

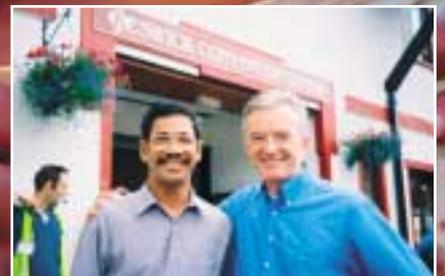
VISION

for Cambodia • Number 123 : Autumn Issue 2003

In this issue:-



New Executive Director
30th Anniversary Visits
HOSEA Project



Anniversary visit to Keswick
(see page 4)



Providing training courses
(see pages 6 & 7)

SAO Cambodia

Registered Name: Southeast Asian Outreach
UK Charity Number: 293382

UK HEADQUARTERS

SAO Cambodia, Bawtry Hall, Bawtry,
Doncaster, DN10 6JH, UK

Executive Director: Geoff Collett
e-mail: exdir@sao-cambodia.org

Telephone: 01302-714004
Fax: 01302-710027
e-mail: admin@sao-cambodia.org
Web address: www.sao-cambodia.org
Operations Director: Ivor Greer
Pers'l and Relations Director: John Heard (01474-534101)

SAO Cambodia, c/o ICC, PO Box 612,
Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Tel: +855 23 215200
email: hosea@icc.org.kh
SAO Field Facilitator: Sarah Chinn

TRUSTEES

David Adams, Andrew Au, Dr Peter Brierley, Rev John Wallis.

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).

VISION for Cambodia: Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn. News for Praise and Prayer is issued with VISION magazine

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.

BANKERS

National Westminster Bank Plc, 23, Market Street,
Bawtry, Doncaster, DN10 6JL, UK.
Current A/c: 69404054; Sort Code: 60-02-50
A/c name: SAO Cambodia

AUDITORS

Mazars Nevile Russell, Mazars House, Gildersome, Leeds, LS27 7JN

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



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

Editorial:

An exciting new chapter starts for SAO Cambodia with the appointment of Geoff Collett as our new Executive Director. His major task, for which he will need much prayer support and encouragement, is to continue the vision, flame, passion and legacy that Major Chhirc Taing left us - namely to see the Cambodia Church grow. Clearly he cannot do this without the Holy Spirit's anointing. There's much to be done, especially in finding the right people to join our team.



John Heard

Jewels of Cambodia

Our joint May 2nd event in the WEC Marquee at Bulstrode went well despite a damp and chilly evening with 180 in attendance. Many thanks to WEC. It was great to put Cambodia more on the map. The young people's programme was stimulating and the varied programme was appreciated, ending with Jim Graham's powerful address on living a Holy Spirit empowered life in an alien culture. ♥

Tragic Loss

One of those who gave testimony on May 2nd was Paul Smith, the orthodontist who visited Cambodia a number of times. He was responding to requests from the Dental Faculty in Phnom Penh for visiting specialists to help improve their standard of knowledge. On June 7th, in Northwood, London, Paul was killed in a motorbike accident. This is a tragic loss to Francine, his wife, and their two children, Charlotte and Jonathan. Please pray for the bereaved and Emmanuel Church, where Paul was churchwarden (elder/leader) and much loved.



An orthodontic course, of which Paul was the galvanising force, was due to start next January. He was so full of excitement over the project. We believe the Lord still wishes to continue that work. Jon Hammond, a Consultant Orthodontist from Edinburgh who accompanied Paul on his last visit in February, is co-ordinating a team of four visiting tutors. They are still hopeful of getting the course underway next year.

Over £5,000 has been received as donations in memory of Paul. We praise God for this. More funding will be needed. If you can assist in any way please contact the Bawtry office for details.

"I feel I lost my best friend I will remember his kindness forever." Dr. Mom Sovannrithy, Dean of the Phnom Penh Dental Faculty.

