

>>CVM Camping

60 young men spent four days camping together in the Kirirom National Park about 100 miles from Phnom Penh. They had gone, with Nou Vandeth from CVM Cambodia and Ryan Miller from Denver USA to spend some time having fun and learning together. The camp is called an Initiation Camp as it focuses on the transition from being a young person to adulthood, and being a Good, Real Man in Cambodia today.

The campers followed Transformed in Christ - an experience that combines physical activity, creativity, developing awareness and spiritual wellbeing. Over the



four days of the camp the campers addressed the following issues:

- Life is not easy and one day we will die.
- I may be insignificant in the eyes of the world but I am valued and loved by God so I will take my strength from Him.
- In Jesus I find life, and that life will take me on many adventures.
- A Christian man operates with integrity and responsibility.

This camp follows on from the months of work that Deth

and Zoran Sulc have been doing with students that the meet weekly in some of the many dormitories that house students from outside Phnom Penh as they come to study at the universities. For many of the young men meeting there, it is the first time that they have encountered the Bible and what God teaches about how they should be living their lives.

“The Men’s Group Meetings have helped me to know that I am valuable and to live as a responsible man. They also help me to think carefully before making decisions. As a man I must create a good family with happiness and be aware that family is more just having sex.”

Pray for Deth and Zoran as they continue to reach out to these young men, for them to understand what it means



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ACTION



Number 169 : Summer 2015

Sowing the seeds of a new tomorrow for Cambodia

**>> CONTRASTS,
CHALLENGES AND
CHEERFULNESS Pg 3**



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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 and the Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia (EFC).

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

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

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Helping young men transition to adulthood

>> EDITORIAL -

Dear Friends,

As I set foot on the soil of Cambodia, arriving to a steaming hot Phenom Penh, I was met by many smiling Cambodian faces offering me help or a ride to the city. In the crowd however I picked out a welcoming face, Zoran Sulc of CVM Cambodia (and Cambodi Action), my host, who was clearly identifiable among the crowd.

I had arrived in Cambodia, a land that Cambodia Action actively desires to see the kingdom of God come. A country that would astound me for the next 24 days.

This being my first trip was filled with expectation as to what I would find, what I would experience but most importantly what I would sense the Holy Spirit say to my heart. I had come , yes

to meet up with our dear team members located in two different cities; I had come, yes to visit the various projects that Cambodia Action are involved with and attend our partner board meetings but I had also come to see and meet a people that I have only read of and heard of.

I caught myself thinking that with each turn in the road that I am travelling, with each excursion or outing to a project, with each venture to the local market, everything is new to me, the sounds; the language; the people.

Yet I also I am greatly calmed by the fact that God is here. I see it in the hope that the Cambodian faces portray, I see it in the uninhibited worship at a local church I attended and I see it in the happy faces of

the children at the schools that I was invited to visit. God is here, He is active, He is with us and has not abandoned us. This God we call Immanuel.

One thing that was pointed out to me, was the thanks that the Cambodia's express to those who come to sow for a better tomorrow. I want to commend all of you that read this magazine, pray for our team and projects, and support with us as we continue to seek to sow in this wonderful country, called Cambodia.

Bless you all,
Chris



(p.s I will write more of my trip out in the next magazine)

It's not too late to join us for this year's GOfest.

Why not come along and hear - James Hudson Taylor IV from OMF. Rosalee Velloso-Ewell - Director of the Theological Commission for the world Evangelical Alliance. And many others.

Meet Chris Catlin our new Director at the CA stand in the GOconnect exhibition.



19-21 June 2015
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in God's mission

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Whole Church
Whole World



>>CONTRASTS, CHALLENGES AND CHEERFULNESS!

Linda Turner spent several months in Cambodia at the end of 2014. Here she shares some of what happened...

So when you are asked to write an article about twelve weeks spent on a short-term mission trip (and holiday), where do you start?! There is so much I could tell you (yes, I could bore you with stories and photos!), but hopefully the title above can give me some structure and focus on what may be of interest.

It was a privilege to work

alongside the Cambodians and ex-pats at International Cooperation Cambodia (ICC), bringing some public health expertise to their projects. Even at the end of my time the director said that although I was an 'external consultant' everyone saw me as a member of the team, getting involved wherever I could. That was a lovely affirmation that God had placed me there and I had 'fitted in' to their everyday. Contrasts – this is not only between Cambodia and England / Ormskirk but also the contrasts within the country.

In total I spent about four weeks in Phnom Penh and five weeks in the 'provinces'. There is a real contrast between life in the busy capital and the life of the majority of people in rural Cambodia. The villagers found it hard to understand that there are so few



farmers in the UK and that we do not grow food for our own or our family's consumption. If we don't eat rice, what do we eat?

But Phnom Penh is becoming more western, probably greatly influenced by the amount of external funding coming into the country and the numbers of people from other countries working there with non-governmental organisations (NGOs). I found supermarkets selling western goods and even saw two Costa coffee shops!

