

VISION

for Cambodia • Number 127 : Autumn Issue 2004

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Youth Team Members
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Two of the Orthodontic Team
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SAO Cambodia

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GENERAL INFORMATION

SAO Cambodia 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.

SAO Cambodia is a member of International Co-operation Cambodia (ICC), Global Connections, the Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia (EFC) and British NGO's for Development (BOND).

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DONATIONS

We rely on God to meet our needs through gifts from Churches, individual supporters and funding agencies and events. 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.

We invite individual donors who pay UK tax to complete a Gift Aid Declaration Form (obtainable from the Bawtry Office). This will enable us to claim back from the Inland Revenue tax already paid (currently 28% of the gift). Cheques should be made payable to "SAO Cambodia" and sent to the Bawtry Office.

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

Editorial:

I am writing this from a rain lashed beach guest house in Sihanoukville. The Youth Team have survived the leech infested jungle but now have to put up with a tropical downpour lasting several days. This is our rest and recuperation after the labours and travel of the past few weeks! It has been helpful to me to see things through the eyes of newcomers to Cambodia as I tried to explain the successes and failures of our work and the life of the national Church.

In the jungle the dense foliage and the teeming rain meant we couldn't see the trail ahead for more than two or three meters. We were preoccupied with trying to avoid the hazards of the ants, leeches and spiders with no real thought for the direction. We trusted the guide (and the GPS!) to get us out.

Often in our Christian life and service for Him we struggle to see the direction and the ground gained, preoccupied by the immediate issues. Sometimes it is good to have the benefit of a trusted friend's viewpoint to regain our perspective and see where the Lord is taking us.



Geoff Collett

SAO Cambodia 2005 Dates for your diary

● Mission Awareness Visit – February 2005

Once again John Heard is planning to lead a Mission Awareness visit to Cambodia in the middle two weeks of February 2005. Check out the website for comments from those who have been before. **An opportunity not to be missed.** Final dates and costs will depend on numbers – contact the Bawtry office or j.heard@saocambodia.org for further details.

● Spring Conference – 11th to 13th March 2005 at

High Leigh Conference Centre in Hertfordshire. There will be speakers from Cambodia and Khmer visitors and participants. One of the speakers will be **Wati Longkumer** (see Vision 126). *Thanks to all who suggested accommodation for him and his family. We praise God that they will now be based at Redcliffe College, Gloucester (see www.redcliffe.org).*

Costs from £110 with early booking rates from £99

Plan to be there.

Kanjahn's visit

Didi & Mimi Kanjahn will be in the UK for a week in September. Regular readers may recall their story in *VISION 119 (Summer 2002)*. **Didi** is a chemist from Germany and **Mimi** a teacher from Australia. They are seconded through our ICC Partners SIL to work with the Bunong people in Mondulakiri – the most easterly province of Cambodia.



You won't want to miss *this unique opportunity* to meet them, hear about God's work in their lives and learn about the Bunong (one of Cambodia's "Minority" Hill Tribes). For details of venues contact the office, or check on the website.

Front Cover Main Photo: courtesy Geoff Collett

PEOPLE AND STORIES

KIM SAN

Who works for ICC in the finance department.

Kim San was born in 1959. Her whole family were Christians and she was converted at the age of 14. Her spiritual mentor and leader of her home group was Chhirc Taing, whom SAO Cambodia treats as their spiritual founder. His visit to Keswick and call to pray for Cambodia before his martyrdom led to the founding of SAO Cambodia.

Kim San remembers the day that the Khmer Rouge came into Phnom Penh. There was no electricity. She knew that they were lying when they said that people would only need to be way from their homes for three days. There was like a darkness surrounding them. Her family physically tied themselves to each other so that they would not be separated in the crowd of marching people as they travelled to the family home at Kampong Cham. But eventually they did become separated, with Kim San and one sister staying with their father and all their food but losing her mother and other sisters in the crowd. They searched long and hard until Kim San's father was exhausted and could go no further. God gave Kim an idea and the two sisters pushed their father until they could find water and he could recover his strength and found the rest of the family. Kim San's father blessed them both with a prophesy that there would come a time when they would be missionaries for God in their home country. Looking at the chaos and destruction around them they could not understand this and said nothing.

