



### Helping the Kids

This month, the Solar youth group went out to a project in Phnom Penh, called the 'Bong Paoun Project'. They work in the poorest part of town. I had been looking forward to this all week and it was great fun working with the kids. We played some fun games, acted out a Bible scene on creation and then handed out snacks. It was amazing, because I thought the kids would be talking all the way through the Bible scene and I thought we wouldn't be able to get them under control, but we got them listening the whole way through. When we asked if they wanted to help tell the story, there was a mob of kids that came up and were looking for something they could act out. During this trip, I learned some very valuable things. One of them was that these kids are so happy with what they have, even if they

just get a water bottle to play catch with. Some people that I know, including me, think that to survive we have to have all the latest technology and all the fancy equipment. I learned that we do not need all this to live a good life. We just need God in our lives. Another really valuable thing that I didn't so much learn, but that really came back to me and made me think about it a lot, was that God loves these kids so much, more than they could ever imagine. They don't need to go to church every Sunday, they don't even have to own a Bible (although it'd be nice if they did), God still smiles down on them even in their difficult circumstances. I

found that really amazing.

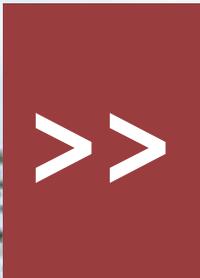
Something great that we all got out of this trip was that we all thought it would be a good idea to do this kind of thing every month, and everyone seemed really positive about it.

By **Eden Prothero**  
Solar Youth Group



# ACTION

Number 157 : Spring 2012



Sowing the seeds of a new tomorrow for Cambodia

**>> ALL ABOUT WORKING IN THE CAMBODIA PRISON SYSTEM. SEE Pg 5**



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Registered as Southeast Asian Outreach Charity No: 293382

### >> THIS ISSUE:

■ **HERRY & SUSIE**  
■ **DAWN'S STORY**

**Pg3.**  
**Pg9.**

■ **PRISON FELLOWSHIP** Pg5.  
■ **THANKS TO YOU** Pg10.

# 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  
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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)

# >> PFC partners with CA

## Pg. 5-8

Herry & Susie: Pg3



PFC: Pg5



Dawn's story: Pg9



Thanks for helping: Pg7



>> EDITORIAL Pg 2  
God is in control

>> SPOTLIGHT ON HERRY AND SUSIE Pg 3  
Find out what two of our team's ministry involves

>> OUR PRISON FELLOWSHIP PARTNERS Pg 5  
We have been in partnership with PFC for many years

>> DAWN'S STORY Pg 9  
Our youngest fundraiser

>> THANKS FOR YOUR HELP Pg 10  
The villagers thank you for your support

>> HELPING THE KIDS Back Pg  
Eden Prothero

## >> EDITORIAL - Mission in Cambodia

Dear Friends,

The Cambodian mission scene has changed a lot since the days in the '90s of sending folks across the globe to a country that most Brits would not contemplate visiting. Occasional communication through a phone line via Russia has been replaced by SKYPE and mobiles. Many missionaries are able to pop backwards and forwards to the UK when needs demand (and finances allow).

The work they do has gradually changed over this time too, with the early days dominated by development work until it became easier

to work discipling the growing church. Now with the church more mature it is a case of working alongside national Christians, serving them. We offer training and encouragement to help them disciple their own congregations and reach out to others around them in their own language.

Most of our expat missionaries work involves modelling the Christian faith with staff and beneficiaries. As we well know, its not only what you say but what you do that makes an impression and challenges people to find out more. Our development

work using the 'Umoja' principle (see page 3) takes this further by helping Christians in community build relationship and therefore opportunities to witness, as they help build the community through development activities.

Do pray for our mission staff and also the national Christians.  
Geoff Collett



Executive Director



GO2012 - 'Carrying the flame'

One of the UK's biggest mission festivals. Held over the Bank Holiday weekend, 4-7 May, at Bulstrode, Gerrards Cross, Bucks, (camping available).

Prayer. Worship. Word. Mission opportunities. Seminars. Cambodia Action will be there, come and meet us.

[www.go2012.org.uk](http://www.go2012.org.uk)

Jez, Jacqui and Paul Heasman are now living in Siem Reap. Pray for them as they set up a new sustainable technologies project.