"He loved his church, ... the worship, ... the people. Above all, he loved his Lord, and that showed in all he did." Mike Talbot, Vicar, Emmanuel Church, Northwood. ♥

Front Cover Main and Back Photos: courtesy Nigel Goddard

New Executive Director for SAO Cambodia

Effective September 1st 2003 the SAO Cambodia Trustees are pleased to announce the appointment of **Geoff Collett** as our new Executive Director in overall charge of all mission affairs.

Geoff is well known to many having, with his wife Carol and daughter Anna, been part of the SAO team that pioneered our work in Cambodia in 1991. He played an important role in establishing foundations, including much work on the SCALE fish project. Since returning to the UK in 1993 he has worked at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and for

the last few years has sat on the SAO Council.

Geoff is a member of Godmanchester Baptist Church near Cambridge, serving in their Leadership Team, as Treasurer and as a home group leader. Carol is a local teacher and Anna has just graduated in Product Design.

Already he has been developing SAO Cambodia's short term and GAP year programmes and has just returned from accompanying the first group of young people. We believe God has called him to this position, we look forward to the future under his leadership and we praise God for answered



Geoff Collett

prayer. Please pray for the family at this time of change and fresh service for the Lord. 🙏

Weekend Conference March 19th to 21st 2004

You are invited to join our **Weekend Conference** Friday March 19th to Sunday 21st 2004, at the Wycliffe Centre, High Wycombe. Registration from 5 pm on Friday and close after lunch on Sunday. Cost from £80 for standard accommodation.

Come and meet **Geoff Collett**, the new SAO Executive Director. **Jez and Jacqui Heasman** will share about their work with minority tribal groups in north east Cambodia and we hope that **Hery and Susie Heryanto** will also be present to share about Income Generation schemes in poor villages and local church ministry, including children's activities. The Bible speaker will be **Peter Lewis**, Pastor of Cornerstone Church, Nottingham. 🙏

Half-Marathon in Cambodian Heat - December 2003

Kila Reimer, a very fit member of the ICC Executive Team, ran in the 2001 Angkor Wat Half-Marathon in Cambodia. This has prompted some SAO members to run in the next event in early December as an opportunity to raise sponsored funds and get fit at the same time! **Nigel Goddard, Jez Heasman** and **Ivor Greer** have begun training. If you would like to sponsor please ask for a form from the Bawtry office. Funds raised will support our work in Cambodia. 🙏

Mission Awareness Visit February 2004

A Mission Awareness Visit is being planned for the middle two weeks of February 2004. Visits give opportunity to assess a burden to serve, glean information for prayer or obtain experience to represent the work.

One 2003 participant wrote *"The trip was amazing. I was quite overwhelmed by the extent of the work being done. It laid a very important foundation in understanding and I cannot say enough how invaluable the trip was. It confirmed without a doubt that God wants me in Cambodia."*

Enquiries to join the next visit should be made to **John Heard** via Bawtry Hall, Bawtry, Doncaster, DN10 6JH. Or phone 01474-534101; email: john@sao-cambodia.org.

LATE NEWS: Brenda Higgins, a member of the 2002 visit, has flown to Phnom Penh at very short notice for a month to fill an urgent teaching need in **HOPE International School**. Pray for her and the school, meeting a vital need in serving missionary children. 🙏



Anniversary Visits

Pastor Barnabas Mam at Keswick

It is always a blessing - and a challenge - to spend time with a man of God. And so it proved as I accompanied Pastor Barnabas for much of his UK visit during July to raise awareness for Cambodia and its church. We were physically exhausted but spiritually stimulated. During his 26 days Barnabas spoke at 21 places from Stirling in the north to Gravesend in the south, from Stafford in the west to Kings Lynn in the east.

This was all part of our 30 years anniversary since we were formed by Major Chhirc Taing, then Secretary of the Cambodian Evangelical Church, in 1973. Chhirc had mentored the young Barnabas before tragically going to his martyrdom at the hands of the Khmer Rouge in 1975. During the tour Barnabas also spent time with the Bible Society and Cambodian Communities out of Crisis.