They stayed in that place about 10 months. Here they had a reasonable amount of food. They then had to move north. It was here that there was green grass, hills



Kim San (2nd from right), her mother, sister and niece.

and a river. The scenery reminded Kim of the words of Psalm 23. She wrote this psalm down from memory before she forgot it. They had no bible and they were unable to meet together with any other Christians.

Kim's father grew sick and he eventually died. The family had adopted an orphan baby through World Vision and they have a poignant photograph of the smiling teenaged Kim with the little boy shortly before the Khmer Rouge came. The boy and two of Kim's sisters did not survive.

missionaries for God Her mother was badly injured by a bomb or land mine, losing an eye. When the bomb exploded she prayed loudly to God believing that death was near. Miraculously the Khmer Rouge leader rather than choosing to execute a self professing Christian, decided to send her by boat to a hospital. At this point other people realised that her mother was a Christian and this actually encouraged other

Christians and was a witness to them.

When the Khmer Rouge were defeated the family eventually returned to Phnom Penh. Christians began to seek each other out and the underground church began.

a prophecy fulfilled Many of the church leaders were imprisoned during the period the Vietnamese were in control, but they did not renounce their faith. Kim has great respect for these leaders, some of whom are still leading churches in Cambodia today.

Kim still lives with her family in a large but full house, with many of her remaining family members around her and her mother. Kim has a deep love for Jesus and an infectious smile! Her father's prophesy has come to fruition and at weekends she and her sister work with evangelism teams in the countryside and support small cell churches in the villages as part of her own fellowship's outreach activities. 🇰🇲

THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

Peter Warren is a British Anglican Minister who, during a sabbatical from his Parish work, joined John Heard on a Mission Awareness trip to Cambodia. Peter was using his sabbatical to spend time studying 'the persecuted church'. The evidence of his research indicated that often the church grows during times of persecution, in number and in depth of faith.

Desiring to investigate further he chose to visit Cambodia to study the experiences of a Church that had gone through a period of rapid growth, followed by near extermination under the Khmer Rouge, and is now growing again in a period of relative freedom.



A Church meeting

Peter writes:

I wanted to hear the stories of Christians who live through the Khmer Rouge persecution and discover what the impact was on the Cambodian church of today. This fragile part of God's Body, which had gone through the unimaginable, has many lessons to teach us in the comfortable west.

The Khmer Rouge came to power in Cambodia in April 1975. The population of Phnom Penh and other cities and towns were forcibly moved out to the country. The

aim was to change Cambodia to a peasant dominated agricultural society. Education was blamed for the corruption in the country and so anyone who was educated was especially targeted. All religions also bore the brunt of the Khmer Rouge oppression. Disobedience of any kind usually brought immediate execution. It is still not known how many Cambodians died at the hands of the Khmer Rouge. Possibly one quarter of the population died from murder, starvation or illness. Christians were especially sought out, with about 80% being martyred. Many of those who survived fled to the refugee camps in Thailand, where the church grew rapidly.

The Cambodian Protestant church had begun slowly in 1923 with two Christian and Missionary Alliance couples. But from 1970 to 1975 there was rapid growth, with an estimated 10,000 believers. Only around 2,000 were to survive the Khmer Rouge, with nearly all the Christian leaders being killed.

In 1979 Vietnam defeated the Khmer Rouge and controlled Cambodia until 1989. The church functioned predominantly underground, until in the 1990s there was increased liberty, and now the church enjoys relative freedom.

a fragile part of God's Body

In 1990 there were about 12 churches in Cambodia with around 1,000 members. Today there are around 2,400 churches and up to 200,000 Christians.

But I wondered how much impact has the Khmer Rouge genocide of thirty years ago had among the people and the church of Cambodia today.

Graham Chipps is the pastor of the International Christian Fellowship (ICF). His comments



summarise much of what I heard during my research.

