



Heasman's visit

Jez, Jacqui and Paul will be visiting the UK for a six month period, arriving as you receive this magazine.

They have a lot to share with their supporters and friends, so much is different in their lives at the moment from the last time they spent six months in the UK. They live at the moment in Phnom Penh, which is a totally different environment to rural Ratanakiri, their old home.

Jez has been working in both the Finance department and as the Operations Director for the ICC partnership.

Jacqui has been occupied introducing Paul to many new experiences, helping in the finance office, organising CA social activities and contributing to the ICC newsletter.

www.CambodiaAction.org

We will have speaking schedules for both the Chhins and the Heasmans on the web site. Check whether they are speaking anywhere near you and go along to support them.

Chhin's visit

Sarah, Pola, Hannah and Alice will be visiting the UK over late June and July. They too will have a packed speaking schedule. You can see where they will be visiting on **Page 6**. You will be able to hear about Sarah's work on the SKY project, helping young people to transition from orphanages into the wider world.

Pola is busy supporting the mission community through his building business.

Sarah and Pola Chhin with Hannah and Alice



ACTION

Number 150 : Summer 2010



Sowing the seeds of a new tomorrow for Cambodia



>> WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS MARK AND JENNY RYE. THEY LEAVE FOR CAMBODIA IN JULY, SEE Pg.5



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

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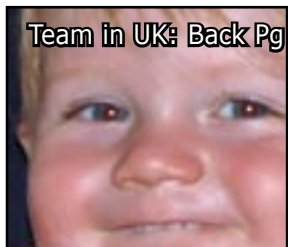
Cambodia Action, Bawtry Hall, Bawtry, Doncaster, DN10 6JH
Tel: 01302-714004; Email: admin@CambodiaAction.org
Web site: www.CambodiaAction.org



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

>> Two new members

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Running the Edinburgh marathon for Cambodia Action

>> EDITORIAL - 150th edition

Dear Friends,

So we come to the 150th edition of Action (formerly Vision) magazine.

Through its long history the magazine has told the tale of God's work with the Cambodian people both through Cambodia Action and indeed the national church and other organisations too.

Perhaps some of you remember the early magazines produced in the days when type setting was done by professionals only and colour was prohibitively expensive.

We made gradual transitions by including more photographs, doing our own desktop publishing, the odd colour page, through to a full colour magazine.

As Action magazine was created to reflect the change in name from SAO Cambodia to Cambodia Action, we also shrank to a smaller A5 format. This slightly reduces the cost of production and significantly reduces postage. The magazine is now produced internally but printed commercially.

But I do trust that it

isn't the quality of the presentation that excites you but the stories of changed lives that your support has enabled us to be involved in. It has often been chronicled by the team members involved or indeed by Cambodians who have been impacted by the Holy Spirit. I feel privileged to have shared in their stories.

Geoff Collett
Executive Director



>> WYCLIFFE/CA Engage Cambodia 2010

PLEASE PRAY

There will be a team going out to Cambodia on July 5th to learn about and get involved with the development work (particularly language and literature translation for the minorities), the national church and to get immersed in Cambodian culture. Pray particularly:

◆ that we will all hear what God is saying to us during our time in Cambodia

◆ that we will bless those with whom we work

◆ that we will be a healthy and dynamic team

◆ that our visit will glorify God and help Cambodia



Cara Crockford, Lyndsey Mann, Geoff Collett, Naomi Armstrong and Sara Lindsay at the orientation in Belfast



Rachel Ramsey, the final team member, is in SE Asia already, but guess where she has been for the last few months!

>> Finishing the race - a tribute to Pastor Meadth (4th Aug 1949 - 9th May 2010).



Pastor Meadth

as a giant blow for me, it was, of course, a huge shock to the whole community he lived in. I couldn't imagine how they would react to this unexpected tragedy.

It was seven years ago, when Pastor Meadth became a Christian. At that time, we went to build a school in his village to symbolise my desire to forgive those who

had murdered my family during the Khmer Rouge years. Pastor Meadth was then a Buddhist lay preacher. We asked him to be a leader for the church. He was reluctant to accept it, because he said that he did not have a suitable education as he could hardly read the Khmer language.

But we tried hard to encourage him and he finally accepted the challenge committing to study with us every week.

One year after that he came to see me to tell me that he did not want to be a leader any more, because it was a lot of pressure for him. We talked about how God can give us all we need to do His work and he decided to stay on.

One day, he came to tell me that people in the village wanted to kill him. He told them. **"You can kill me, but you cannot kill my soul."** People in the village fell in love with him when they saw him stand firm in his faith.