Barnabas with Bophana Taing and Ivor Greer

The central thrust of the visit was at the Keswick Convention. A big thanks to those who prayed, helped with hosting and gave out leaflets. Barnabas played his Cambodian flute and told his story at Tuesday lunchtime seminars

during each of the three weeks. We were blessed with attendances from 90 to 140 and experienced a sharing and "multiplication" of the 60 lunches ordered!

A special highlight was when Barnabas met up with Chhirc's widow Bophana

Barnabas also twice shared briefly in the main Monday evening meetings, illustrated by pictures of the work and followed by prayer for Cambodia. Many folk came to thank and talk with Barnabas. It was a thrill, too, to meet some who had been at Keswick 30 years ago and had heard Chhirc Taing's stirring appeal to the British church.

One morning there was time to enjoy the beauty of God's creation when, at 5 am, Barnabas and three Ulstermen climbed Green Gable on the Borrowdale Fells south of Keswick. It was a unique moment as we prayed, shared breakfast and listened to Barnabas playing his flute on the mountain top! A special highlight was when Barnabas met up with Chhirc's widow Bophana for the first time at her home just outside Edinburgh. There was much encouragement as they exchanged memories of Chhirc.

As the tour progressed our thoughts crystallised about a co-operative project with the Cambodian Church. We began to see how UK church leaders and Bible teachers could be mobilised to provide much needed commentaries, study aids and teaching for Cambodian church leaders. Please pray as the details are worked out over the coming months.



At the Keswick Convention with Jonathan Lamb, one of the Bible speakers

We praise God that there were also opportunities for Barnabas to speak to the Media about the Cambodian Church and its rebirth and growth. Interviews were arranged with Premier Christian Radio, Joy Magazine and Revelation Television (Sky Channel 676).

We began to see how UK church leaders and Bible teachers could be mobilised to provide much needed teaching for Cambodian church leaders

We do thank God for the his ministry in presenting the challenge of God's word to Christians and churches in the UK. We have much to learn from our Khmer brothers and sisters. If you would like to know more about Barnabas's work in Cambodia under the name of **Ambassadors for Christ Cambodia (AfCC)** then contact our

Bawtry Office for a CD with a power-point presentation and general picture resources.

Ivor Greer



An interview with Premier Christian Radio

to the UK

newcomer so I thought it might be the different culture. British families mostly do not know their neighbours but the gardens, streets and parks are clean.

FAITH Visits England

My name is Sophor, I am 20 and I work with the FAITH Project in Cambodia as an Income Generation Co-ordinator. In May, I visited England with two others from the project, before that we had only seen it on TV and heard through friends. We stayed with families who were so kind, lovely and they

made delicious English food. It is amazing how God has created such a beautiful land and I learnt about the culture, the living, the environment, all quite different from Cambodia. The British greet by shaking hands or hug and kiss. Some of the youth I met at Church did not talk much with the

I took part in many meetings at churches and schools and was excited that I could tell my testimony. It really touched hearts when I shared my life and how I accepted Jesus as my Saviour and Lord. I did Cambodian dance and enjoyed telling about our culture, living and music. They liked it very much and were amazed how we use the Kramah (scarf) in so many ways. 🇰🇲

An Evening at St Peter's, Farnborough

Andrea Birkett

In May, the FAITH team came to my church, St Peter's, comprising a Filipino, Milet (married to an Englishman, with two young children), and three Cambodians, Sophor, Pastor Tit Yang, and Thida. We started with a wonderful chicken and rice dinner deliciously prepared by Liz Willey, our minister's wife. Then we had a fascinating presentation.

After learning to say "Hello", ("Chum Riep Soor" while holding hands together as though praying and doing a tiny bowing action), Milet introduced FAITH, the fruit of her vision, working with the church to help the poor. After the terrible Khmer Rouge, almost 100% of educated Cambodians were dead, which left few with experience. This means redevelopment has been very slow. FAITH is all about encouraging poor communities to come together, help them decide for themselves what they need, and then assist them achieve that. For example, some villages feel their priority is a water borehole whilst others need a fish project.

