



Cambodian Herald

Bringing News of Cambodia
and Cambodian Communities out of Crisis

Issue 20



Transforming Cambodia One Life at a Time

Welcome to the first edition of the *Cambodian Herald* that we have published for a considerable length of time.

While funds have been scarce, we have felt it important to send every penny to Cambodia, rather than use any of our income for printing. Now that God has blessed us with more money coming in, we are still sending the full amount to Cambodia, but donations from members of our Council plus money claimed through the Gift Aid scheme make it possible for us to produce this edition.

Better to Light a Candle

In JRR Tolkien's book *The Two Towers*, King Théoden and his few surviving soldiers are besieged by a huge army bent on their destruction. Théoden doubts his ability to survive much longer and observes, 'The world changes, and all that once was strong now proves unsure. How shall any tower withstand such numbers and such reckless hate?'

Faced with immense problems of human suffering and need in so many parts of the world, we might be tempted to ask, what can a small organisation such as Cambodian Communities out of Crisis (CCC) do in the face of such a huge problem? The world is changing in 2022. What once was strong now proves unsure. How can we make a difference when the world is under the control of oligarchs, multinationals, shadowy organisations and the powers of darkness?

In a sermon on Romans 12:21 (*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good*) preached in the early years of the 20th century, William L Watkinson declared that it is '**far better to light the candle than to curse the darkness.**'



We believe that it is our job to work in just one country, **Cambodia**, and with **one person at a time**. Since 1994, we have been supporting the education of Cambodian students at school and college. Without our assistance, they might have remained in poverty with limited prospects. Instead, many have gone on to contribute to the transformation of their country in hospitals, humanitarian organisations, legal practice and church work. One candle can be used to light many more. A single changed life can have an impact on a whole community.

In this Edition...

In this edition of the *Cambodian Herald*, you can read about

- the impact of Covid-19 on Cambodia and how CCC helped one affected village;
- some of the people we have given hope and encouragement to through small grants;
- church in the café;
- our involvement with a young man who is using his love of football to provide an alternative to drugs and crime;
- support of school students.

Covid-19 in Cambodia

Until February 2021, Cambodia reported very few cases of Covid-19. However, in that month a vaccination programme began with the aim of providing two doses to the entire adult population, later extended to children as young as six years of age.

Also in February 2021, Cambodia's first large-scale outbreak began when two Chinese nationals breached quarantine and visited a night club. The response included an 8 pm to 5 am curfew, travel restrictions, the closure of schools, businesses and restaurants, a ban on the sale of alcohol, fines for not wearing masks in public and local lockdowns.

By the end of October, the government's target of 10 million people vaccinated had been reached. Case numbers were falling, schools were reopened and quarantine regulations were relaxed.

Many international flights were cancelled and the number of foreign tourist arrivals was tiny in most of 2020 and 2021. Nearly half of tourism-related businesses in Cambodia have been forced to close their doors due to the compounding impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to a survey report published by the Asia Foundation. The report found that 47% of tourism-related enterprises had ceased their operations since the beginning of the pandemic. Just 22% of businesses said that their operations were unchanged from before the arrival of Covid-19.

Garment and manufacturing exports fell by 20% in 2020 but recovered partially in 2021, being 13.5% up on 2020's figures. The World Bank estimates that Cambodia's economy grew by 2.2% in 2021. Cambodia's Prime Minister stated that Covid-19 had cost the country \$2.3 billion.

វិធានការណ៍បង្ការការចម្លង ជំងឺកូវីដ១៩ (COVID-19)



ពារជំងឺ បានញឹកញាប់ជាមួយសាប៊ូ និងទឹកស្អាត ឬទឹកអាល់កុលលាងដៃ

- បន្ទាប់ពីកុក ឬកាស្កាស់
- នៅពេលថែទាំអ្នកជំងឺ
- មុនពេលបរិភោគ
- ក្រោយបង្ហោរម៉ែ
- មុនពេល អំឡុងពេល និងបន្ទាប់ពីជួបតំណាង
- នៅពេលបរិញ្ញាដៃកន្ទុក
- បន្ទាប់ពីប៉ះពាល់សត្វ ឬលាមកសត្វ



ប្រសិនបើអ្នកពាក់ម៉ាស់ព្រួញពាក់ដាច់ពាក់គ្របលើមាត់ និងច្រមុះ ប្រើឆ្អឹងសំអាតការ៉ាប៉ះផ្ទៃខាងក្រៅនៃម៉ាស់ នៅពេលកំពុងពាក់ និងពេលដោះស្រាយ ដោះចោលភ្លាមៗទូរម៉ាស់ដែលប្រើរួច និងលាងដៃឱ្យស្អាតបន្ទាប់ពីដោះម៉ាស់