About two years after that a passion to reach out to other people grew within him. I encouraged him not to go so fast, because he needed to build himself up first before he wanted to reach out to others. He took a slower pace and after about four years God blessed him with the birth of a small group in



Perhaps it is fitting that he died rescuing his son-in-law from a well like this

Romdeng village. Others soon followed in Keansrey and Smach group. It was very hard to stop him, even though I encouraged him to build slowly. He actually wanted to start a few more groups in other villages, but we had a hard time raising leaders.

I suggested he take elder Phoeun along with him to raise him up to be a leader. Phoeun accepted the invitation to be a leader for Keansrey village. Pastor

Meadth took Phoeun and Pastor Vang with him. The 'three musketeers' travelled together for more than three months. Now, Pastor Meadth has departed to his heavenly Father. It is hard for the two musketeers to continue without him.

Recently I spent time talking to God by myself in the jungle. I tried to listen to the Lord wanting to hear what He had to tell me. My mind was at peace. I came to a point that I needed to accept this loss. When a tragedy like this hits us, we often

ask "WHY?" I think that I have asked this why question so many times already, but I have no good answer.

Take a gardener who looks after his garden. He waters his flowers and then he cuts his flowers. He usually cuts a good flower first. I strongly believe that Pastor Meadth is one of the good flowers that the Father took home first. Now, he is with his heavenly Father; I don't believe that he will want to come back!

Thank you so much for sharing



The three musketeers (Pastor Meadth middle)

your love and compassion to bring blessings to the Cambodian people. It is a special privilege, honour, and gratitude for me share this special tribute for Pastor Meadth with you. May the Lord bless you richly.

Pastor Meadth

Has sadly died rescuing his son-in-law from a well.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
2 Tim 4:7



The church in Kokpreach grew to 77 members under Pastor Meadth's ministry

Sokreaksa Himm

Reaksa and his wife, Phaly are now Canadian citizens. They have two children, Philos and Sophia. Reaksa regularly spends time in Siem Reap supporting a group of local pastors, encouraging their ministry and their congregations. Reaksa's own story of surviving the Khmer Rouge and forgiving the murderers of his family can be read in 'After the Heavy Rain' (available from the Cambodia Action office)

>>Welcome to some new Team members



Mark and Jen are off to Phnom Penh

We welcomed them into membership of Cambodia Action recently and they are setting off for Cambodia straight away. They are still looking for their final amount of financial support. If you are interested in helping them in this way then please send a donation to the office, marked for their support.

Oxford which works with Children at Risk internationally. Whilst at Spring Harvest in 2007, God clearly called us to move to Cambodia to join the Christian work against the trafficking of children into sexual slavery. Since then we have visited Phnom Penh in 2007, and again in 2009 with a church team, and have sensed God's guidance and assurance on our long-term calling to Phnom Penh.

Mark will work as a teacher at Hope International School, and Jenny will focus on language learning before volunteering in a small clinic in a poor community where many children are being trafficked nightly into the brothels of Phnom Penh. Just as God heard the cries of the Israelites in slavery (Ex 3:7), we know that he hears the cries of these precious children and will act to secure justice (Psalm 140:12). We are humbled by this call on our lives and pray that God would equip and empower us to help build His Kingdom in Cambodia as it is in heaven. We are excited have been accepted as full members with Cambodia Action and are already very grateful for your support and encouragement.

Mark and Jenny Rye

Hi, we are Mark and Jenny Rye from the UK and have been married for 15 years. We currently live in Oxford where Mark is an Art and Photography Teacher. Jenny is an Emergency Nurse Practitioner.

Since moving to Oxford in 2005, we have been members of St. Aldate's Church and have had the privilege of co-leading a pastorate and short-term teams to Brazil and Cambodia. On our last trip to Cambodia

We really enjoyed Tuk Tuk travel, but feel quite confident that our taste test of fried Cambodian spider will not be repeated in the future!

We moving to Cambodia on 30th July to live as missionaries. With hindsight, we can see that God has gently built our vision for this beautiful nation over the last 5 years since Jenny did some voluntary work with Viva, a Christian charity based in



Jenny and Mark in a Tuk-Tuk during a recent visit to Cambodia

>> Please Pray for the interviewees and panel

We hope to appoint a new **Director for Marketing and Communication** within Cambodia Action.