Pastor Tit Yang had experienced beatings, torture and death threats

Next, we were entertained by Cambodian dance with graceful hand and foot movements. Then we saw the many uses for a *kramah*, a piece of cotton fabric five foot by two foot. Uses ranged from head coverings to a towel, a robe to a floor cloth, a support for a head pitcher to a shawl, and a decency preserver whilst taking an outside shower to a blanket on a cold night.

We listened to powerful testimonies from all three. The two younger ones could not remember the troubled times but Pastor Tit Yang had experienced beatings, torture and death threats. Each praised God for His love, grace and mercy and their love of

God was so evident. In 1975 there were 10,000 Christians but by 1979 there were only a few hundred left, and they met underground until 1989. Since then, the church has grown to a staggering 100,000!

By the end of the evening, I felt that Cambodia had been transformed from a place on a map into a living community of real people. In future we shall be able to pray with warmth and appreciation. 🇰🇲



Pastor Tit Yang, Sophor, Milet and Sean Goddard, John Heard and Thida



HOSEA: Supporting, Educating

Providing training and care for childrens' caregivers

Sarah Chhin,
Hosea Project Director

Marching down the road in the middle of Phnom Penh, surrounded by children singing and waving flags, I remembered the International Children's Day in Cambodia 2001. Back then, Deth Symons and I had not found out what was planned until the last moment and we were not official members of the proceedings. HOSEA was unknown among the community of Non Governmental Organisations, we had not yet done our survey among child-care facilities and were still unsure as to which direction God was leading.

What a contrast to this year! Not only did I join the International Children's Day procession, but so did Dara, a new member of our team. Not only did we march with

the children, but we were also invited to join the dignitaries on stage for speeches and presentations. We were also able to donate money to provide T-shirts, hats, water and food to 100 children taking part from 3 child-care facilities, as well as attend advance meetings to discuss speech subjects, T-shirt design and slogans.

HOSEA now has funding from the **Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission**, and this has enabled us to start in earnest. Our first job was to recruit two new team members to help take HOSEA into this exciting new phase. After receiving a record number of applications - 103 in total - and spending two days interviewing an impressive array of candidates, we made our decision. **Kou Phearith** joined as a Support Worker, and **Yim Dara** as Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper. With Deth returning from maternity leave as Khmer Project Manager, we make a well-balanced team.

During our survey in 2001, we discovered that many of the child-care facilities would accept children with HIV/AIDS but did not have trained staff to look after them. As Cambodia has South East Asia's most rapid rate of infection, this is an issue that HOSEA takes very seriously and consequently we designed a Training Course for Caregivers. This has taken place 2 days every month from April until August, split into modules covering a variety of topics. It is a creative, interactive and fun course which uses group work, games, practical



Course participants doing

demonstrations and field trips to help participants learn to care for children affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS.

There have been 12 participants on the course from 7 different organisations. Twelve does not sound a large number, but between them all, they care for about 300 children. They have learnt basic First Aid from the Head of the A & E department of a local hospital,

visited an AIDS hospice and learnt about child mental health from the Vice Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences. The **Ragamuffin Project**, which has visited three times this year for several other caregiver retreats, has also done a special Caring for Caregivers module using

creative arts therapy. There have been many other lessons besides.

The presenters have been from 14 different organisations, over half of them Khmer, a real highlight. I have often had to leave for other meetings, and when I reflect that it is a group of Khmers, being taught by a Khmer, with 2 Khmer team

'I will teach the lessons I have learned to people in the community. I really thank HOSEA for this HIV/AIDS course.'

Training Course participant



HIV/AIDS training course participants doing basic first aid training using a kramah.

educating and Advising



group work on nutrition.

members in charge of logistics, the difficulties in making the course happen diminish into insignificance.

At the beginning of the year, the World Food Programme announced it no longer felt that giving food aid to Cambodia's child-care facilities was a good use of its resources. From our survey in 2001, we knew that many facilities would be affected and wanted to find out how they were coping. We discovered that over 3000 children in Phnom Penh no longer received adequate nutrition. Some were no longer being educated, many had run away and one facility had even shut down.