The Negative effects:

- There is deep trauma for those who survived.
- Cambodia is not a psychologically healthy culture anyway with the Buddhist tendency to suppress feelings.
- The disruption of the education system has meant there has been a lack of education for many young people over years. This has affected the church.
- Many cultural traditions e.g. family life, have broken down -this has affected society but it has also affected the church. In Phnom Penh especially there is a lack of any kind of tradition in the church.

The Positive effects:

- Because so much in Cambodian life has broken down there is openness to the Gospel.
- Christians have been seen to care for those in need when others, who might be thought to have caring responsibilities, do not.
- "The Blood of the Martyrs" There seems to be a spiritual significance when Christians die for their faith. When

martyrs pay the price doors seem to open spiritually.

Cambodian leaders identified these main challenges facing their Church today:

- For pastors to be really called by God. *By Cambodian standards many pastors are well paid and this can encourage wrong motives.*
- The need of relevant and localised training. *There are few Bible Schools and hardly anything outside Phnom Penh.*
- The need for churches to be financially self-sufficient. *It is much better for pastors to be supported by church members rather than paid by a Christian organisation.*

PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER

It is hard to put the reality of my time in Cambodia into writing. The experience was so full and yet the words so empty! God has given me a rich and precious experience with new sights and insights, stretching my mind and broadening my horizons. At the moment I am still trying to make sense of it all and reflect on what God is trying to teach me. I have enjoyed living in a very different place; beautiful, sad and amazing Cambodia! I have met some wonderful people from all over the world. I have heard some moving and inspiring stories. I have seen a young, vibrant and growing church, with all the encouragements and problems that growth brings. Behind the singing, joy and worship my mind has gone

back to those young Christians and their leaders who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their Master in those dark days of the past.

I have been richly blessed and I hope and pray that I am a better person and follower of Jesus because of it. 🙏



10 LESSONS TO LEARN FROM CAMBODIA

1. **God is in control.** He can use persecution to further His Kingdom and build His church- but persecution in itself is evil and never to be welcomed.
2. **God is stronger than the worst evil.** His Church is secure in His hands. That does not mean churches will not die. But His people are secure in Him and His church is growing. The Khmer Rouge have gone and the church is growing.
3. **We are part of Christ's Body,** which in many parts of the world is experiencing persecution. We need to learn what God wants through this.
4. **Persecution is likely to continue** and may get worse. The Western church is not immune; There are issues that we need to address (e.g. the pressure to be 'tolerant') and we may soon need to pay a cost. This may seem strange, but it is a normal Christian experience.
5. **With God's grace** Christians can maintain a living faith in the worst conditions. I was amazed
6. **'Western' Christians need humility** and great wisdom as we seek to support and help both indigenous churches and persecuted Christians.
7. **Persecuted Christians are not perfect** and sometimes they get things badly wrong- just like us!
8. **There is no substitute for servanthood** and holiness – it will be its own witness because it reflects Christ.
9. **We have so much to learn** from what God is doing in His world.
10. **Cambodia is beautiful,** and a sad and amazing place! Cambodia is still trying to come to terms with its past.



Together - Building the Church

HOSEA Monks' Training supported by WorldShare

You will be aware that Hosea recently conducted a survey of Bhuddist Temples (or Wats) to discover the level and quality of child-care given by monks in rural areas. As a result, a pilot HIV/AIDS workshops for monks was held in August.

WorldShare (a close neighbour in Bawtry Hall) recently visited Sarah in Cambodia, and want to support this work. We are delighted and grateful for this new partnership in the work of the Kingdom. You can check out WorldShare's ministry on www.worldshare.org.uk 🙏

YOUTH TEAM 2004

This year Geoff Collett led a Youth Mission Team for a one-month trip, ranging from the Temples in the North, a rain lashed jungle in the West, a rural church on stilts in the East and the busy streets of Phnom Penh in the South. The team of four Ozzies and four Brits, witnessed, worked and worshipped their way around Cambodia, by Tuk-Tuk, motorbike, foot, Elephant, Pickup, minibus and boat. Read about some of their adventures, the challenges God presented them with and the people they met.



Team 2005 after a day's painting. Casey Mitchell, Kelda Price, Sarah Baker, Geoff Sare, Scott Holgate, Nathaniel Fenton, Tina Hall.

