



# ACTION

Number 175 : Spring 2017



Sowing the seeds of a new tomorrow for Cambodia

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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

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

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



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

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## >> EDITORIAL

### Looking forward in 2017

Dear Friends,

Another year has seemingly flown past and a new one is upon us! By the time this magazine is in your hands you will have already seen two months of this New Year! Despite this, I want to take the opportunity to wish all our readers and supporters a blessed and peace filled 2017.

As I look back on the previous year, a number of significant events come to my mind. We applaud and give thanks for our long term Cambodia Action team members who returned to the UK from the field. We are grateful that they have reintegrated back into life in the UK. 2016 was full of growth, with the impact of our work and that of our faithful partners transforming the lives of Cambodian people and communities. Over the year, we heard testimonies of lives that have been changed as a result of the many programmes and projects that we support. Finally, we can rejoice together as we saw many of the nation's youth and young leaders reached with the message of the Kingdom of God.

In expectation towards this coming year, I am reminded of the encouraging words that the apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 3:14, "I press onward towards the goal..."

At Cambodia Action we continuously pray, work and plan for what we hope to see God do. Our focus and commitment is towards the goal that the Lord has given us, which is to see the Kingdom of God expressed in the hearts and minds of those living in Cambodia.

2017 will continue to be a year of action, all that has been achieved in the last year and all we hope to achieve in the next is only made possible through the prayers and financial support of you, our faithful partners.

I want to express a deep felt thank you to all those that supported us during the last year.

May God bless you in 2017.

Chris Catlin,  
Executive Director




**BECOME A CAMBODIA ACTION REPRESENTATIVE**

- Do you have a bit of time on your hands?
- Do you have a passion for the mission field but cannot go?
- Do you have a heart to serve?
- Do you have the confidence to speak to a small group?

Consider sharing the vision and mission of Cambodia Action. We will provide all the materials you will need to share the heart that Cambodia Action has for the poor & marginalised.

Contact Chris at [c.catlin@cambodiaaction.org](mailto:c.catlin@cambodiaaction.org) for more information.

## Cambodia Action team members' day



We could not have asked for a better day or setting, as the Cambodia Action team members met together on the outskirts of Phnom Penh. The main purpose of us getting together was prayer and fellowship as many of the team live in different parts of the city and only see each other periodically. For this meeting we were hosted by Phola and Sarah Chinn, at their wonderful home just outside the hustle and bustle of the city. It was a real blessing and benefit to the team to have Cambodia Action's Chairman, David Adams and his wife Jan join us for the day. Our meeting started with a cool welcome drink, as we launched into catching up on each other's exciting news and sharing on the challenges that some in the team were facing. This provided a great opportunity to jump straight into a time of sharing from the word of God, sharing in Communion and closing with joint prayer. Praying for each other is a really important aspect of being part of a team and we thanked God for answered prayers, such as Zoran's successful eye treatment.

While this was going on Phola and his brother had busied themselves outside on the lawn, setting up a Cambodian barbeque. The result being that we were treated to some tantalisingly tasty food! As the evening went on, Sarah pointed out the growing dark clouds forming in the distance and suggested that those travelling back to the city, leave quickly. It was somewhere along the way that the rain caught up with us, coming at us with great force. It was a mighty downpour but thanks to a trusty canopy and skilled driver we made it home, although not all of us completely dry!

## Sarah Chinn and local Pastors at ICC Mission agency day

Last October, the ICC Mission Agencies, which includes Cambodia Action, were treated to a consultation meeting with a number of provincial working pastors who had travelled from far and wide to ICC's Head Office. The purpose of their trip was to share on how effective some of ICC's programmes have been in their respective communities. This turned out to be a refreshing and informative time. It was a joy to see the pastors speak with enthusiasm of the benefits and results that ICC's programmes brought to their communities. I recall one pastor sharing



how the local authorities had taken note of the churches attitude towards drug use among the youth, so much so that these same authorities were seeking out advice from the church on how to deal with this problem.

ICC's Village Integrated Development Project, (VIDP) for short was singled out as being particularly successful.

