



ACTION

Number 148 : Winter 2009



Sowing the seeds of a new tomorrow for Cambodia



IMMEDIATE ACTION
Donate £1.50
Text JIGSAW
To 84424

CAMBODIA

HELP US PIECE IT TOGETHER

Ratanakiri Appeal



>> MANY CAMBODIANS IN RATANAKIRI HAVE LOST HOMES AND BELONGINGS IN THE FLOODING

IMMEDIATE ACTION
Donate £1.50
Text JIGSAW
To 84424

One text message will replace a village library book lost to the floods. Education brings hope for release from poverty, WHY NOT TEXT NOW?

We receive approximately £1, you will be charged £1.50 and standard network text rates may also apply. Please get the bill payers permission.



Cambodia Action, Bawtry Hall, Doncaster, DN10 6JH.
Tel: 01302 - 714004, Email: office@CambodiaAction.org

Web site: www.CambodiaAction.org
Registered as Southeast Asian Outreach Charity No: 293382

>> THIS ISSUE: ■RATANAKIRI FLOODS Pg3. ■MISSION DIRECT Pg5. ■ENGAGE CMB10 Pg7. ■NIGHT SHELTER Pg9.

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, the Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia (EFC) and British NGO's for Development (BOND).

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: 60-02-50
A/C name: Cambodia Action

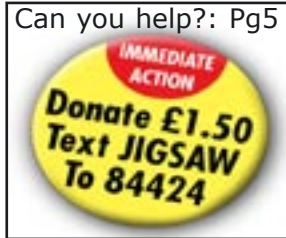
Cambodia Action, Bawtry Hall, Bawtry, Doncaster, DN10 6JH
Tel: 01302-714004; Email: office@CambodiaAction.org
Web site: www.CambodiaAction.org



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

>> " The river level rose 12-15m! "

Pg. 3-4



- >> EDITORIAL Christmas Blessing Pg 2
- >> RATANAKIRI SUBMERGED Pg 3
How the floods have affected the people of this remote area
- >> MISSION DIRECT REPORT Pg 5
Rachel Lynn reports on the 2009 trip to Cambodia
- >> ENGAGE 2010 Pg 7
Is it time you went to see what goes on?
- >> PASTOR IVOR Pg 8
Ivor Greer heads for Cambodia
- >> HAVEN NIGHT SHELTER Pg 9
Latest on Pam Lucas and her work



Dear Friends,

As we are now in the season of Advent I want to wish you all a very blessed Christmas. On behalf of all who work for Cambodia Action and the many folk who benefit from our work, can I thank for all of your support and prayers over the past year.

This time of year we often meet up with friends and family and enjoy each others company over some good food in a warm and cosy home.

I know that as we do, there will many folk in Cambodia this Christmas who are not going to be so comfortable. As you will read on Page 3, many in the province of Ratanakiri, lost their homes, all their possessions and some their lives, in the flooding

>> EDITORIAL - Christmas blessing

caused by the release of water from hydro-electric dams after the typhoon. Others in central Cambodia lost homes and crops as a direct result of the typhoon itself, which struck Cambodia with unusual severity.

Last July I stayed in one of the villages that has been devastated. I recall the village chief's hospitality allowing the Engage team to sleep under his house in our hammocks, keeping us all dry from that night's rain.

We are exhorted to be clothed with compassion by a God who is the father of compassion. Many of the Christians in Cambodia have been at the forefront of the efforts to help those who are suffering and our partners in ICC have been helping with food aid and mosquito nets.

But will attention move on once the emergency fades? Who will be interested in the more mundane help, the reconstruction of wells, toilets and restocking of schools and village libraries that formed part of our literacy work, all of which were destroyed?

ICC will, and we intend to support them as much as we can. So if you would like to join us in piecing together the jigsaw then please read the article on Page 3 and consider how you can support us in this.

Geoff Collett
Executive Director



Congratulations to Srey Sraws Long and Kevin Flynn on their recent marriage. They met when Sraws was in the UK on the CCAM dance tour, hosted by CA. They have set up home in Edinburgh. We pray God will bless their marriage and future together.