Sunshine House Orphanage

Nathaniel Fenton

The part I enjoyed the most on the trip was the time at the Sunshine House Orphanage run by Awareness Cambodia, an Australian agency. It was about 60km outside of Phnom Penh and much hotter than the city. We had to be careful to put on sunscreen as we were out in the sun much more than before.

To begin with, the children, who had been orphaned by AIDS and some of whom were HIV +ive, were shy. But in no time they were all looking through the windows into the clinic we were painting. After

a couple of hours of sweating, painting a white wall whiter, we started to talk to the children with our few words of Khmer and their little English.

By the time they warmed to us they were clambering all over us and arguing over who got to hold our hands. They seemed to really appreciate the attention we could give them. They were all so light that it was no bother to pick them up and they enjoyed being thrown into the air (and caught!).

On the second day we organised a party for the kids whose birthday it was that month. Whilst most of the team ran party games, Sarah and I painted a slide we had erected in the sand pit. All of the children who were well enough to play (there had been a minor epidemic of fevers recently) had great fun and the experimental birthday cake made by Casey, Scott and a couple of the older children went down well.

Leaving the orphans, to whom we were already becoming attached, was hard for me as I had enjoyed playing with them. It was good to have shared with and helped Ka Ming and Brenda, the couple who run the orphanage, as they work hard there all the time. ☹



Making the monthly birthday cake at the Orphanage.

Personal Reflections

Scott and Casey

It wasn't a conscious decision of mine (**Scott** writes) to remind myself that under the skin we are all much the same, but I was conscious of how poorly I felt I could relate to the Cambodian people's past. I struggled to comprehend the stories we were told by the Khmer who survived the horror of the Khmer Rouge and the violence that followed. Back home there was a tendency to believe life is the sum of experiences due, I think, to the fact that we live in such a comfortable society. After meeting these people it was obvious that they wouldn't wish their experiences on their worst enemy. Our relationships with the Cambodians grew, not by having similar experiences but by listening to theirs.

But I think the Cambodian people struggle to understand that even with our high western standard of living we still feel longings and dissatisfaction as they do. **Casey** remembers a trip to the hairdressers with a teenage girl from the Sunshine House orphanage that we visited:

"You could see on her face how excited she was at the prospect of looking more feminine; her haircut was to symbolize the first step in overcoming an abusive past which prevented her from being comfortable with who she was. It was sad because she had the most beautiful smile and I wish she could have seen it. As the hairdresser began to cut her hair you could see her face change to disappointment, as she wasn't transformed into someone else. At that moment I felt such a sense of injustice because she was so beautiful and it took such courage for her to do this. I just hope that this will be a good

thing for her”.

This and other similar experiences remind me that Cambodians face everyday problems much as young people in our culture do. ❤️

Chicken Coop

Tina Hall

We were told we would be building a chicken coop half way through our trip to Cambodia. I imagined a small hut for ten to twenty chickens, which we could knock together in a few days.

When we arrived we found the hut was to cover a pond about 5m x 8m. Sharpening the end of some 4m stakes and bashing them into the mud in the bottom of the pond made the foundations.

Having anticipated making the entire coop ourselves we were very surprised (and relieved) to find a small army of Christian men from the local village doing all the hard work, leaving us to watch and move the odd bit of wood for them. One was a Pastor from a neighbouring village, who before becoming a Christian had been the local kidnapper! Because the bandits in the area were still afraid of him our safety was guaranteed!

It was strange for me to watch,



On a walk with the Children

recalling building methods I had learnt in England and to see methods being used I had only come across in archaeological programs on TV.

I was disappointed when our two-day stay came to an end; the coop foundations had only just been finished and I was eager to see how they would make the walls and roof. However, it was clear that this would take far more time than we had, to finish. So, despite all of the difficulties (strange food, sleeping on the floor and not being able to help much), I think this was one of my favourite parts of the trip because I enjoy woodwork and to see these simple methods was really interesting.

At School

Geoff Sare

We entered the School at Dombokhos, which was to be the site of our main project for the next few days. To our left was a long dirty building which contained the classrooms. To our right was the playground built by last year's team, overlooked by the local temple. It was all much as I remember it from the year before, except that the playground no longer looked brand new.

