



Thank You

For supporting the Christmas Gifts Appeal 2013.

Bringing God's love this Christmas

One of the children from River Of Life School who benefits from the Bright Futures project.

Thank You!

We wanted to thank each of you who supported the work of Cambodia Action by buying a Christmas Gift from us for Christmas 2013.

In total your gifts raised nearly £2000. This money was spread over seven different projects.

Your gifts have already helped several orphans be reintegrated to their families. You have paid for vocational training for care leavers from orphanages to learn a skill to enable them to work and earn a living.

Your gifts to the Bright Futures projects have enabled desks and equipment

to be brought for the classrooms at the River of Life School, helping more children to access education.

You have also provided the money to allow another child to be sponsored to go to the school.

Your gifts have helped the YEs project by providing money to help the young people to build chicken coops and to buy in the original breeding chickens to start a flock and enable them to start running a small business.

For another PPC project, the Umoja based SAMKY project; your gifts have enabled agricultural tools to be brought and loaned out to villagers as they work

on projects to benefit the community as a whole.

Gifts don't just have to be for Christmas. Check out the next magazine and we will have some gifts that you can buy all year round. A card will be sent to you to give to your friends or family to help celebrate a birthday, wedding anniversary. Whatever occasion you want to celebrate, a gift to help support the work of Cambodia Action and our partners will have an impact far greater than a box of chocolates!

Thank you again, and please don't stop supporting our Gifts Appeals!

Steve Millard



ACTION

Number 165 : Spring 2014



Sowing the seeds of a new tomorrow for Cambodia

>> **UNDERSTAND
CAMBODIAN
POLITICS**
SEE Pg 5



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:

■ **NEW MEMBER**

Pg3.

■ **POLITICS**

Pg5.

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)

>> New Members

Pg. 3

New members: Pg3



Politics: Pg5



Entrepreneurs: Pg9



THANK YOU!.: Bk Pg



- >> EDITORIAL Pg 2
God is moving in Cambodia
- >> NEW MEMBERS Pg 3
Meet the Saunders Family and Dave Sri
- >> POLITICS Pg 5
Understand the current political events
- >> 2013 FINANCES Pg 7
Latest figures showing God's blessing to Cambodia
- >> YEs PROJECT Pg 9
How the Young Entrepreneurs project is changing lives
- >> CHRISTMAS GIFTS Pg 11
Your gifts are helping those most in need

>> EDITORIAL - Mission in Cambodia

Dear Friends,

On a recent trip to Cambodia I was able to spend some time with our team members and with some of our partner organisations. I felt really blessed to see the work that is progressing in all of the projects that I visited, from developing biblically based lessons for men's ministries to expanding the work of Bright Futures to help more children to attend school. I saw the work of M'lup Russey in placing children from orphanages back into their families and local communities and I spoke with ICC about their future plans for working with older

people. It is an exciting time to be working in Cambodia as God is moving these and other projects forward. People's lives are being changed both physically and spiritually as a result.

One of the issues facing most of these projects is funding as many of them work on very small amounts of money. Many of the national staff work sacrificially to ensure that the projects run and that the recipients are able to be helped. We would value your prayerful support as we try and secure funding to help these projects continue and expand to help relieve poverty amongst more of

Cambodia's peoples. Of course the political problems in Cambodia at the moment are causing anxiety amongst many of the population.

One of our team, Heather has written an article for you, explaining a little more about what is happening at the moment and how it impacts on the lives of some of our team members.

Heather



Steve Millard
Deputy
Executive
Director

Why not head to Bulstrode near Gerrards Cross for the GOfest get together. Cambodia Action staff and trustees will be at the mission stalls to meet and chat to you, we are always keen to see our supporters and talk with anyone interested in Mission or Cambodia. There is more information available at www.gofestival.info

>> Introducing new members - Dave, Colin and Rachel

Hello, my name is Dave Sriyoheswaran and I am 26 years old. I was born in Sri Lanka and came to England when I was young. I have been working in finance since graduating from university and am a trained accountant.