The project is empowering the local church by facilitating them in developing a vision that can be embraced by the whole community.

### Sarah Chinn on Advocacy

A portion of the day was handed to Sarah Chinn who hosted a workshop on advocacy. Sarah's talk was highly engaging as we learnt of the need for all of us to become aware and involved in advocacy. Sarah reminded us that we all have a voice that can be used to bring life and positivity to different and potentially difficult situations. Our voices can be the tool that calls and creates the motion for change.

After a brief passionate history of the work in advocacy that Sarah has been involved with, she prepared us to get involved, wherever and whenever we are. 'Become' was Sarah's catch phrase, 'become involved, become a servant, become a communicator or become a volunteer', was some of her key advice. At the end of the workshop we were left with a far better understanding on the work of being an advocate and further applauded the work that M'lup Russey does in championing for the rights of children.

## Working together to see the least served communities in Cambodia transformed by God's love.



Cambodia Action believes in partnership, both with national Christians and International agencies, as we seek to serve God's plans for Cambodia. The synergies derived from working together with others of different skills mean higher quality outcomes achieved in a more efficient way. Consequently we are glad to have been part of International Cooperation Cambodia (ICC) now for more than sixteen years.

ICC is a partnership of international Christian mission and development agencies committed to working together to serve the poor and marginalised of Cambodia through a single, locally based organisation, staffed mainly by nationals.

ICC carries out relief and development work amongst the Cambodian people, in the areas of language development, family welfare, education, healthcare, food security, agriculture, income generation, leadership development and other activities that improve the well-being of people and communities around Cambodia. Whilst focusing on development activities, the spiritual objectives of the partners are met through the open Christian

environment of ICC, the personal commitment of the overseas volunteers and the many nationals who are Christians amongst the staff. Several of the projects work directly with the national churches as one of their partners.

There are currently four Member Agencies (MAs):

InterAct from Sweden, Normisjon from Norway, SIL International, and ourselves. Each of these MAs has a range of other partnering organisations and funding partners.

### **Where did it all begin?**

After the Paris Peace Accords were signed in 1991, like Cambodia Action (then known as Southeast Asian Outreach), World Concern started working in Cambodia. Their work in Ratanakiri province among the ethnic minorities, was partly staffed and funded by the Danish Santal Mission (now Danmission) and Interact from Sweden. In 1997, a suggestion was made to form a partnership to be known as International Cooperation Cambodia (ICC) based on those three agencies. The purpose of ICC was to engage in sustainable development with Christian impact.

The partnership was constituted as an international body of three non-governmental agencies (World Concern, InterAct and Danmission) in Bangkok, Thailand, on 27 November 1998. On 29 December 1999, registration as ICC was approved by the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

SIL, who had also been working in Ratanakiri since the mid 90s, joined in late 1999, recognising that they could not do literacy work on their own in Cambodia without the logistical support of the ICC partnership. Their own desires to be involved in education would be enhanced by involvement with those who specialised in development. By late 2000 Cambodia Action applied to join the partnership, contributing our experience of development since 1991.

We all believed that the strength of the partnership involves:

1. Collective wisdom leading to better decisions and by combining our giftings we could make projects more effective.
2. Demonstrating unity in a country where denominationalism within the church and missions had become an issue.
3. Maximising use of our limited resources.

The partners in ICC came to be known as Member Agencies and grew to five

with the admission of the Finnish Evangelical Mission (FELM) in November 2006.

In the years that followed, Member Agencies came and went. World Concern withdrew due to a change of focus of their ministry to elsewhere in SE Asia. Danmission and FELM left to work more with smaller local partnerships. Normisjon joined as part of its major new involvement in Cambodia.

Often availability of funding has an impact on the involvement of the different agencies. ICC faces a new challenge in 2017 as Normisjon's funding for ICC's expatriate Director comes to an end and SIL plans to withdraw from full membership because of resource availability. The Member Agencies, including CA, are responsible for contributing a significant proportion of the costs of the head office function and therefore are making a direct appeal for funds to help towards this.