Kevin Flynn and Srey Sraws at their Phnom Penh ceremony. CA trustee Sokhon (left) acted as the bride's mum.

>> Ratanakiri submerged



ICC worker distributing vitamins to flood victims
In mid September

Ratanakiri Province. The rain was intense (300 millimeters in less than 20 hours), trees were uprooted and quite a lot of people lost their roof tops.

Typhoon Ketsana was born somewhere east of the Philippines causing extensive damage in that country. Late September Ketsana began heading towards the east coast of Vietnam and on Monday September 28th 'she' arrived with so much power that the typhoon actually managed to cross the Vietnamese hill tops and unusually enter Cambodia –primarily

It was a miracle there were no reports of dead or severely injured people throughout this province.

The real catastrophe didn't occur until 24 hours later! Ratanakiri is dissected by two major tributaries of the Mekong,

the Sesan and Srepok river systems. The two rivers also flow through Vietnam where hydro-electric dams have been constructed. On Wednesday morning the Vietnamese informed the authorities in Ratanakiri that they had to release all the water from the dams within 12 hours in order to avoid a major



Taveng Health centre under water

flooding catastrophe in Vietnam. So the water was released and the river level rose 12 to 15 meters. A humanitarian catastrophe in the lower parts of Vietnam might have been prevented – but the disaster had moved to Ratanakiri!

When RIDE project staff arrived in Taveng – the northernmost part of Ratanakiri – everything

>> SOWING THE SEEDS OF A NEW TOMORROW FOR CAMBODIA

was basically under water. All villages along the Sesan were flooded. Some villagers had fled into the hills. Some were sitting on rooftops and others were even escaping from the water by climbing up the tree tops. Schools, the health centre, market places and the RIDE project office was totally under water.

Worst of all is of course the loss of crops and life stocks among the indigenous people. **Most of the families in the villages will have a very tough year with less food and money than normal.** Diseases like cholera, dysentery and malaria will probably be a problem soon too. A lot of materials have

been destroyed including Library books, school equipment, electronic devices etc.

During the flood in Ratanakiri the local authorities showed only limited interest in helping out with the situation. Most NGO staff were already busy helping out in Taveng and the other three affected districts in Ratanakiri. Cambodia Action, together with



Taveng school under water

our ICC partners in the ICC-RIDE project do not have the budget, nor the expertise to take a leading role in the relief work.

However we have been distributing many hundreds of kilos of noodles, drinking water, blankets and medicine in the past weeks assisting the dedicated emergency relief agencies as best we can.

Adapted from a report by **Mads Leth (RIDE Project Manager)**



Villagers queue for food

What caused it?

Typhoon Ketsana provided the water, filling up the lake behind a hydro-electric dam on the Se San river, over the border in Vietnam. The dam engineers, fearing flooding as the lake filled, released the water in a surge which inundated parts of Ratanakiri downstream with several metres of water. This is in addition to the direct impact of the typhoon which caused \$50M of damage and loss of life across central Cambodia.

What can we do?

Pray for wisdom for decision makers about how best to rebuild and prevent a similar disaster.

Turn the page

to see how you can contribute financially to the effort to put the pieces back together again.

Please help us to put the pieces of the jigsaw back together. Text **JIGSAW** to 84424 and we will receive approximately £1. The money will be used to restore wells that have polluted, latrines that have been destroyed and to replace books in the village libraries set up by our literacy programmes. **One text message will buy a replacement book.** You will be charged £1.50 and standard network text rates may also apply. Please get the bill payers permission. Or alternatively give online at www.CambodiaAction.org and go to Fundraising/Giving. You can also post a cheque to us marked for Ratanakiri Appeal.



>> Helping build Cambodia

Helped by CA, Mission Direct enables teams to participate in locally led constructions projects. Rachel Lynn helped lead the three 2009 teams in Cambodia.