HOSEA's response was to invite the facility directors to a special Forum Workshop, where they could share fears and ideas with others in similar situations, gather ideas and fresh solutions, plan ways to implement such solutions and build a lasting foundation for networking and relationships. It was a valuable and encouraging time for all. Since then, we have

been able to contact them with further ideas and possible funding opportunities and will continue to follow their situations.

One of the main recommendations HOSEA made from our 2001 survey was that the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Ministry of Social Affairs should lay down minimum standards for child-care facilities. At the moment there are no laws so anyone can open any type of facility for any reason and there is nothing to stop them.

Over the past three months, HOSEA has represented the Child Welfare networking Group on the Regulatory Framework Committee, a group of Government, organisation and UN representatives working to draft minimum standards. The draft will then be taken by the Government, amended and written as a sub-decree so that it can enter law and be enforced.

'Knowing the principals of other facilities makes it easy to cooperate later.'

Workshop participant

The presence of minimum standards will give the children better protection and offer guidelines for best practice. The Government aims to de-institutionalise child-care, so the committee is seeking to write a framework that will not only cover the current situation, but also regulate future possibilities. It's not a small task, and HOSEA plays a key role in keeping the committee moving forward.

HOSEA has managed to fit a great deal into a relatively short time, and we plan to continue in the same manner! In the next few months, workshops on child rights will start in co-operation with Licadho a Cambodian human rights organisation. Research into the level and quality of child-care



A training course presenter teaching the importance and practice of good nutrition.

currently offered by the Buddhist temples in the countryside is also planned, with the view to modifying HOSEA workshops to meet their needs. On top of that, two more team members need to be recruited so the work can continue effectively.

And that's just for this year! Much more is planned for 2004. Your prayers for the planning process would be much appreciated as we continue seeking to improve the lives of children at risk through the education of their caregivers. ♥

New addition!

Congratulations to Graham and Deth Symons on the arrival of their first child, Matthew James, on June 3rd. They returned to Cambodia on August 28th following maternity/paternity leave in the UK.



New Staff members f

Struck by Polio but not abandoned

Yim Dara

I was born in 1973; the fifth son of six children. My father was a policeman and my mother a housewife. In early 1975 I was very sick with high fever and serious diarrhoea and after one week my leg went numb and polio affected me on the right side. I had treatment at the local hospital and help from traditional medicine. The fever and diarrhoea went but unfortunately my right leg became shorter and shorter and my knee joint fused.

In the Pol Pot regime my family fled from Phnom Penh and relocated in Prey Veng Province. Sadly my father was killed in 1976. After the Khmer Rouge in 1980 I started primary school and studied until 1991, when I had to stop due to starvation. I worked at home, such as raising hens, ducks, pigs, looking after oxen, and helping my mother to cook. In 1995, I took part in a letter writing competition through radio broadcasting and came first in the whole country. I was taken to Phnom Penh for my



Phearith and Dara

prize, a job, but due to my disability I was refused.

Then I found jobs as a silversmith, a sales clerk, and in marketing retail for handicrafts made by people with disabilities. Later I joined a study course of Independent Living for Disabled Persons in Japan for 3 months. Then in April 2003, by the love of God, I was offered an assignment as Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper with the HOSEA Project. This is a very interesting job and very important for me.

Why do I say it is very important? Well, I am a disabled orphan from a difficult family and have never forgotten the feeling, the spirit and the life of orphaned children. I now have a chance to help orphans, especially those with disabilities or disease, to find more security. I know that those children, though they may eat or drink as usual, don't feel calm and need a lot of attention.

I was 7 when I started school but because of my disability, I couldn't go alone. My brother is 3 years older and everyday had to carry me one kilometre. If he was lazy or unavailable, my mother punished him. Normal 10-year-olds want to walk or run happily with other children but instead he had to carry me with the most frustrated feeling.

But I was a hundred thousand times more frustrated. I didn't want to stay on his back and I didn't want to make his life difficult. I felt sorry for him so I decided to stop studying, but my mother refused. At home he was not my brother, but like my father.