In August 2010, the Lord first gave me a desire to serve Him in South East Asia and directed me towards the Cambodian people several months later. I first had the opportunity to visit Cambodia for a month in July 2010 with Cambodia Action. During this time and in the following months, I felt God confirming His call to Cambodia.

I feel God has called me to South East Asia long term, to serve children and families in particular. I also have a desire to use some of my professional skills in the mission field and will be doing this through Cambodia Action.

For the next two years I will be working in a financial adviser capacity at M'lup Russey and Prison Fellowship. I am very excited to see what God is doing in Cambodia and to have this opportunity to listen to what God has in store long term.

Please do pray that God would help me with language learning and would allow me to develop good friendships with Cambodians as quickly as possible. Thank you!



Hello, we are the Saunders Family and we'd like to introduce ourselves. There are 6 of us so here goes ... Colin, Rachel, Phoebe (14), Jamie (12), Ewan (10) and Lucia (8).

Rachel grew up in Thailand as her parents were working with the Pwo Karen people with New Tribes Missions since the early 70s. Rachel became a Christian at the age of about 12 while at boarding school in Chiang Mai, Northern Thailand and then trained as a primary school teacher in Leeds.

Colin grew up in the-not-quite-so-exotic town of Liverpool. At the age of about 14 he started to attend a church youth group

and a few years later, when 16, he became a Christian. He studied Computer Science at the University of Edinburgh. After finishing Uni in 1993/94 we married in 1995 and settled in Hampshire. Rachel worked as a teacher until we started our family, while Colin worked as a Software Engineer for 15 years.

We were always keen to go overseas but it wasn't until 2007 that God said now is the time. We moved to Cambodia in 2009 to work at Hope International School. Rachel is currently Primary School Coordinator (Jane Prothero's deputy) while Colin works during school hours to set up ICT Systems for the school.

We feel our calling is to use our professional skills to support those on the front-line of Missionary work through our roles at Hope School. We are also involved in a young Khmer-English church called Liberty Family Church that is part of New Frontiers, like our home church in the UK.

We are excited to now be members of Cambodia Action as it will broaden our awareness of things outside of Hope, as well as the practical benefits of being part of a mission agency.

At this time there are a couple of significant prayer requests. In June 2013 we went back to the UK for a 6 month furlough, and came back to Cambodia just after Christmas. We have found it a lot harder to settle back into our life here. Also, while back in the UK, we had the boys tested because we were concerned about their height. There was one test that we couldn't have done in time, so Rachel is taking them back for 2 weeks over Easter to have that final test. Please pray for peace, provision and correct diagnosis in this matter.

Blessings, **Colin, Rachel, Phoebe, Jamie, Ewan & Lucia**

>> Cambodian politics

Illegal logging... Homes torched in land disputes... Millions at risk of poverty... Threats of more strikes... More foreign powers urging negotiations between the government and the opposition... More peaceful demonstrations being prevented... Further reports of police violence

– the Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), led by Sam Rainsy and Kem Sokha. After many months of trouble they are finally starting to negotiate an end to the political deadlock.

On 28th July 2013, Hun Sen was re-elected as Prime Minister. His party

Hun Sen’s chief political opponent has long been Sam Rainsy. His party gained over 20% of the votes in the last election after merging with a party led by Kem Sokha, to form the CNRP. Pledging to increase the minimum wage, to increase the salary of civil servants and teachers, and to bring an end to corruption at all levels of government, the CNRP gained a large following in the run-up to the election. The opposition gained large numbers of supporters through their use of social media, which gave young people a

voice for change for the first time.

Prior to the elections, there was a lot of debate both about whether they were free and fair, and about what would happen depending on which party won. On the day itself, tensions were running high as rumours of irregularities started to circulate. Many could not find their names

on the list of voters. Some put this down to Cambodia’s notoriously bad registrations system and managed to find their names at other polling stations. Others, however, saw a deliberate attempt by the government to block CNRP supporters from voting.