*By Geoff Collett (Board Member)*

**Would you help ICC continue serving the most vulnerable people in Cambodia?**



**In 2017 ICC funding is under pressure and any financial amount will help.**

**If you would like to give please send cheques to:**

**ICC appeal. Cambodia Action, Bawtry Hall, Bawtry, Doncaster DN10 6JL**

**You can also give online through PayPal, go to [www.cambodiaaction.org](http://www.cambodiaaction.org) and ear- mark your gift to ICC. THANK YOU!**

## >> YOUTH RETREAT WITH HERY & SUSIE

Every year around October, Hery and Susie, two of our CA team members organise a youth retreat for the young people that they reach out to and bless. They pour a tremendous amount of work and energy into them every week. I had the privilege of being invited, not only to attend, but also to share with and minister to these young people. I was thrilled at the opportunity!

I sensed a level of excitement and expectation as the busses, carrying collectively over 60 people, departed from Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville. This was a four hour bus journey, to where we would hold the retreat. Our time together was very well organised and carefully planned to include worship, ministry of the word, meal times together and still time to have some fun! This year's theme was, 'Growing Up in Christ'. I had been asked to prepare six different pre-selected teachings that would both encourage and challenge the group.

Before the first meeting Hery, briefed me on the attendees and encouraged me to share the Gospel in between my messages. This was a great opportunity to share the love and Kingdom of God.



Worship was full of life and free in expression, with voices lifted towards God. Although the words were raised in Khmer, it was easy to flow with what was happening in the room.

I was deeply blessed by the young people's keenness to learn. Hery had asked that I send ahead of time a brief outline of my subjects, as they would be encouraged to take notes for later discussions.

Towards the end of the retreat, opportunity was given to some to share on how the messages had impacted their lives. I recall one young lady talking about forgiveness and how she had been unable to forgive her parents. After hearing my talk, she decided to pray and release her parents, forgiving them!

As we ended, hands were raised around the room for those that wanted to make a commitment to Christ! Heaven rejoiced, and those at the youth retreat were blessed. I commend the labour of love that Hery and Susie provide in the lives of these young people.

*By Chris Catlin*



## &gt;&gt; OUTING WITH PRISON FELLOWSHIP DIRECTOR



The new director of Prison Fellowship Cambodia, had for months wanted me to travel with him to visit the work that they carry out. Finally, the day came and I was really pleased to spend it journeying to and seeing a number of their projects first hand.

Our trip began with a visit to a correctional centre outside of the city. Once we had gone through all the checks and security, I was shown the many different educational services that Prison Fellowship offers to the prisoners. The range is broad and exciting, all the way from sewing classes, to motorcycle repairs!

I chatted to some of the ladies at the sewing class and was interested to hear one young lady's sad story. She had been caught with hard drugs while travelling with friend throughout Southeast Asia. Her sentence, was life.

During our conversation, I asked her, "what one thing makes life in prison more bearable?" Her immediate reply was, "knowing Christ". This had come as a direct result of PFC's gospel work in the prisons. They are at times given the opportunity to share the gospel with

those behind bars. The Director told me that he is looking forward to a church building up inside each prison that they have access to.

PFC's ministry ventures deeper than the prisons walls. Many families suffer as a result of a spouse being behind bars. On leaving the prison, we went to visit one family that has lost their husband and father to prison. Life quickly becomes very hard for families in this situation, so PFC endeavour to provide practical support to children and wives. One of the lifelines that PFC offer is to help families to set up a small business, bringing in much needed income and keeping poverty at bay. I saw this first hand as we made our way to the last project. Repairing motorcycles is a big business in Cambodia and PFC have trained many in the skill. I was privileged to pray with a reformed prisoner who now employs and trains only ex-prisoners that want to learn the trade.

The day was well spent as I saw the great fruit of what one of our partners are doing in Cambodia.

## >> CAMBODIA ACTION VISITS THE FOREST OF DEAN

Over the second weekend of February, Cambodia Action's Executive Director travelled to the forest of Dean to minister at a number of meetings. These had been set up by Keith Bushell, a trustee of Cambodia Action who lives in the Forest as it is fondly called.