He did adult's work, ploughing, raking and growing rice etc. Therefore, during his study he didn't learn to read or write. I could see the difficulties of my family clearly and I did not want to live.

I now have a chance to help orphans and those with disabilities or disease, to find security.

How could I live? I had lost everything that was most valuable, the capacity and power to lead a balanced, meaningful life like others. How could I plan a life so full of despondency? How could I fill my life? Should I just eat, drink, and breathe as usual to accompany the hurt and shyness? Or live only for watching my family work hard, when I am a heavy burden for them? Should I destroy a body that has committed treason on itself?

"Life is struggle" is a phrase I learned by heart, but it prompted me to success. With my HOSEA work I can help children at risk to get better lives. Everything I have today is a gift from God. Try thinking back: "From a disabled orphan who can't move anywhere to a boy who can walk with crutches." With 11 school grades I am happy I can continue my studies at a famous University as well.

I am thankful I have never been affected by any disease after the polio infection. Due to the difficulty of movement on crutches, I decided to have my right leg treated. Three years ago I was sent for two operations to bend my knee joint. Now I have a leg brace and, at the moment, walk without crutches.

Here are the sayings I like best: "Ask and it will be given to you; Seek and you will find. knock on the door; it will be opened to you." God will not abandon you. 🙏

For HOSEA Project

I will do my best to work for God

Kou Phearith

I am a new Support Worker in the HOSEA project and was born in 1980 in a village in Prey Veng province. My family has 10 people, my grandmother, my parents, my older sister, my brother-in-law, my two brothers, my niece, my nephew and me. I am the second child.

In 1994, Campus Crusade for Christ came to Prey Veng. The staff shared the Gospel with the students, including myself, through teaching English. They invited us to their service on Sunday morning so I went every Sunday. God opened my heart and I received and believed in Jesus Christ. I was full of joy because I had found new life.

In 1997, I graduated from 12th grade of High School and passed the exam for the Royal University of Phnom Penh in Chemistry. I made many new friends from different provinces, most were not Christians. We lived in a dormitory with bunk beds at the Alliance Gospel Church. It was a place where they could hear the Good News and after a few months, many decided to believe in Jesus too.

In 1999, I went to the Student Centre where I studied the Bible in English Monday to Thursday with a devotional time on Friday evenings. On Sundays I played keyboard, guitar or bass with the music team and in April 1999, Pastor Ng baptised me. Then in 2001, I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in General Chemistry.

Answer to Prayer

At first, I thought I might be a

Chemistry teacher at a High School and would go to the provinces. But I had a thought in my mind, I wanted to work in Phnom Penh. So I prayed to God! Then God

I thank Him for what He has done for me! He is my Saviour, my shelter, my comfort, my strength.

gave me opportunity to work for HOSEA as a Support Worker. I really thank Him for what He has done for me! He is my Saviour, my shelter, my comfort, my strength. My Lord always knows my needs and my vision.

My major responsibilities include facilitating workshops, attending networking groups, following up workshop participants and supporting the project managers. I also do translation and, in the future, will conduct research.

I enjoy working with HOSEA because I can help my own nation, especially children, to have better lives. I can gain knowledge and experience as well. I will do my best to work for God through HOSEA. He loves the people of Cambodia and His love lasts for eternity! 🙏



Sarah Chhin, HOSEA Project Director, with Phearith and Dara

Church Visits in 2004

Jez and Jacqui Heasman are planning to visit churches March 28th - April 25th 2004. Likewise, **Hery and Susie Heryanto** hope to be here March 16th - April 15th 2004. If you would like to be on their schedules please let the Bawtry office know.

Cambodia News

Report compiled by John Heard from various sources

Elections

Following the July 27th General Election, the CPP won 73 of the 123 seats. FUNCINPEC came next with 26 followed by the Sam Rainsy Party with 24, according to preliminary results. However, the CPP, led by Prime Minister Hun Sen, requires a two-thirds majority, or 82 seats, to form a government. The SRP and FUNCINPEC say neither intends to join a coalition government if Hun Sen remains, and signed an agreement to form an "Alliance of Democrats". But the CPP must join one of the other parties by the end of October. Meanwhile Cambodia's influential King Norodom Sihanouk has backed Hun Sen, adding "this is the humble opinion of a Khmer citizen".