Our main jobs here involved a lot of painting, something we became experts at by the end of the trip. We began painting the front wall of the classrooms a light yellow colour, covering over the dirty marks as we went.

The second day some of the team painted the partition wall to the new computer room, a few others set up the new computer that we had brought with us and Geoff C took lots of photos!

We managed to finish ahead of schedule so we spent the rest of the time playing with the children, skipping, teaching them Australian Rules football and generally distracting them from their work.

Hopefully our time there will benefit the school; at least it looks a bit more pleasant! ❤️



The Church on Stilts

Chat from the Chhins

Harvest Festival

This is what we've harvested from our garden over the past 3 months:

- mangos
- bananas
- coconuts
- guavas
- lemons
- jack fruit
- sugar cane
- little round, sour, green fruits we don't know the English for!

Pola says...

I am a Christian Private Contractor, serving and helping many Christian brothers and sisters who have come to work in Cambodia. In this work, I help in many ways, for example finding houses in safe areas for them to live in, contacting the landlords for them, decorating and repairing their houses, helping to buy mopeds for them, helping them in relating with Government officials, organising house contracts for them and there are many other things that I do too.

I want to do this work, as I have seen that the Christian brothers and sisters who God calls to work in Cambodia have a difficult time, as they do not have experience of how things work in Cambodia. I have seen how difficult it is for some people and I feel sorry for them. I want to protect them from having a bad experience that will make them want to stop their work for God in Cambodia.

I want to serve those who are serving God in Cambodia - I want to serve the servants, help those who are working for God.

I want to protect their safety, so that they can continue serving the Cambodian people well, and so they can have good relationships

with Cambodian society, in order that the Cambodian people can see God's love. I serve through the love of God.

After Christmas, I started to build a new house for an Australian friend of ours called Donna. For two months, I was able to build it to a high standard and now it is all finished. I prepared the inside of the house as if it were a house in a foreign country, as Donna wanted a colour scheme similar to the ones I saw in England and Malaysia. I'm very happy with the house I built, as it is very good quality, solid, and I feel that I have really improved myself through the experience.

While doing Donna's house, I also spent some time repairing and renovating the houses of some other foreigners who work in Cambodia for Christian organisations. This means that lots of people now know my ministry, and me and there are lots of foreigners working for God in Phnom Penh who have asked me to help them. So I am always very busy and thank God for giving me this work, even though I get tired.

*I thank God
for giving me
this work*



Al Fresco Dining...

Phnom Penh by day offers a glimpse of Cambodia's former glory as a jewel of France's colonial territories in Indo-China. The long, leafy avenues, the parks with their fountains, the beautiful palace and the architecture of the old administrative buildings, all giving an impression of that distant distinction as Charles de Gaulle's favourite Asian colony.

*Phnom Penh
by night*

Phnom Penh by night, however, offers a very different view of a post-war, developing city, and the best way of viewing this other side of life is by dining at a riverside restaurant.



Small boys carrying weighing scales vie for your attention as you sit eating your dinner. They leave their houses in the countryside at 6am and travel into the city on moped taxis. From then until 11pm, they walk the streets of Phnom Penh weighing customers for 10p each. Late at night, they must make the treacherous journey back home, holding their money close and hidden.

Shoeshine boys tend to be slightly older, and make a bit more

money. As you sit at your tables, these boys will approach you, looking under the tables to gauge shoeshining opportunities before asking, 'Shoe shan?' The popularity of trekking sandals has dented the market somewhat.

The young girls selling bracelets of sweet smelling jasmine join the throngs of street sellers in the early evening. They are cheeky, using their good looks and persuasive smiles to tempt potential customers until the early hours of the morning. There are very few girls over the age of 13 selling

jasmine bracelets – it is upsetting to contemplate that the skills learnt in selling flowers could lead to a more sinister and dangerous street profession at such a tender age. A drum will herald the arrival of a **small child** leading a blind musician by a checkered scarf. Stopping at each restaurant, the couple will stop, the musician will play and the child will collect any money that is offered. The child, often no older than 5 or 6, leads the musician through the streets of Phnom Penh all day long, ending at the riverfront at night. The responsibility for the care of a blind

relative falls heavy on many young children, who never get a chance at education.