The official results of the election showed that the CPP won with 68 seats to the CNRP’s 55. However the CNRP immediately questioned the result, demanding an official investigation and even claiming that they won the majority. In the following weeks, CNRP supporters prepared themselves to fight the results. Meanwhile other Cambodians began stockpiling food and resources, whilst the international community was put on alert and arrangements for emergency evacuations were checked. Tanks and military personnel were



Protesters confront police

brought into the city, and road blocks were set up at key locations.

Large-scale marches through the city were also held, delivering petitions to key government departments and international embassies.

International community put on alert

For the most part these were peaceful, however anger at

road blocks and police intervention led to clashes on several occasions.

One man was killed when police opened fire with live ammunition as protesters reached a road block on their way home from demonstrations in September.

The King held a meeting with Hun Sen and Sam Rainsy to invite them to attend the opening of the National Assembly for the new government. Despite national and international criticism, the opening went ahead. The CPP were present. The CNRP were not. The refusal of their 55 law-makers elect to join the National Assembly unless an investigation into the election results is conducted has been a key issue. In theory it makes the current National Assembly illegal; in practice it has allowed Hun Sen to continue his government without any political opposition.

At the same time as all this was going on, a number of garment factory workers were holding strikes over working conditions and pay. These led to riots in



Hun Sen (right) shakes hands with Sam Rainsy

and protesters being detained in violation of their human rights...

These are some of the headlines in the Cambodian newspapers over the past year. Many see the problems stemming from the elections last year between the Cambodian People’s Party (CPP), led by Prime Minister Hun Sen – and the opposition party

has governed Cambodia in various forms since the end of the Khmer Rouge era in 1979. They were elected democratically in Cambodia’s first elections in 1993, and Hun Sen has been sole Prime Minister (after previously holding various coalition roles from 1985) since 1998, a date which many see as the final end of civil war in Cambodia.

November; once again police responded with live ammunition and an innocent bystander was killed.

Despite the fact that protests had been going on for five months at this point, they continued to attract thousands of supporters. More garment factory workers joined in, demanding an increase in the minimum wage from \$80 to \$160 per month.

At the start of January, when the government failed to meet these demands, things took a turn for the worse. The peaceful demonstrations were taken over by groups of men who started threatening police and Vietnamese businesses in the city. The police, in turn, raided homes and arrested many. In the resulting clashes, four protesters were killed, many were injured and 23 were illegally detained.

So what effect has all of this had? Outside of those involved in the protests life goes on as normal, apart from being panicked into stockpiling resources, enduring terrible traffic jams, and avoiding the more troublesome areas of the city. The same is pretty much true for the majority of uninvolved Cambodians, too, although they generally have less access to information and more concerns about the “un-Cambodian” nature of the whole thing.

However, thousands of Cambodians have been involved in the protests many are city-dwelling young people incited by the opposition and Facebook campaigns, or factory workers desperate for a better quality of life, others have been ordinary, rural Cambodians.

One positive outcome is that many Cambodians have finally learnt that

'Pray for peace, stability and justice'

they have a voice, and Hun Sen is being forced – to an extent – to listen. However this has been at the cost of several deaths, many more injuries both of protesters and police and many of those striking have lost their jobs, in reality, there doesn't seem to be much to show for it.

Compared to the violence and military action that has marked political protests in other countries recently, Cambodia has escaped lightly. There is hope that a solution will eventually be found, and the country can go back to business as usual, perhaps with a slightly higher minimum wage and slightly less opportunity for corruption.

What the future holds, however, and whether Hun Sen will survive the next election, only God knows for sure. Please continue to pray for peace, stability and justice in Cambodia.

Heather Korm (adapted from her blog).



Give as you Live®



GIVE A CAR



All the logos above have one thing in common. If you use the sites to search the internet for information, buy things that you would normally buy online from theatre tickets to your groceries; get rid of an unwanted MOT failure, or recycle used printer cartridges from both ink jet and laser printers; you can help Cambodia Action at no extra cost to yourself.

Easy search makes a small donation every time you look something up using its search engines. Give as you Live has agreements in place with all the major retail stores in the UK, so if you shop through them a percentage of what you spend will be given to Cambodia Action. Why not give it a go?