This was the first time I have 'worked' outside the UK public sector and it was different to be with a Christian organisation. In the project office in the province each day started at 7.30 am with devotions. They would sing a couple of songs and then have a time of sharing



Linda working with the ICC team

prayer requests. This was all in Khmer so I didn't understand it, but towards the end of the five weeks I would share their song book, try to read the music and hum along! How lovely to start the work day by collectively giving it to God and worshipping him. I don't think that is something I can take back into the public health department at Sefton Council!

The pace of life is much slower in Cambodia, but



Planting Rice is back breaking work

not necessarily the driving! It took a while to remember to walk more slowly (partly to arrive less hot), but also not to expect as much as we would in the UK when doing group work

with villagers. If there's no one there when you arrive, that's fine, and if people leave before you've finished, that's fine too. They are busy looking after their families and tending to their paddy fields and livestock.

One of the words I frequently heard before I went to Cambodia was

God gave me the ability to keep positive

'flexibility'. It is a key attribute for this type of trip, as I quickly found out! An open mind was required in terms of defining the actual projects I had been given; the accommodation

found for me in the province; transport options so I could get back to Phnom Penh for a weekend with English speakers; and forgetting that I usually don't eat much meat!

In short I experienced the real Cambodia, as the director of Cambodia Action told the rest of the CA team at the team day, just three weeks after I arrived.

God was very faithful and I appreciated the prayers I knew were being said back in Ormskirk and elsewhere. There were many challenges throughout the whole time but an example of God's provision occurred on my very first evening. I went out for a meal with my host (Kim San) and some of her family to celebrate her sister's birthday. On the way we picked up a couple who have a role of pastoral oversight for those in-country with Cambodia Action. When asked where I was from I obviously answered Ormskirk only to find that Margaret and Zoran were at the church in Bradford that Neil went to when he became a Christian! This couple took

me under their wing, and Margaret phoned me almost every night when I was the only non-Cambodian in the village in the province. I also stayed with them during my last week when I was a tourist.

Despite the challenges (such as not speaking Khmer, having damaged ligaments around my ankle from a pedal cycle / motorcycle collision, straining my eyes from wearing old glasses when I broke the pair with my current prescription), I remained cheerful! People mentioned that I was always smiling, even though that was often because I couldn't understand what was being said, and I think God gave me the ability to keep positive, cheerful and to laugh at my own misfortunes.

The Cambodian people are so friendly that you want to smile and try out your few words of Khmer. I visited a number of different churches and often there was a request for visitors to introduce themselves. Whenever possible I did this with my faltering



Khmer even though half the congregation were English-speaking. On one occasion a round of applause went up – with my linguistic limitations this was a great encouragement!

I hope this has given you a flavour for what it was like on a short-term mission trip. It was a really positive experience and I thank God that he gave me this wonderful opportunity. I met many lovely people, both Cambodians and expats. They all made me feel at home there and I hope I brought them some encouragement (as well as the work I delivered, of course!). If God is prompting you to do something like this – then 'go for it'!

If you want information about serving in Cambodia contact Chris: c.catlin@cambodiaaction.org

We currently have vacancies for a variety of Teachers at Hope International School in both junior and senior schools. IT technicians, Social workers, story writers and English language teachers.

If you are looking for a short term stay of up to 9 months then teaching English is a great way to help our colleagues at ICC.

If you have professional skills and a year or more to give then contact Chris Catlin who will be very happy to help you explore God's plan for you.



>>Did You Know?

300
the hours per week
of Christian radio in
Cambodia.

There are 439,000
Christians in Cambodia
out of a population of 15
million.

Seventy One Percent
of Cambodians are
unreached by the Gospel.

There are twenty five
languages spoken in
Cambodia.

Team News

Heather, Phalla and Nathaniel Korm are moving to Jakarta in Indonesia in July 2015.

Heather will be teaching Middle School English and helping with the English as an Additional Language programme at Ichthus International School, a Christian school in South Jakarta.

Phalla will be studying an undergraduate course at the International Teachers

College, which is part of a university in Jakarta.

When he graduates, he will have two degrees in education (one from a university in the USA which accredits the ITC course) and be a registered teacher with the Association of Christian School International.

They plan to return to Hope International



School in Cambodia (and Cambodia Action) after Phalla graduates; Heather has a contract to finish, and Phalla will have the opportunity to work the four years in South-East Asia that are a requirement of his scholarship.

>> Cambodia Action goes to Parliament

CHILD SEX TOURISM AND
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
NEED TO STOP.
AND WE WILL STOP IT
TOGETHER.



Recently I had the privilege of going to a breakfast meeting at the Houses of Parliament. I went with our partners IJM (International Justice Mission) and Hagar International. We were going to meet with Fiona Bruce, MP for Congleton, we shred over breakfast about some of the issues facing Cambodia and other countries with foreign nationals travelling in order to abuse children. Our main speakers were James Ewins, former IJM Director in Bangalore, India and Nicola Marshall from Leigh Day, a law firm specialising in assisting victims of this abuse to receive some compensation.