Violence, voter intimidation, and



The Khmer Rouge imposed a Maoist ideology that called for the creation of an agrarian utopia using forced labour under cruel conditions

unbalanced media access meant that Cambodia failed to meet international standards for a free and fair election, although observers say there had been less violence compared with the killings during last year's local elections.

Ninety percent of influential village and commune chiefs belong to the CPP and the sacking of a royalist as deputy director at a government radio station strengthened Hun Sen's prospects. The high illiteracy rate meant that TV and radio were key means of mass communication with seventeen out of nineteen TV and radio stations loyal to the CPP.

Khmer Rouge

In May the Cambodian General Assembly approved a 32-article draft agreement between the United Nations and Cambodia on the Khmer Rouge trials, bringing justice for one of the worst crimes of the twentieth century closer. But it is unlikely the tribunal will take place before 2004.

The Khmer Rouge caused the deaths of over 2 million people through execution, starvation, disease and overwork when they ruled Cambodia from 1975 to 1979, imposing a Maoist ideology that aimed for an agrarian utopia using forced labour under cruel conditions. The holocaust was called "the reddest revolution of them all". Their leader, Pol Pot, died in 1998 without being brought to trial and in July his first wife, Khieu Ponnary, the so-called Sister Number One, also died.

Ieng Sary, "Brother Number Three", was officially pardoned in 1996 and now lives in a luxury villa in Phnom Penh. Deputy leader Nuon Chea, the most senior surviving leader, was pardoned in 1998 and has a house in Pailin bordering Thailand. So does the group's long-time spokesman and peace negotiator, Khieu Samphan. Son



A 1976 headline in the Bangkok Post when news of the Pol Pot atrocities first started to reach the international press

Sen, probably the fourth-ranking leader, was murdered in 1997 together with his wife Yun Yat.

Trials Opposition

But human rights groups oppose the trial agreement because the UN has effectively ceded power to local judges to make final decisions on prosecutions and convictions. The judiciary is perceived as being weak and corrupt, effectively giving control to Hun Sen. An Amnesty International spokesperson said "Justice is not served by diluting international standards to suit the occasion or a government in power."

Some experts are challenging the decision to limit the trial to top leaders because it effectively grants pardon for lower ranking killers. But others feel that the latest plan is the best possible option since it may be the last chance to try surviving leaders, most old or sick.

Human trafficking

Minister for Women's Affairs, Mu Sochua, has accused her own government of not doing enough to stop human, particularly child, trafficking: She said "the government must show that there are signs of decrease, which is not the case at the moment." Poverty stricken villagers are often misled into accepting money for their children, believing they will be employed in Phnom Penh factories. In reality many disappear into forced prostitution.

In response the government has begun to co-operate with a Christian group, International

Justice Mission. The group uses former law enforcement agents, private investigators and department of justice workers with hi-tech equipment to investigate and perform raids and rescues. However a spokesperson from the human rights group Licadho has said "What we are seeing is a few raids, but what we would like to see, at the highest level, is the breaking down of this network structure."

AIDS

The Director of the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Julie Gerberding, named Cambodia as another Asian country staring at disaster unless there were international efforts to help develop adequate public health measures. She told a forum at the American Chamber of Commerce "in some countries, like Cambodia and China and India, public health measures have yet to take hold, if we don't intervene we will have a catastrophe."

Demonstrations

Police opened fire on hundreds of garment factory workers demonstrating for higher wages, killing at least one person and injuring two. Fifteen policemen were also hurt. Workers said they were demanding higher salaries and reinstatement of a sacked union official. Cambodia's 220 garment factories produced some \$1.1 billion in exports in 2001, about 77 percent of the country's total. Most clothes go to the United States for brands such as Nike, Adidas and Gap.

World Trade Organisation

Cambodia wants to join the World



Cambodia has one of the highest rates of smoking in the world

Trade Organisation to boost confidence among foreign investors. Aspirations received a boost in April when, during an address to the United States Asia-Pacific Council, US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said "I'm hopeful we can try to get Cambodia in this year."