## >> Spotlight on Herry and Susie



### Herry's roles

Helping SKY to localise, setting up a team to establish by-laws and a Board and strengthening the national management team. He will do the same shortly with the PARCE project.

Umoja advisor for VIDP project. See the article below for more information about Umoja in Cambodia.

Part of the ICC Executive team which is managing all of ICC activities.

Advising a local NGO called PPC and mentoring its staff.

Leading the Country team for Navigators, training national staff to run the Navigator's outreach and discipleship work.

Many of our readers will remember **Herry and Susie** through the reports on their work; Herry with the ICC-SPPA project which he is helping localise as Pioneering Partners Cambodia who run the Bright Future Sponsorship programme and Susie through her work with children sharing the gospel and helping them access education. Some will remember their visit to the UK for one of our conferences.

Here is an opportunity to catch up with them and their activities.

**Herry** is very interested in 'Umoja', which means togetherness in the Swahili language of East Africa. It is an exciting and transformational church and community initiative and has been successfully used in Africa for more than 20 years. It helps church leaders and their congregations work together

with the local community to bring about positive change for the whole community.

Although other people in Cambodia are partially applying the Umoja principles, ICC has decided to apply it purely and adapt it to the Cambodia context.

Herry is really interested to learn and implement it because for him it is a tool that might help with his dream to see the migration

from villages to cities in Cambodia reduced by helping people to improve their life in their village. This idea was triggered by what he saw when he joined the street children and family ministry that is done by his wife Susie in Phnom Penh. The villagers migrated to the cities with hope that they will get a better life for their families, but in reality they could not compete with the city dwellers in getting jobs and doing business. In fact

they put their families in danger by living on the street; an especially risky environment for the girls and young mothers.

Another benefit of the the Umoja approach is that it encourages the local churches to be more inclusive of their non-Christian communities so that they will be able to show God's love, share

### 'show God's love'

testimonies and the Good News to them once relationship is built. This approach works because the facilitators of the Umoja programme are from their villages themselves and so are part of the community.

Please pray that Herry will see his dream come true when the Royal Government of Cambodia consider this kind of development as a good approach to reduce urbanization.

**Susie** works at the Language Exchange Cambodia (LEC) a

One girl resigned from her job with long hours in the city garment factory to return to her village and start her own micro business in her home community.

A group of people were able to find out the information they needed for their small business project themselves, without the help of the project, demonstrating how the Umoja principles empower people to help themselves.

language centre that is helping people (mostly missionaries) to speak Khmer like Khmers. Susie is equipping the Khmer young people/students to become qualified Khmer language teachers. By helping the teachers Susie also helps the missionaries who come to Cambodia and their ministry. She has also found herself her own ministry counselling some of the teachers and foreign students when they have problems in their lives.

**Herry and Susie**

***Please consider partnering Herry and Susie. After changes in Cambodia Action's funding structure, they need more committed supporters to enable them to do this amazing work for God. Can you give regularly (between £5 and £50 per month) and commit to pray?***

Contact [g.collett@cambodiaaction.org](mailto:g.collett@cambodiaaction.org)



**Prison Fellowship Cambodia** (PFC) has been serving in Cambodia's prisons since 2001 when first attempts were made by **Linda Chisholm** to obtain access to what was then one of the most difficult prison environments in the world, with widespread sickness, disease, malnutrition, deprivation and death. There was no education, no attempt at rehabilitation, basic human rights were not being met, injustice was high, and there was no support for the men, women and often children that were released from prison. There was certainly no help for their families – many of which had suffered greatly during the imprisonment.

The first attempts that PFC made were in a system that was suspicious of organisations wanting to help, and thus it was extremely difficult to be allowed to do the simplest of things. Eventually access for small programs was permitted and through persistence and integrity respect for PFC has grown to the point that we now serve 24 prisons country wide, with open door access. They have a large team of more than 50 staff and 120 volunteers. 22 partner churches work with them to provide services in the prisons near them to restore lives affected by crime and imprisonment.

**Cambodia Action** has been

a partner of PFC since the early days, providing much needed personnel (to build the capacity of the organisation and its staff) and significant start up contributions for projects such as Blue Gate House Prisoner Reintegration. The effect of this partnership can be seen clearly by the fact that most leadership positions are filled by well trained Cambodian men and women, and in the robust financial and management structures that support the now sizeable organisation.