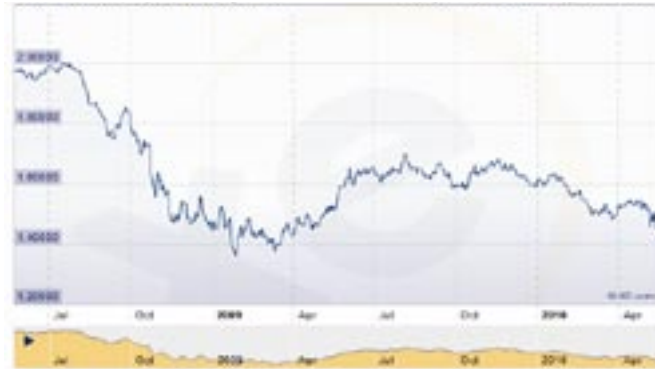
The interviews will be on June 25th at Bawtry Hall.

We would appreciate you remembering the three candidates, the interview panel and the office staff in your prayers, as we seek to discern God's will in



this important decision for Cambodia Action's future.

>> Pound plummets



God was good to us this time last year, answering our prayers for an improved financial situation, as the pound recovered some of its strength against the dollar. However the recent economic woes in Europe mean that the graph is in the wrong direction for us again. Each pound you give buys us around 2/3 of its early 2008 quantity. So please keep praying.

>> Chhins in the UK (see back page)



- 20th June at 10.30 a.m. - Seaford Baptist Church, Belgrave Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2EE
- 22nd June at 2.00 p.m. - Oasis, Seaford Baptist Church, Belgrave Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2EE
- 27th June at 11.00 a.m. - Parish Church of East Hoathly, East Hoathly, Lewes, East Sussex
- 30th June at 7-9 p.m.- Sprotbrough Methodist Church, Park Drive, Sprotbrough, Doncaster
- 4th July at (6.00 p.m.)- All Saints Church, Darfield, Barnsley - Time to be confirmed- one hour service
- 10th July at 8.00 a.m. - Breakfast - Seaford Baptist Church, Belgrave Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2EE (open to visitors but please phone the church office 01323 896009 to buy a ticket)
- 11th July at 10.00 a.m. - St Lukes CoFE, Walmer Rd/Saltwood Rd , Seaford , East Sussex , BN25 3TJ
- 11th July at 6.00 p.m. - Chichester Baptist Church, 124 Sherborne Road, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 3AW
- 18th July at 10.30 a.m. - Florence Road Baptist Church, Florence Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN16DL
- 18th July at 6.00 p.m. - Mission service - Seaford Baptist Church, Belgrave Road, Seaford, East Sussex BN25 2EE

Retdy works at HOPE International school as a teaching assistant. He is using his salary in part to help his younger brother and sister through education. He is so grateful that God has put him in a Christian working environment where he can learn from others. He wants to give back by sharing his experiences and talking about Hope School on his travels **around the UK**. See the panel on the next page for some places where you can hear his story first hand.

Before I was born my parents travelled on foot to the North of the country and then on to a refugee camp to escape their difficult life under the Khmer Rouge. I was born in 1987 and we lived in the camp until 1992.

Return to my village
My parents then took me back to their homeland near Battambang as the country was becoming more peaceful. But after a year there was still some

fighting. I was taught by my parents to eat as fast as I can. Sometime while we were eating our lunch or dinner we heard the boom of explosions and saw rocket propelled grenades fly by like fireworks. At night time villagers tried to keep themselves awake, in case they needed to flee suddenly. My parents had dug a trench behind our house. I remember clearly many times when I was a child, that in the middle of the night, I would wake up

to the boom of bombs and gunfire. My mother would grab me and my sister out of the house and my whole family would hide from the Khmer Rouge in the deep trench.

Growing up in the Village

Life growing up in the village was very difficult when I look back on it. Back then, my house had no electricity, no running water, no bathroom or toilet. Just a tiny one room house made of coconut leaves and grass. Both of my parents worked very hard every day in the rice fields and back then they just earned a small amount- about \$1 each day to support our family of three children. We ate many things that we found around us like snakes, geckos, rats, spiders, crickets, ants, dogs, cats and fermented fish.

Education in the Village

I remember my first day at school in 1994 I was so scared of staying at school on my own. I was frightened that something would happen to my

family when I was away from them. Schools in Cambodia are very different from western style schools. My classes had around 50 students in one small room, and we just had simple materials like paper and pencil. There is also a lot of corruption in the school system, you need to pay the teacher for the right to your free education. It was not common for children from my village to finish their high school education because families need their children to work and help earn money to support the family. I'm so thankful that my parents really valued education and they always kept pushing and encouraging me to finish my high school education.