Terrorism

Cambodian police closed an Islamic school near Phnom Penh prior to the June visit by US Secretary of State Colin Powell for the ASEAN Regional Forum attended by ministers and officials of 23 countries. The school was suspected of linking with the militant Jemaah Islamiah which has ties with Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network.

Superstition

Villagers attacked a church building, smashing windows, lights, fans and tables, reported the Svay Rieng province police chief. He said. "they were angry with the church because they believed their presence caused continuous droughts that prevented rice growing". Cambodia is predominantly Buddhist but local beliefs persist strongly.

Deforestation

Hun Sen has expressed regret over the wholesale destruction of forests.

Speaking at a tree-planting ceremony in the south-western port of Sihanoukville, he said the Cambodian Development Council had made the wrong decision involving forestry concessions to companies.

... *Meanwhile*

Shooting

As a warning to the planned Khmer Rouge trials, a Cambodian judge, who gave life imprisonment to a notorious Khmer Rouge commander found guilty of kidnapping, was shot dead by gunmen in April.

Smoking

Cambodia has one of the highest rates of smoking in the world and Hun Sen has been named the biggest smoker among world leaders. During a period of famine following crop failure last year, cigarettes were included in emergency rations.

Driving

Most vehicles in Cambodia are left-hand drive and motorists are required to drive on the right (although not everyone consistently does this!) Many right-hand drive cars are believed to have been stolen in Thailand and smuggled in. The Government has threatened to arrest owners who cannot provide documents.



Opportunities in Cambodia

Serving the people and church

We welcome enquiries from those with strong Christian convictions who wish to explore a call to serve. Enquirers should have readiness to tap into God's resources through obedience, faith and prayer, relevant background, skills, flexibility, stability, stamina and initiative, participatory techniques ability (where necessary), church endorsement and potential to raise support.

Send your CV together with details of your Christian background to **John Heard**, SAO Cambodia through the Bawtry office or on john@sao-cambodia.org; 01474-534101.

Community Programme Managers & Facilitators

Management and administration of rural community development programmes using or enabling skills such as income generation, micro-enterprise, safe water, fish farming, building, health, nutrition and non-formal education.



Community Project Advisor

Leading two or more community projects through localisation processes, organisation development, capacity building and advising the local management teams.

Education Advisor

University based in Phnom Penh, providing support and advice to the field team involved in non-formal education teaching in minority languages; influencing policies at Ministry level.

English Teachers

A strategic opportunity to teach English to students and senior staff at the Medical Faculty in Phnom Penh.

International School Teachers

Teaching at an International Christian School in Phnom Penh up to grade 8 or 9.

Agriculturalist

Working within a community development setting in a minority tribal area.

Dentist

Continuing the development of the National Dental School through technical support, developing and revising the curriculum, teachers' in-service training and clinical instruction and supervision of students.

Country Director

Implementing approved policies, organisation of all activities, leading the field team, recruitment via a task group, liaison with authorities. (from early 2004)

Financial Advisor

Mainly to be a financial advisor/coach of field HQ and project staff overseeing mission finances, including audit and donor relations.

Human Resource Development Advisor

Training and organisational development, workshops, planning, report writing for a team of development programme



workers, with a special focus on capacity building of local staff.

Project Development Advisor

Planning, development, monitoring, evaluation, research, donor relations, report writing for several projects in a community development setting.

Child Welfare Advisor

Providing practical advice on child-welfare issues (parenting skills / child rights / child care); training and follow-up of care-givers.

Food Technologist

Processing products for marketing and for food preservation within an Income Generation & Food security programme, based at a small laboratory but with regular travel to production sites and poor villages.

Public Relations / Marketing Advisor

Advising and supporting the mission field team on WEB site/publications / various reports / donor relations.

Gap Year / Short term

Working and living alongside Cambodian Christians, building relationships and doing something practical to help, whilst laying personal foundations for future ministry. 🇰🇲