An array of children in wheelchairs, disabled from birth, are pushed up and down the streets by family members, relying on the pity of strangers for a living. Young girls show you their naked, skinny baby brothers and sisters in an effort to make ends meet. It's so difficult to know who to help and how – how can you choose? Eating al fresco in Phnom Penh certainly gives you food for thought. 🍴

On the (WH) Way – Elaine Richmond

My friends and I had a great time as we walked the 96 miles of the **West Highland Way**.

For me the walk had a spiritual dimension too. Like the Christian Walk, each day held different challenges and encounters, with the ups and downs of the hillside and valleys and streams to cross. It was always a delight to see our accommodation as in a mirage before our eyes at the end of a long stretch each day. The sight of shelter, food and rest for the night was a welcoming and beckoning sight. I thought that must be how it is when we eventually are called home to be with the Lord.



We had fantastic weather that week compared to the rest of the British Isles at that time. Wet occasionally but in general it was 'dry with sunny spells'.

Midges were a nuisance

We walked for between 7 and 9 hours each day. One day it took 11 hours;- that was the day we climbed Ben Lomond.

That was also the wettest day, but thankfully the wind dried us off nicely in between the showers.

Midges were a nuisance on the last couple of days, which meant we had to keep walking so they didn't eat our sandwiches as well as us! The terrain was hard going because of rough, stony, cobbled tracks. Thankfully none of us got blisters. The old feet did burn a bit under the bed covers at night, though. Sleeping was quite difficult even though we were very tired. I suppose that was because we were in a different bed each night, as well as all the adrenaline pumping round our bodies.

The scenery was fantastic, especially around Glen Coe. I've fallen in love with Scotland and it's mountains



and look forward to maybe doing another challenge next year.

Sponsorship money is still coming in and is now more than **£3,000**. For which we are truly grateful.

Don't feel you've missed out. There is still time to add to the total! Send any further gifts to the Bawtry office (cheques made payable to SAO Cambodia).

Thanks to all who support the work of SAO Cambodia, and me in my ministry. I will be in Cambodia from November 13th to December 4th involved (amongst other things) in running some Drugs Awareness Workshops for HOSEA. Please remember me during this time. 🍴

Coast to Coast (Mark 2)

Maybe it is something in the water at Bawtry! In July, as well as Elaine, Gary Lingard who lives in nearby Austerfield, undertook his second sponsored walk to raise funds for the work in Cambodia. In Vision 120 we mentioned the £1,340 raised through his May 2002 Coast to Coast walk. This time he has walked 200 miles from Ravensglass (in Cumbria) to Holy Island (Northumbria) and raised some £850 - which includes matched funds from National Grid Transco. Well done Gary - and thank you on behalf of the people of Cambodia. 🍴

What can you do? Lets have your ideas. Get going and we can encourage more people to become involved.

The Orthodontic Project **Jon Hammond**

Jon Hammond is a consultant Orthodontist based in Edinburgh. He has been visiting the Dental Faculty in Phnom Penh for many years. He is coordinating a team of four visiting tutors to fulfil Paul Smith's vision for this project (see page 2 of Vision 123).

On the opening evening of the SAO Cambodia conference in March 2004 Peter Lewis encouraged us to seek God's perspective of the world. At first sight the development of Orthodontic Training Program in the Dental School of developing nation might appear a little bizarre as surely there are other more pressing priorities?

Interestingly, though, God has been working in the Dental School in Phnom Penh since the opening of Cambodia in the late Eighties. Initially World Concern (now one of the ICC Partners) supported the reopening Dental School by providing materials, equipment and more importantly Christian personnel.

Since that time there has been a continuous input which has developed in four basic areas.

- aiding the Dean with syllabus development and overall strategic planning.
- professional development of the whole dental team, undergraduates, dental nurses and qualified dentists both within and outside the faculty.
- the development of the English-language program has been a significant factoring aiding communication with those visiting the School.
- the supplying, either directly or indirectly, of materials and equipment.