*Want to know more about the early days of CA and PFC's partnership and how God revealed his plans? **Nicola Day** has written an article which is available on our web site, look for 'PFC partnership' in latest news. [www.cambodiaaction.org](http://www.cambodiaaction.org)*

**PFC's Belief**

We believe that it is our responsibility to bring about restoration through the practice of biblical justice. Any offence causes injustice. While punishment can be appropriate, the goal of biblical justice is not punishment, but the restoration of peace and well-being for all people affected by crime (offenders, victims, families, and communities).

**PFC's Vision:**

We want to see those affected by crime and imprisonment restored and empowered to improve their communities.

**PFC's Mission:**

Our mission is to help restore lives and relationships affected by crime and imprisonment; to demonstrate the love of Christ in all we do; to support those who desire to know and follow him.

**Adam Hutchinson** is the current Executive Director of Prison Fellowship Cambodia (PFC) and has been in this role for two years. He and his wife Colleen have been serving with PFC since 2005 when they took over leadership of the Blue Gate House Prisoner reintegration project from Lisa Cescon and **Nicola Day**. They have been ministering in Cambodia since the late 1990's and have well over a decade of experience in the country. Adam's educational and work background is primarily in the field of leadership and Christian ministry. Colleen's is in the field of nursing and management. They have three children, 9 year old twins, Sophie and Samuel, and a 6 year old daughter named Tobey.

Their vision as a family is to see Christian communities significantly impacting their community. For them, a vibrant Christian community is only recognized by its level of service to the poor and those considered the lowest in their society.

Their focus within Prison Fellowship Cambodia has been to lay a strong foundation for decades of high levels of ministry to those affected by crime and imprisonment within Cambodia. This means that they consider themselves stewards whose responsibility is to prepare the organization for local Cambodian leadership at all levels, and empower the local church to support and partner in this exciting ministry. This has been happening over the years and it is exciting to see passionate and committed Cambodian men and women leading many areas within Prison Fellowship.



Adam and Colleen, with Samuel, Tobey and Sophie

### 1. Basic Needs and Health

This is a humanitarian aid project that seeks to fill the gaps in provision of basic care for prisoners whilst the prison department continues to improve the situation in prisons, as well as to help bring about some of those improvements. This project adapts and evolves the forms of aid provided as the situation changes. – supports up to 5,000 prisoners and prison staff every year.



Taking a blood sample

### 2. Education Services

We provide academic, vocational skills and creative arts education programmes for male, female, and youth prisoners. This programme educates 3,400 prisoners each year.



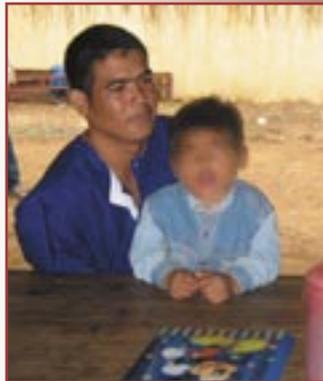
One of many classes

### 3. Child and Caregiver Support

We call this the Freedom Project – it focuses on children of prisoners and their caregivers and has several aims:

- to rescue and protect children at immediate risk of harm.
- to support care givers of children of prisoners to ensure they, their own children and those they are caring for are properly provided for and able to support themselves.
- to ensure children and their parents in prison maintain contact and relationship.
- to ensure safe long term care is found for children for whom extended family care is not an option.

This service rescues and supports over 130 children each year, improves the situation of 30 care giving families, including their children, and helps maintain relationships with children for 50 prisoners every year.



Visiting his dad

### 4. Reintegration and After Care services (Blue Gate House)

This is a vital service, and the only full reintegration service in the country. Through this programme we prepare people for release through group counselling and one on one case management. Once a person is released we provide point of release support at Blue Gate House where people can come from prison at any time and find a safe place where their needs are met – readying them for the next step of the journey. We also provide post release support for prisoners, released prisoners, their families and communities to ensure that the return home is positive for all parties, children are being cared for properly, and the family is able to support itself. This project serves 400 prisoners and former prisoners, 30 families, and 100 children each year.