At New Happy Village, out in the province, eighteen one room houses and a children's centre had been built the previous year by a Cambodian Pastor and a couple from Australia.

Families from Old Happy village, a slum dwelling in

the centre of the city had been invited to rent these houses for small amounts of money. We had been to see the old village the previous day and had been amazed to walk along high unsteady walkways, which didn't look like they would hold us, to visit families in houses built on stilts made

with scrap iron and boards jutting out over the river. Everything these people owned had to be kept high up in these houses and I was surprised to even find a couple of pigs in one. We had to imagine what it must be like when the river rose in the rainy season, as we were told that the houses frequently flooded.

Mission Direct had been asked if they would build outside space or porches onto the 18 houses which would give the residents much needed space and extra protection.

We began each building session with a prayer in Khmer with the Cambodian builders. I wondered how we would be able to work with people who didn't speak the same language but was surprised how well we were able to communicate, even without our interpreter.

By the end of the first week it was great to see how far the building had progressed. The children in the village had worked out what we were doing and wanted to help out too. We began to get to know some of the families and a few were keen to invite us into their new homes to show us around. We found neat little rooms with indoor toilets, which none of them had had before.

On the last day at the site we were pleased at the transformation of the block of houses, the new row of porches we had built were freshly painted, with the bars in the windows and

the roof on. No sooner had the roof been put on, the residents were hanging hammocks and baby cradles from the joists.

Just before we left we were invited into one of the classrooms of the children's centre followed by the residents of the village. They had all gathered to thank us personally for the extensions we had built them. They thanked us for our hard work and told us what it meant to them. When the last lady thanked us, she told us we hadn't actually built her section yet, as that was for the next team, but knew that hers would be built soon. She



Rachel Lynn

was in tears and we could see how much this meant to her as she described where she used to live and the difference living here had made to her and her family.

I left with a sense of real achievement of having helped and learned about a people with such a terrible recent history.

Rachel Lynn

Mission Direct will be working again in Happy Village in 2010. If you are interested in spending a couple of weeks doing practical work to help the construction project in Cambodia, as well as some time to experience the culture, meet and work alongside Cambodian's then visit www.missiondirect.org for more information. Trip dates are as follows:

Jan 2 - 17, Jan 23 - Feb 7, Feb 13 - 28, Mar 6 - 21, Mar 27 - April 11

We have a 'registered users only' area on the new Cambodia Action website with additional information about our work and resources for fundraisers. If you register you will also gain access to our email newsletter which gives you much more up to date news about what is going on in Cambodia with our team and the work that is being done, than can be achieved through the print magazine.

It's easy to register, just click on the Login/Register menu item at the right hand end of the menu bar and follow the instructions.



Go to www.CambodiaAction.org to register for our **email news** service.



Could this be you?



Following the success of last year's visit Cambodia Action and Wycliffe UK plan to run another Engage team trip to Cambodia to visit the linguistic work amongst the minorities and to participate in some of the development projects. **Now** it is your opportunity to come and see what God is doing. Take a look at last year's photographs on the photo's section of our website and find more information under the Vacancies and visits - Engage Cmb 10 menu item.

www.CambodiaAction.org

>> Engage Cmb10

>> Pastor Ivor

Ivor Greer and his wife Carol are currently in Cambodia for a visit. They will be spending five weeks with the Christian Fellowship of Siem Reap, which has invited Ivor to consider being their pastor.

Siem Reap District is at the heart of Siem Reap Province in the north of Cambodia with a population of about 150,000 people. It has developed rapidly since the late 1990s due to the growing tourism industry. In 2008, over one million tourists visited Siem Reap. There are approximately 45 Khmer churches within the district. Praise God that the churches do work together.

Please Pray for:

- the opportunity to get to know the congregation
- health and setting up a new home
- God's anointing on the church members as they all serve Him in Cambodia

The Christian Fellowship of Siem Reap (CFSR) was started three years ago by a group of concerned Christians who wanted to provide an opportunity for English speakers (both residents and visitors) to enjoy worship, fellowship and witness in Siem Reap. The congregation meets at 4.00pm each Sunday in a function room of one of the large hotels. The group has grown with attendances now averaging 130 adults each week. Praise God that the provincial Minister of Cults & Religion has



recently withdrawn his objection to this arrangement continuing.