Our first meeting was across the border into Wales and with the really cold snap hitting the country, Keith wondered if there would be a good turnout. The meeting was hosted by a group called Men United and was held at a quaint Inn called the Coach and Horses Inn, situated in Caerwent, South Wales and 20 men ventured out. A good turnout according to Keith.



After a hearty breakfast and introductions, I was given the opportunity to share on the work of Cambodia Action. I had decided to give an overview of our work but then concentrate on the ministry of Good Real Men, seeing the attendees were all men. I closed our time together with an encouragement and call for men to pray for men, albeit men living in the 'ends of the earth'.

Later in the day I was treated to Forest hospitality and some stunning views as Keith and I visited a number of places and people - having lived in the area all of his married life, Keith has built up great friendships and used this as a witness for the Lord.



Sunday saw Cambodia Action being given the full ministry time at Forest New Life Church where Keith and Claire Bushell are team leaders. This afforded us the opportunity to display our work and concentrate on some of our partnership. I used the allotted time to share on the passion that the mission has to see

Cambodians come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. I concluded the ministry time by giving a challenge to us all, wherever we may live, to use the voice that God has given us to reach a dying world. "God is looking for voices raised on behalf of others" was my closing remark.

I really enjoyed my time visiting the Forest and want to thank Keith and Claire, Men United and the church in the Forest for hosting Cambodia Action during the weekend.

If your church would like to host Chris Catlin to speak on the work of Cambodia please contact him directly, at [c.catlin@cambodiaaction.org](mailto:c.catlin@cambodiaaction.org)

## >> CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2016

This year we focused our Christmas giving catalogue on young people and the training of a new generation of leaders. Our partners that benefitted from your generous giving are M'lup Russey, (PPC) Pioneering Partners of Cambodia and Good Real Men. Six hundred pounds was raised for the different partnership, the funds will be used to transform and change many lives. Be it the Brighter future children at school or provisions for foster care children, each pound matters and we would like to say thank you to all that participate



May God Bless you.

## >> CAMBODIA ACTION'S NEWEST TRUSTEE



Cambodia Action are delighted to introduce **David Buchan**, our newly appointed trustee.

David has recently started a part time job as Operations Director of Holy Trinity Church, Redhill, while retaining a part time advisory role in the Finance Directorate of the Department for Transport, where he was previously

Group Financial Controller. This was supposed to be the first gradual step towards an early retirement but the reality feels very different!

He is married to Cynthia and they have three children - Andrew works in IT, Peter is in his final year reading Maths at Oxford, and Rachel is soon to sit her A Levels. David has, for a number of years, been a trustee of a charity providing home-based support to mission workers overseas, particularly in the areas of Bible translation and digitisation. He also mentors (over Skype) the Finance Manager of a relief and development charity based in Kabul.

The opportunity to gain more direct exposure to overseas mission, by joining Cambodia Action, came up at the right time as David was considering options for the future, including making use of the extra free time that may finally emerge sometime!

# Praise & Prayer

## >> PRAISE

On the 10th of January 2017, M'lup Russey were officially recognised and certified as a Child Safe Organisation by the ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation. To achieve this certification all processes, procedures, policies and activities were individually scrutinised, inspected and evaluated by the Ministry. Furthermore, it shows donors, supporters, partners and stakeholders that M'lup Russey are recognised by the Government, as having reached the highest standards of child protection. This is a great achievement that has taken a lot of hard work and is a real blessing from God.



## >> PRAYER



May 2017 will see Cambodians go to the polls to vote in local elections. Many people believe that this will be a forerunner to the general elections in 2018. Much has been written about the possibility of disruptions and violence running up to voting day. We have 16 team members, including children, that will be in the country during this testing time.

I would like to highlight some prayer points:

- Pray that peace would be seen on the streets of Cambodia. That violence and intentions of violence would not prosper.
- Pray for each of our team members, families and their extended families to be safe and secure.
- Pray that those in authority would put the nation and people above their own aspirations.
- Pray that God's Kingdom would come into these important elections and that fear would be in people's minds and hearts.



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