The common theme to all of us who committed to this programme involved was an opportunity to

serve and witness by lifestyle.

The Orthodontic Postgraduate training program is an extension of the initiatives to develop professional skills. It differs from the other programs in the degree of specialization and level of competence we are going to introduce where there is little pre-existing skill base to build on.

The plan is to train a small group of the dental faculty staff members using visiting specialist orthodontists. Each will visit for two weeks on a rota ensuring a presence in country every few months over three years - for theoretical teaching and clinical training. A similar approach was used to develop services in some of the larger Scottish islands for many years. The distances involved, the number of trainees and the level of training, together with our lack of Khmer and the standard of local facilities all combine to make this project very challenging.

We are very fortunate however in having Susanne Madsen of ICC coordinating the project and having the support of Chern Chern (an OMF Orthodontic specialist) to help with clinical supervision and teaching between our visits.

In February this year we selected four Khmer dentists for training, Dr Mom Sovranrithy, Dr Yin Sythan, Dr Ly Thin and Dr Mey Phaung.

Our Schedule

In April 2004 four members of the Orthodontic visiting team met in Edinburgh for orientation and team building. Along with Jon Hammond were Gavin Cave, Trevor

Hodge and Richard Pilley. These professionals will be joined on the project by Shirley Scola (currently on an assignment in Papua New Guinea) and Professor Jim Moss.

We have conducted some preparatory trips, the most recent in June.

We are planning to start the project's three-year cycle in October 2004. The task is daunting and without God's help a successful outcome would be seriously in doubt.

Our expectations

We anticipate something greater than simply training four orthodontists. We hope to make lasting friendships with our Khmer colleagues to allow us to share the meaning of our faith openly and honestly.

an opportunity to witness by lifestyle We hope to motivate them to seek clinical excellence as their goal, furthermore that this attitude will permeate throughout the

Dental School. We hope in time to train them to be able to provide specialist care for children and adults with congenital anomalies, e.g. clefts of the lip and palate. That will certainly take more than three years.

We pray 'Lord show us to loose the things that are binding the work you have called forth'.



Students and Leaders, Jon Hammond, Dr Mey Phanny, Dr Ly Thin, Dr (Mrs) Yin Sythan, Dr Chern Chern (OMF Malaysia), Dr Mom Sovannrithy

Cambodia News

Compiled by John Heard from various sources

Politics

A new agreement has at last been reached between the Cambodia Peoples Party (CPP) and its rivals Funcinpec. Hun Sen has been appointed for his third elected term as Prime Minister after 11 months deadlock following the General Election last year when CPP fell nine seats short of the two-thirds majority required to form a government. The impasse meant Hun Sen stayed as caretaker leader.

Final preparations will now be made to join the World Trade Organisation and for approval of the Khmer Rouge war crimes tribunal. The tribunal will only examine the period April 17, 1975 to January 6, 1979 when Pol Pot imposed the infamous "Killing Fields".

Agreement was reached over most issues but outstanding concerns include judicial and administrative reforms, border treaties with Vietnam and a salary increase for state employees to curb corruption. There are concerns about the creation of an additional 180 ministerial positions, including five additional deputy prime ministers and scores of new secretaries of state.

King Sihanouk, in self-exile in North Korea, had refused to sign the "Additional Constitution" to facilitate the new arrangements, leaving this to Senate President Chea Sim "according to his



conscience" But Chea Sim flew to Bangkok on "medical leave". Eventually Acting Senate President Nhiek Bun Chaay signed.

Earnest prayers are needed for the future of Cambodia.

Monarchy

King Sihanouk has repeatedly threatened to abdicate as an expression of displeasure with his country's politics. But he withdrew his latest threat after Cambodia's leading Buddhist monk begged him to remain.

Child trafficking

A Cambodian woman has been sentenced to 15 years for trafficking two of her children. The Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association says she was caught selling her 3 and 6 year olds for \$US350 each.

In 2003 Cambodian police investigated over 400 trafficking-related cases with 142 people now serving sentences ranging up to 20 years. The government, through the Ministry of Women's and Veterans Affairs, carries out information campaigns with workshops, pamphlets, and videos about the dangers of sex tourism, including child sex tourism.