Ivor has served in the UK office for many years and will be very much missed by us all when he leaves.

VACANCIES:

Executive Director for Prison Fellowship Cambodia, with overall responsibility for the running of the Prison Fellowship ministry. This position, based in Cambodia, requires the post holder to raise personal support. For more information on PFC visit www.pfcambodia.org/

Senior manager for Cambodia Action. This is a UK based full time post suitable for someone with administrative and financial management skills. The post is for a self funded person or someone who can raise support.

Further information for both posts is available from Geoff Collett g.collett@CambodiaAction.org

Pam Lucas is a Cambodia Action affiliate and reported in the Spring edition of Vision magazine on her work at the Haven Night shelter in Phnom Penh

The Canadian funding Agency Ratanak has kindly agreed to continue funding us for a further three years, which is a huge relief. We recently received a visit from several of the Ratanak Board Members. The grannies arrived early that evening so that they could all have a shower and be presentable before our visitors arrived. After a quiet start they began to share their stories with members of the board and fun was had by all, their meal was late that night

and the grannies invited the board members to eat with them next time they come to Phnom Penh. Numbers are steadily growing and the grannies almost seem to own the place. They now love having visitors and are always keen for people to pray with and for them. We never push this but our staff are always ready and more than willing to pray with them. They love watching and taking part in karaoke on a DVD, we have recently purchased two karaoke DVD's with Christian songs. **Pam Lucas**



At the beginning of May during an outreach into the village, Mr Bon the village leader, asked us to see his son whose name is Akor. Akor is a lovely 20 year old man who happens to be and still is a deaf mute. He had been run down by a car whilst out collecting rubbish a few days earlier sustaining a fractured scapula (shoulder blade) along with other injuries. He was extremely dehydrated when I saw him. After verifying his injuries from out his problems. A doctor had been visiting him at home, taking lots of paracetamol tablets. After a few days and having spent some time in his to care for him with all his injuries, I felt God say "lay hands on him and bit daunting as the house was full of people. I anointed him with oil, prayed looked awful, hardly able to move with all the pain.

The following day I returned to the village to take 3 people to the dentist outside with a huge grin on his face looking so well. I asked his dad where who raised his arm and began to swing it around as his father said "Jesus That same day the three people that we took to the dentist gave their amongst the people that are being baptised at their request in a couple of

A few days later I took a physiotherapist, who was on holiday from Australia to see Akor. He looked at the x ray, tested his movement and questioned if this was the same guy as shown on the x rays, declaring what we already knew.....

This was indeed a miracle.

Pam Lucas



In the middle of a tropical storm one of our grannies called Mon who is 71 years old was brought to the shelter by cyclo, after a fall down the stairs in one of Phnom Penh's larger markets. Rosalie, who helps run the shelter, took her to a hospital where she underwent an operation for two fractures sustained to her left femur. Following the operation she went to stay at a "Healing Home", which is run by friends of mine, before being taken back to her village by Rosalie. The cost of this treatment including daily food, which is not provided in Cambodian Hospitals was brought in each day by our staff and paid for from donations that we had been given. When her family saw her before her operation they wanted to take her back to their village to see a traditional healer. The family would have spent a fortune and she would probably have died. If the shelter did not exist I tremble to think of how Mon would have survived at all with the agony of her suffering. Two weeks ago Mon returned to beg again in the smelly markets of Phnom Penh, now in its rainy season. These old grannies are a tough breed, they had to be, to survive the Khmer Rouge era.

the x-rays taken I began to sort money and just giving him a few house demonstrating just how pray for his healing". This was a very simply and left. He still

and guess what? There is Akor his sling was , he looked at Akor heal him". lives to the Lord. They will be week's time.



Photo courtesy of Nigel Goddard