



Immanuel: God with Us



Joanne Wan

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and shall call his name Immanuel.*

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

The members of the Council of Cambodian Communities out of Crisis send our warmest good wishes at this Christmas season to all our friends and supporters.

We thank all those who have kindly given to our work in the past year and those who helped make it possible for some of us to visit Cambodia in October.

We wish you peace and joy as you celebrate the birth of the Baby at Bethlehem, who was and is **Immanuel: God with us.**

Children of Cambodia



The Dump Kids: A Success Story

Back in 2008, two young girls in a Midlands church read an article in the *Cambodian Herald* about the plight of children who were working on the rubbish dump just outside Cambodia's capital city Phnom Penh. They read how the children and their parents spent each day sifting through rotting, combusting garbage, surrounded by flies, looking for items to sell for recycling, and they wanted to know how they could help.

From this seed of compassion grew CCC's *Dump Kids* project, which enabled 15 children to stop working on the dump, go to school and receive a cooked lunch each day. For the past six years our partners Pastor Sokunthea and his wife, of Boeung Tumpoeun Church of Christ, have prepared the meals, monitored the children's progress at school and cared for their families.

Since those early days some of the children's parents have died from AIDS and the children have been placed in orphanages. Some families have returned to their home provinces in search of a better quality of life. Some of the older children have moved on to vocational training centres. Each time a child has left the project, Pastor Sokunthea has found another needy child to take his or her place.

During the CCC Council visit to Cambodia in October 2014, we visited the children at the church where they eat their daily meal. We met the pastor and his wife, evaluated the project and visited some of the children's families. Some of the children are doing very well at school; others are not so gifted academi-

cally. Several of them have high ambitions. All still need our help to get through school.

Access to a new rubbish dump has been restricted and some families resorted to looking for recyclables along the streets or in the garbage from markets. Now none of them work on the dump, though they remain desperately poor, so we have decided to re-name the project **Children of Cambodia**. These children may no longer be the Dump Kids but our support for their education and nourishment is still vital.

Why Are You Crying, Little Girl?



As we observed the children eating their lunch, we noticed one little girl crying. We thought that perhaps another child had been unkind to her, but when we enquired about the reason for her distress we found she was literally crying with hunger. The food she had been given at the church was all that she had eaten for five days.

Poor Families Helping Themselves



This family makes clothes in their home



This family makes furniture from recycled wood

What They Can Achieve with Your Help

PA to the Director



Seen here leading worship in her church, KS comes from a poor family who were unable to pay for her to receive any further education after completing high school. On the recommendation of her church, CCC sponsored her to study English. Now she is the personal assistant to the director of one of the largest international non-governmental organisations in Cambodia.

A Woman of Faith

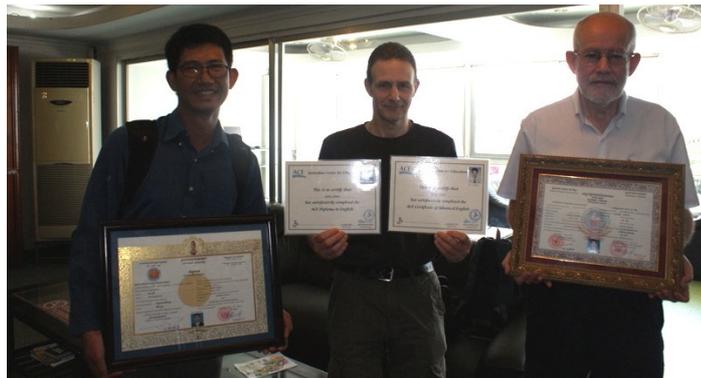
KR is a pastor's widow who has also planted churches in her own right both in Phnom Penh and a provincial town. CCC sponsored her daughter D through school. D is now married and is starting teacher training. KR suffers from poor health but is a woman of great faith. She is always grateful for the encouragement she receives from friends outside Cambodia.

Effortorious Maximus

MD is a high school student at Logos International School, Phnom Penh. He obtains consistently high grades and has for the last two years received an 'Effortorious Maximus' award. MD has the potential to study for a degree at a high-quality university outside Cambodia, starting in 2016, but there is no way his widowed mother could make any contribution to his fees and living expenses. Who knows what a difference MD could eventually make to his country with your help?



Ten Years' Study Rewarded



Pictured with CCC Council members Austin Allkins and Myers Cooper holding some of the certificates he has received, MS has been sponsored by CCC for ten years. While working to support his young family, MS has studied part-time to attain a high level of English competence and this year was awarded a Bachelor of Law degree. He is now working for an organisation that rescues women from sex trafficking, but he also has aspirations to study for a Master's degree.

'I Love My New School'

11-year-old MA was unhappy at her previous school and was the victim of bullying, so both she and her mother were delighted when a place became available for her at Asian Hope International School. Since transferring there, not only has MA done better academically, but she has also found kind and caring friends. An operation on her throat has reduced her susceptibility to infection and reduced the number of days she is absent from school. None of this would have been possible without funding from the United Kingdom. MA's family does not have the resources to pay school fees, so MA's continuing good-quality education will depend on further help.

Keep Her Alive, Keep Her Safe



The little girl pictured on the previous page deserves a better life. If she goes hungry she will be unable to concentrate at school. Worse still, she might even be forced on to the streets to scavenge or to beg. Some desperate Cambodian parents have even sold their children to traffickers either knowingly or deceived. We cannot allow this to happen to her.

Sharing Our Vision

The CCC Council meets every four months. Normally the meeting is attended by Council members only, but occasionally we invite guests to sit in on the proceedings to find out how CCC works and what we do.

Next time we want to do something different. After a short business meeting for Council members we shall be having an open meeting for our friends and supporters at which we can share our vision for Cambodia.

We invite you to join us at **12:00 on Saturday 14 March** at SEED Enterprises CIC, 23 Whitby Road, Ellesmere Port, CH65 8AA (near Ellesmere Port railway station). Please email us at info@cambcomm.org.uk to let us know you are coming or to request assistance in finding hotel accommodation.

“How Can I Support CCC?”

We are not ashamed to write about money. This is the reason CCC has always existed: to provide resources for Cambodia. School fees have to be paid, food has to be bought.

Regular Gifts

Giving by standing order is easy for you and helpful to us. Contact us at info@CambComm.org.uk to request a form or to receive our bank details to set up a regular payment through your online banking.

A One-Off Gift

Use the form below and send us a cheque, or go to our web site at www.CambComm.org.uk to make a donation via PayPal from your debit or credit card.

Help CCC When You Shop Online

When you shop online, go to uk.shop.com/integrityuk.

Integrityuk will give to CCC 20% of all commission they receive on your purchases.

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Not only can you access hundreds of partner stores, including household names such as John Lewis, Argos and Currys, but you can also now earn points through Shop Tracker and redeem them for cash

What You Give Is What They Get

We try to keep CCC keep lean and fit, with minimal overheads. Our latest annual accounts (for 2013) show that our UK administration costs were covered by the income we received through tax reclaimed under the Gift Aid scheme and we are on track to do the same in 2014. In addition, not only do the people who run CCC receive no payment for their services; they also give money to the charity with the stipulation that this can be used for administration or promotion if necessary.

So we are confident that this year also, **100% of any donation you make to CCC will go to where it is needed: Cambodia.** Whether you give to our **Children of Cambodia** project or you help pay for another child's education, none of your money will be swallowed up in administration.



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I enclose a gift for:

- Children of Cambodia
- Education
- General funds