond to us now actively trying to focus on men in their work. So we are encouraged that we have sown some good seed in their minds.

We have also found our focus shifting to the provinces and we want to develop this next year.

Praise God that in 2016 we have developed potential men's leaders in 3 provinces; 12 in Kampong Chhnang, 9 in Kampong Thom & 6 in Kampong Cham. We have also continued to work with 4 groups in Phnom Penh regularly meeting with around 60 men in student dorms and NGOs. The work with one of these, FEBC Family Radio, has led to us now having a weekly programme with interviews and phone-ins. Plans for growth in the new year include men's gatherings and building a team of leaders among the student dorms of Phnom Penh. As we have sought to do God's will he has provided all we have needed. It is his work so we look forward with confidence that he will continue to guide and resource us.

Every Man Has a Deep Story Hidden in Their Soul

This is the story of a young man we have come to know - it is by no means unusual; many men have gone through similar experiences, but not so many with such a positive outcome.

When I was about 6 years old my father became demon possessed. My mother sold a piece of land and a house that we owned to raise money to provide him with treatment through doctors and Buddhist healers. Although he seemed to be set free from the demon he feared that it would return. So he decided to leave my mother and 5 children - to live as a monk separately from us.

Mum could not care for all of us so she sent me and my brother to live with her brother. At my uncle's house I experienced tough physical abuse. For 7 years not a single day passed by without me getting a beating.

After 7 years my father stopped being a Buddhist monk and came back home. I was also able to return to my family, but then mother had a stroke which left her paralyzed and we all had to look after her. My father became a drunkard. Everyday he drank until he was drunk. The situation in our family was horrible. I lived with constant anger, pain and resentment.

Luckily, I found salvation in Christ and in church many people encouraged and comforted me. They were good neighbors and became a good family to me and this enabled me to feel peaceful in the presence of God.

One day I opened up to my mentor. "My heart is burdened and suffering because of my father - how can I deal with his drunkenness?" I asked. He gave me some very good and wise advice. It was nearly Khmer New Year's Eve so he suggested that I buy a valuable gift to give to him and find a good time to do this, when he was sober. When the opportunity came, I knelt before him, gave him the gift and told him of all the pain that I'd experienced over the years. We both cried and he stopped drinking alcohol for 8 days. Then a year ago my mother died and since then he has completely stop drinking. I have learned to forgive and love my father.

Care and understanding from other men has helped me to deal with my personal problems. I know that I cannot forget the pain that I went through but I no longer experience pain - I have been healed.

Based on our experience of envisioning, training and coaching potential men's leaders and taking every opportunity that arises we are moving forward in 2017 as follows, opening the first of 365 pages with:

1. Community Men's Meetings



We were taken by surprise when, through one of our trainees from a local church in Kampong Chhnang province, we were asked to start our very first men's group meeting with local non-Christian men in a farming village. 15 men attended our first meeting; this included the leader of the village and his assistant, who got the others to attend. We talked about the disappointments and pain men experience in life and began to show there is relief from these. These are farm labourers earning less than \$4 a day; life has limited possibilities for them!

It was clear that the men enjoyed our time together. We wish to build friendship and trust with these men and, working alongside the local church, share with them the love of Jesus Christ and begin to disciple them—that is show them how following Jesus will transform their lives for the better even though their material circumstances may remain the same.

We believe there are more opportunities to do this so we plan, with our local contacts, to identify at least 6 villages in which we can start similar community men's meetings.



2. Trained leaders starting their own Good Real Men meetings.

Many of the men we have given training to have confessed that they have been helped as they have seen for the first time that their own inner pain can be healed. They see how this has changed their behaviour and thinking toward people around them. In fact our training has been capacity building within the souls of our men. What we have done is helped them to a place of greater personal wholeness where they now feel able to help others. They now have a greater testimony to share with others. Two of them are now leading their own men's groups and many of them are praying to start a group within their own church or ministry they are serving. Some men go into ministry



unaware of hidden pain or unresolved fears, and others hope that these will disappear as they serve God and hide their inner conflicts but this always causes problems. It is far better to be healed and restored first, then having been transformed we can truly focus on those we are trying to help.

3. Radio Talk Show

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បុរសល្អពិត

ប្រធានបទ : ការឈឺចាប់នៅខាងក្នុង
ភ្ញៀវភិក្ខុយស : នូ វ៉ាន់ដេត
អញ្ជើញមកពី : Christian Vision for Men Cambodia

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www.febcambodia.org
 LISTEN LIVE

On 5th January we broadcast the first of our new series of radio talk shows. Working in partnership with Far East Broadcasting Company (Family Radio) we will deliver 30 weeks of programs all about being a Good Real Man. These will last an hour with Deth presenting talks, interviews, testimonies and listeners are invited to phone-in with questions and views. They are being broadcast live with a recording repeated later in the same week. We had a great response to the first program with men calling to say they found it interesting, relevant and beneficial.

- Pray for us:**
- We have seen the Lord faithfully provide for us financially. Pray that we recognize HIS way forward so that we continue to receive his provision
 - Pray for our developing men’s group leaders—for faith and ability to start and lead groups and for open doors to men’s work in their communities
 - Pray for 6 more villages in which we can begin men’s work and bring men to Christ
 - Pray for our radio programs; that the content is what the Lord wants, that men tune in to listen, that they are spoken to by God and that they seek and find him as a result
 - Pray for helpers so that we can extend the work of Good real men further and faster

To learn more about the work of Good Real Men please contact us:

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