Buddhism

I grew up and lived as a Buddhist in my village for 21 years. I learnt about Buddha at school, heard about the Buddhist ways from my parents, uncle, auntie, grandmas. I had been taught to live and act as a Buddhist at school and home. I was a strong Buddhist.

Cambodian Buddhism focuses on worshipping



and trying to please the spirits of our ancestors. Cambodian Buddhists believe that these spirits control the good and the bad things that happen in

daily life. I hated Christians and didn't want to hear about God from them.

I was taught this:-

Christianity

- Jesus is a foreign God.
- He is an interfering God who comes to other nations or countries and tries to make people love him and serve him.
- If you love Jesus you're not allowed to love your parents, brothers, sisters, your relatives, and your neighbour. They just want you to believe and love their God.
- Christians tell us lies that if we believe in their God when we die we can go straight to heaven. Buddhist religion teaches that if you want to have eternal life you MUST do good.
- Christians tell people that Jesus died on the cross for our sin which we don't deserve. How come it is that easy?

Continued on Page 9



Life in Phnom Penh

I had to leave my family and move 5 hours away to Phnom Penh as my parents really wanted me to learn English and be able to study at university. With no money the only choice was for me to move into a men's dormitory connected with New Life Church in Phnom Penh because it was free to live there and learn English.

that I might become a Christian if I stayed at this place connected with the church. I still didn't like being with Christians but it was God's plan for me to be living in this environment, because slowly, my heart was starting to soften and be open to receive Gods truth and to surrender my life to him.

My parents were so worried

But no matter how bad the things I had heard about

Jesus in the past, when I started to experience his love, mercy and grace, I couldn't say NO to him. He was too amazing for me to say NO when he revealed who he was to me. When I realised it was not me that loved him first but that he loved me first, I knelt down, cried and asked him to be my saviour king.

A real Job

Soon after I became a Christian, I saw a job advertised at my church to work as a Teacher Assistant at Hope International School. When I applied for this job, I thought it would be impossible for me to get it, because my English was not strong, and I had never had experience in that kind of place before. But I could have never imagined the plan that God had for my life! Come and meet me in the UK and find out what God is doing (see below).

Retdy



Retdy with some HOPE School students

21st June 7.30pm - Ansdell Baptist Church, Ansdell Road, North Lytham, St Annes Lancs FY8 4EZ 01253 739043 amin@ansdellbaptist.org	27 June - Lumb Baptist Church, Burnley Road East, Rossendale BB4 9PL 01706 214 178 www.lumbbaptist.co.uk	11 July - Elim Church Rydale, 62 - 64 Castlegate, Malton , N. Yorkshire, YO17 7DZ 01653 697796 office@elimrydale.net	25 July - St Annes Baptist Church, 112 St Andrews Road, South Lytham, St Annes , Lancs FY8 1PS 01253 720099
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GO AND HEAR RETDY SPEAKING AT ONE OF THESE MEETINGS

>> Tim runs for Cambodia



I had been thinking about doing a marathon for a while and was finally prompted to do it when my wife entered. Training was not as extensive as perhaps it should have been, as I spend 2 weeks every month on an oil rig. I try to use the running machine in the gym on the rig but struggle to do more than about 20mins before getting fed up. At home I have been hill walking quite a lot and like to think that this was of some help as well as getting in some longer runs (usually tying in with my wife's training - nothing like a fear of getting beaten as a

motivation!)

The big issue for everyone on the day was the heat. It was one of the hottest May weekend ever recorded in Scotland, with no shade or breeze. I think everyone struggled, particularly towards the end when it was hotter and people were more tired. I ran it in 4.06 which I am happy with as my first marathon given the conditions. In summary the first 30km were very enjoyable and the last 10km were awful!

One big highlight though, was the crowd. There were

thousands and thousands of people on the streets supporting. Some people had been out and bought sweets/oranges/jaffa cakes and spent their day handing them out to runners. There must have been 15 or 20 people along the route who had run a hose from their garden out to the road and were constantly hosing overheating runners down (something I was very grateful for). Near the end I had to stop for a moment's rest (no shame there as apparently the guy who led for most of the race had to stop on the last corner unable to go on and watched someone overtake him and win), immediately a spectator was beside me offering water and encouragement - I think if she hadn't, my time would have been 10 mins slower.

On finishing I promised myself that I would never do another marathon, but a week later and a selective memory is making it seem like maybe it's not such a bad idea after all. **Tim Rose**



Thanks Tim for all that hard work and for raising over £300 towards the work of Cambodia Action.