Road Traffic dangers

Cambodia's traffic fatality rate is double the regional average and rising. Roads have improved allowing more speed and volume but drivers are not proficient and vehicles are overloaded. The concept of road safety is foreign to most. Drivers can purchase licenses, ignore rules and rarely wear motorbike helmets. Young men, make up the majority of casualties.

Foot & mouth Disease

More than 2,000 cows and buffaloes have been infected with foot and mouth disease. But officials report

the outbreak has been contained.

Mekong River damming

China's damming of the Mekong river for hydro electric schemes is posing a threat to millions of Southeast Asian farmers and fishermen. Completion of two dams on China's stretch of the 3,000 mile waterway, along with work to make the river more navigable, is expected to bring damaging changes to flow patterns.



Health

Cambodia has become the first country to reach the United Nations health agency's 2010 goal of treating three-quarters of its school-age children for intestinal parasites.

Catholicism in Cambodia

The Catholic Church in Cambodia is reported to be growing fast. Young people, unsatisfied with Buddhism, are converting to Catholicism.

They say that Buddhism doesn't have answers to basic human questions. Cambodians usually say, "Whatever happens to you comes from your karma (actions which determine fate)." But the young see this fatalism as objectionable. 🍀

Cambodia Opportunities



ICC and other agencies we are working with, have a constant need for staff to support the work. Some of these posts are available short term but many are for longer-term placements.

If you think God may be challenging you to work for Him serving the people of Cambodia as we seek to meet their physical, social and spiritual needs, then take a look at the advertised posts below.

PRISON FELLOWSHIP CAMBODIA

Seek a PROJECT MANAGER for a new Drop in Centre for released prisoners

There is currently no assistance available for prisoners upon release in Cambodia. They are often released with meagre belongings, poor health and not even the fare home. Many have lost touch with their families and do not know where they will go or how they will earn a living.

The aim is to create a Service to assist prisoners to reintegrate into society comprising a team of counsellors and a new Drop in Centre in Phnom Penh.

PFC are looking for a **PROJECT MANAGER** to help with this project. This could be an individual or a couple. Please contact Geoff Collett by email (g.collett@saocambodia.org) if interested

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Mentor and develop the team of counsellors
- Manage the Centre
- Facilitate rehabilitation programmes at the Centre

KEY SKILLS REQUIRED:

- Probation, counselling or social work experience
- Management or administration experience
- Mentoring and people skills
- Willingness to work in a cross cultural environment and learn local language and customs



Financial Director

Mainly to be an advisor/coacher of local staff in the HQ Office and projects areas overseeing the finances of ICC (treasurer / audit / donor relations)

HRD and Training Advisor

HRD / Training concepts / Organizational Development / Localization / PRA & PTD etc. (Training and management specialist - with special focus on capacity building of local staff)

Education Advisor - based at University

Purpose is to positively influence policies at Ministry level and provide support to the field. Networking focusing on Non Formal Education and Minorities

Human Resource Director

HRD / Training concepts / Organizational Development / Localization / PRA & PTD etc. (Training and management specialist - with special focus on capacity building of local staff). Personnel function for the organisation (recruitment / screening / secondments / coordination of expat and Khmer)

Programme Director

Project planning / Monitoring & Evaluation / MIS / Research

FLD Advisor/Local NGO/Org. Development

Advising FLD (NGO) - fish farming and extension) in process of localization

Project Manager for Mondulkiri project

Leading and Managing the Com Dev project among the Bhnong (literacy and food security - livestock)

Training Advisor

Practical advice on child-welfare issues (parenting skills / child rights / child care) Training and follow-up of care-givers.

Food technologist / Chemistry

Processing of products for marketing and for food preservation (Income Generation & Food security)

Veterinarian - Mondulkiri

Training local (tribal) farmers the basic principles of animal health and simple treatment.

Dentist

Teaching and coaching students at the Dental Faculty and its clinic.

ESL Teachers

Teaching English at the Dental Faculty and do support activities in the language lab and Faculty library.

Volunteers (for at least a school year - allowance available)

Teachers at an International Christian School in Phnom Penh (up to grade 8)