Fiona Bruce has worked with IJM and the other partners to

create an Early Day motion (EDM 493) which calls for the government to increase its commitment to fighting this issue. This EDM has received cross party support and now that the election has taken place we are hopeful that it will receive an airing in the House of Commons.

Why is this important to us in Cambodia Action?

Many of the projects that we work in or support are working with the poor and marginalised people of Cambodia. It is these people who are susceptible to being trafficked and abused by



Peter Holt (Hagar), Rebecca Read (Leigh Day), James Ewins (IJM), Nicola Marshall (Leigh Day), Terry Tennens (IJM), Fiona Bruce MP, Steve Millard, and Ben Rogers (Conservative Party Human Rights Commission)



អង្គការម្លប់រុស្សឺ
M'lup Russey Organization

their fellow countrymen and those from abroad. Projects like the PPC YEs project, working with young people in Siem Reap Province, training them to grow crops and animals, tailoring, motorcycle maintenance etc. Gives them a choice to stay with their families rather than feeling they have to move to the towns and cities in order to try and find work.

For the younger children, and those who have been sent to live in orphanages, M'lup Russey works to ensure that the orphanages are run to the highest standards and that as many children as possible are placed back with their families rather than remaining in orphanages. Once they are back with their families, the support doesn't stop there. There is help for schooling and training for the children, and

help for the families as well, to ensure that the children aren't seen as a burden but as integral parts of the family.

Both of these projects help in minimising the risk of young children and teenagers being trafficked and abused. The 'Stop It Together' campaign works at the other end, stopping those from this country who want to go overseas to abuse, or tracking them down once they return and ensuring that justice is upheld.

How can I get involved?

Later on in the summer the petition will be presented at 10 Downing Street, making sure that government hears our voice.



Please pray for this campaign, pray for the continuing meetings between the partner organisations as they seek to publicise the need for a better government response to those who seek to go to Cambodia to commit horrific crimes against young people.

Pray also for the projects and the staff who work so hard in them, working to ensure that fewer and fewer children are exposed to trafficking and to the traumas that follow.

If you want to sign the petition please go to: www.ijmuk.org/petition-stop-it-together
For any further information please contact Chris.

>> Farewell to the Kingdom of Wonder

When I first started working for Cambodia Action I wasn't quite sure what to expect when I finally arrived in Cambodia. My first impression was of opening the oven door, when stepping out of the aircraft onto the tarmac at Phnom Penh airport. The heat was something that I never really got used to, but over the course of the past five years, many things that first strike you as very unusual became more understandable and not quite so surprising.

Cambodia refers to itself as the 'Kingdom of Wonder' It has been a real privilege to get to know the team, trustees and of course Geoff and Elaine. We've worked through many things, aiming to make Cambodia Action the best that it can be in order to serve the team members in Cambodia, the projects that we partner with and to raise the profile of Cambodia in the UK. I've also had the opportunity to meet many of you, our supporters during my time with Cambodia



Action. Whether it's been at GOFest or one of our conferences, at a church meeting or by phone. It is always encouraging to hear and to see the support that you give to Cambodia through the work of Cambodia Action.

I've been in the position to go and see the projects developing and to meet many of the people who have been benefiting from those

projects. To see how the projects have helped children go to school and receive an education with gifts from the Bright Futures project, supported by so many of you, has been great. Hearing the children learning and seeing them eating a good meal at lunchtime, whilst sitting in their new classrooms it has been a real honour to be able to see this transition made possible by your faithful donations.

Seeing firsthand how the gifts



Studying hard in the new classrooms at River of Life school

from you, our supporters, has made a real difference to the lives of young teenagers in Siem Reap province through the YEs project, enabling them to start small businesses and grow them with help and training from the YEs project has been amazing.



Rice donations for villagers affected by flooding

It has been good to see the response when we asked for help with reaching some of the more remote areas with food and help after flooding. Again, your response has meant that people had initial aid, but also that they had longer term help from our partners PPC.

As we have tried to support these projects and our team

of missionaries working throughout Cambodia, we have, I hope helped to keep you informed about what is happening, but more importantly we are doing what Cambodia Action is called to do; namely to reach the poor and marginalised

people of Cambodia, to bring the gospel of Jesus to them and to bring relief to their suffering.

For me, the next step is to pastoral ministry as the Pastor of Abingdon Baptist Church near Oxford. Although I may not be working for Cambodia Action it does not mean that you will be far from my mind or my heart and also in my prayers. Steve Millard.



PPC YEs camp

Please don't use my email address anymore. If you want to contact anyone from Cambodia Action either contact Elaine, or Chris. e.richmond@cambodiaaction.org or c.catlin@cambodiaaction.org