Give thanks to God and our generous supporters for the funds we have been able to use for ministering to the people of Cambodia. Pray that God would multiply our efforts to bring help to the poor and marginalized and a knowledge of His love.

Oct 2012-Sep13 FINANCIAL REPORT	2013	2012
Incoming resources	£	£
Donations	218,184	209,670
Investment income	110	92
Activities	0	312
Total incoming resources	218,294	210,074
Resources expended	£	£
Charitable activities	203,234	179,358
Costs of generating funds	11,589	12,484
Governance costs	12,285	12,621
Total resources expended	227,108	204,463
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	-8,814	5,611
Exchange rate gains (£-\$)	56	1,053
Bal carried forward at 30/9/13	30,751	39,509

Our partners at PPC (Pioneering Partnerships Cambodia) have been working at developing the YEs project (Young Entrepreneurs) over the past year.



Svey Da in her village

This project, based in Siem Reap province, is working with young people in some of the poorest parts of this province. Although Siem Reap itself is hugely busy with tourists going to Angkor Wat. The money they generate doesn't get outside of the city. Those living only an hour from Siem Reap have few options and little support from the government.

For the young people this means very basic education with not enough education to enable them to get a job, no access to further vocational training and seemingly not much of a future staying in their village. Many leave the villages and try to find work in the cities, not only in Cambodia but travelling to Thailand and even further afield to get work. Some of these young people are trafficked and unable to get home to their families, some are forced into working in the Thai fishing fleets, others disappear altogether, trafficked into the cities to

work in difficult situations. Srey Da is one of the young people who has benefited from the YEs project. Coming from a poor family she had to leave school at the end of primary school in order to help the family. A naturally shy girl her life consisted of working in the fields all day and staying at home with her family in the evenings.

In 2012 the first PPC YEs visit came to her village. Srey went to the meeting that was called for all the young people, but she didn't say anything. All the other young people in the village voted for her to be one of the village youth leaders as she was honest and hard working. She agreed and went on some training run by the project. She learnt about Micro enterprise

development, community development, micro savings and credit schemes, team building and leading teams, and several other courses.

By the time she had completed these courses Srey had changed, her family and everyone in the village said that she had become much more confident and not afraid to speak out in discussions.

Srey worked hard with the PPC advisors and developed a group of young people in her village, who were looking at how to start small businesses. Srey had an idea for herself: she wanted to start her own business as a tailor. She managed to raise the small amount of money that was needed to get her on to a training course in Siem Reap. After a year of training, Srey was so successful that the training school asked her to join them as a teacher. For the next 18 months Srey worked teaching dress design and tailoring at the training school, but her heart was always to go back to her village and help the other young people.

At the start of 2014 Srey moved back to her village and set up a sewing and



Some of Svey's work

tailoring group with some of the young people. She used the credit scheme that she had helped set up, and a grant from PPC, to buy the equipment that she needed and is now training a small group of other young people to become tailors.

The transformation of this young woman was possible because the YEs project was able to get to her village and take training sessions there. Funding for PPC YEs project runs out in June 2014 and unless we can help them to raise £7500 then the project will have to close.

At present over 150 young people are



Svey training a small group in the village

being trained and mentored through this project, for the first trainees they are like Srey, now working and taking on their own trainees to teach and train up to start their own businesses as well.

This project is transforming the lives of young people. It is saving them from having to leave their villages, growing the local economy and bringing better financial security to their families.

Can you help us? Individual gifts could help make a real difference: £20 will pay for a trainer to take a day course in a village. £50 will pay for a 2 day course. £50 buys equipment for one of the small businesses. £100 means that the PPC staff can visit and continue to mentor and train the local trainers.

If you are a business owner would you consider sponsoring one of the trainers for a year? Currently that would cost £2000.

If you would like any more information please contact Steve Millard:

s.millard@cambodiaaction.org

(Cheques payable to Cambodia Action with a covering note stating for the PPC YEs project)