Blue Gate House

### 5. Foreign Prisoner Support

This is a small programme whereby expatriate volunteers visit expatriate prisoners and provide care packages, easing the passing of their time in prison. 20 foreign prisoners are supported by this

### 6. Partnership Development Program

We are committed to engaging and developing self sustaining non-profit organisations and church partners around the country in order to enable much greater prison and community ministry – we currently have 22 church partners and 3 non-profit partners providing a range of services in their respective prisons.



Adam meeting church partners

PFC is a Christian mission and the Prison Governors are aware of this. PFC runs Christmas programmes, Bible studies and encourages Pastors to minister to prisoners. The Holy Spirit has been at work and hundreds of prisoners have found God. **PRAY** that the freedom to do this work will continue, for prisoners who have become Christians - that God would sustain them and use them for His purposes and for the staff of PFC that they would always be good witnesses through the way they work.



Dawn writing her story

set maximum, or a flat donation. Cambodia

Action provided sponsor forms which we were able to customise for our own use, and we got hold of some leaflets describing the work of Project Sky, so that

people would know about the cause they were sponsoring. We chose November 27th, Advent Sunday, for the big day.

People were extremely generous. Some responded no doubt to the cute factor, because after all no one expects Dostoyevsky from a 4-year-old. Some sponsored because they already know about Project Sky, and already donate to it. Before very long we realised we already had £300 in the bag.

The day itself came, and Dawn sat down to write. In the end she knocked out 239 words, complete with pictures, and the title she settled on was 'The Angel's Holiday'.

Pledges came in after the

event too and the total stands at about £470.

If you want to sponsor Dawn retrospectively, please email her at [dawn@ducksstory.com](mailto:dawn@ducksstory.com) and if you want to watch a video of her reciting the story, there's one at <http://ducksstory.com/sponsor.html>

We are naturally very proud of Dawn and what she's managed to do to help so many people in desperate need. If you want to harness your child's talents in aid of Cambodia Action, and at the same time teach them about what we can do to help the needs of the world, Cambodia Action would be delighted to hear from you.

**Neil (Sarah Chhin's brother in law)**

An inspiring story about our youngest fundraiser. If you have any tales of fundraising activities or novel ideas for others to use then why not email. [s.millard@cambodiaaction.org](mailto:s.millard@cambodiaaction.org)

On the next page you can read about the changed lives that result from your donations.

Our daughter Dawn, aged 4, went to a school harvest festival service in the cathedral local to her school. A few days later, she came downstairs and announced she'd been thinking about the poor people in the world.

Realising that Dawn was at the beginning of having a real awareness of the world outside her own back yard, we asked if she wanted to raise some money for her Auntie Sarah's charity work in Cambodia, namely Project Sky, (Auntie Sarah is probably better known to readers as Sarah Chhin). Dawn was very excited by the idea, and together we decided she'd write a sponsored story. We'd ask as many people as we could think of to sponsor her, either per word up to a

>> New well and Clean Water -thanks to you

In the last Action magazine we told you about the flooding in Cambodia and especially in Toul Tamork, the village where the Bright Futures programme runs in the River of Life School.

Thanks to the gifts that you have given we were able to help all the people in that village with emergency food aid. This was distributed by the church and PPC (Pioneering Partnership Cambodia) travelling by boat to reach the village and help those in need.

After the flooding had subsided the pastor of the local church, head of the school and the PPC team did a short survey of the villagers and found that many of them, and many of the children, were drinking water from wells that had been contaminated with flood water leading to outbreaks of sickness.

Using some of the money that had been given by Cambodia Action supporters, they had a new well dug and arranged for each family to be given a

water filter.

These filters were presented to each family at the school's Christmas celebration. When the Christmas celebration was finished a technician from the water filter company explained to the villagers how they should clean and use the filters. All the families promised to use this water filter for clean drinking water, keep in cleaning place/ cold and clean.

Cambodia Action want to say thank you to all of you who supported this latest flood relief appeal.

Your contributions have ensured that a whole village received emergency aid when most needed, and also that they now have a long term solution to the problem of getting clean water for each family.

River of Life school is now up and running again, with some money being used to buy new books for the students.



The new well (borehole and pump)



Demonstrating the water filter



Villagers learning how to use the filter



Delivering the food supplies