បរិភោគតែអាហារ ឆ្អិនល្អ



ជៀសវាងប៉ះពាល់ ជាមួយ សត្វព្រៃរស់ ឬកន្លែងក្លែងប្រែដោយ គ្មានពាក់សម្ភារការពារខ្លួន



ប្រសិនបើអ្នកមានរោគសញ្ញាណាមួយក្នុងចំណោម គ្រុនចាញ់ ក្អក ឃ្បាស់ចោរ ឈឺចំងែក ពិបាកដកដង្ហើម និងមានប្រព្រឹត្តិដំណើរពីប្រទេសចិន ឬបានប៉ះពាល់អ្នកដែលមានជំងឺកូវីដ១៩ ក្នុងអំឡុង ពេល១៥ថ្ងៃមុនចេញមកស្រុកខ្មែរ ឬមុនមកស្រុក ជាបន្ទាន់ទៅរកលេខ ១១៥ ដើម្បីពិគ្រោះយោបល់

សម្រាប់ព័ត៌មានបន្ថែម សូមទាក់ទងមន្ទីរ 115 តតតិតថ្ងៃ 

CCC's Response

While parts of Cambodia were locked down and travel restrictions were in place, we heard of hardship in a village to the south-east of the capital, Phnom Penh. Some people were unable to go to work and others were afraid to leave their homes to buy food.

There were no social security or furlough payments and some families were in great need. We were able to arrange for the distribution of food supplies to more than 50 families in the village.



What You Give Is What They Get

We try to keep CCC keep lean and fit, with minimal overheads. Our latest annual accounts (for 2021) show that our UK administration costs were covered by the income we received through tax reclaimed under the Gift Aid scheme. 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.** None of your money will be swallowed up in administration.

You can make a donation online at our web site www.cambcomm.org.uk.

Falling Through the Net

Tourists visiting Cambodia may have been shocked to see beggars literally crawling or dragging themselves along the side of the road. For some in Cambodia, to be physically disabled or disfigured or to have a learning disability can result in a life of poverty, ostracism or brutality. There are no state benefits available to support such people so if relatives are unable or unwilling to help them they can end up destitute or worse.

CCC is assisting a disabled widower in Kampot Province with two children. He is unable to walk and is desperately poor. He has had to move house twice in the last year and is now living rent-free but has no regular income. He formerly earned money by repairing television sets but recent models without discrete components cannot be repaired so he needs another source of income.

CCC has made a grant to him to enable him to buy laying chickens so that he can sell surplus eggs not required to feed his family.

A team led by CCC Country Director Ms Huot Chanthoeun visited him recently to encourage and pray for him.



We shall provide him with further support as appropriate to enable him to become self-sufficient and to provide for his children.

We are also assisting a young woman in Takeo Province who has developed a debilitating and disfiguring condition requiring recurring blood transfusions.



Before the illness

Now

This lady has told us she cannot believe in a God who would allow such a thing to happen to her. Ms Chanthoeun keeps in contact with her and is sharing with her the story of Jesus, who not only endured undeserved suffering to the point of death but also rose again, is alive today and has the power to heal.

Please pray for these two dear people and many others like them. Ask God to lead Ms Chanthoeun to other needy people with no other source of support or kindness.

Church in the Café



CCC Country Director Ms Huot Chanthoeun is gathering a group of ladies around her who love the Lord Jesus Christ and are serious about making disciples for Him.

Some of the ladies join in a daily Khmer language online Bible study led by CCC Executive Director Myers Cooper from the United Kingdom. Much hilarity results when Myers struggles to express himself in Khmer or unwittingly uses a wrong word, but the ladies are very forgiving and understanding!

One of the group members runs a café, so what could be more natural and enjoyable than to hold a meeting over lunch there for the sharing of testimonies and mutual encouragement?

Football Keeps Youngsters Away from Drugs and Crime

Some years ago, while still a student, Pov Phearun began to be increasingly concerned about the destructive influence of drug pushers and criminal gangs on the young people of his village community to the south-east of Phnom Penh.

Being an enthusiastic football player (and supporter of Manchester City), Phearun decided to set up a football team for the boys who lived in the village. Using his own money for equipment and training pitch hire, he built up the team steadily, training and motivating the players, enrolling the team in a local league and running classes in basic English and computer studies for the team members and their friends.

As a keen Christian, Phearun shared his faith with the youngsters. Some trusted in Jesus as Lord and Sa-

viour and found in Him a source of strength to resist the temptations of drugs and crime.

When Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings and travel came in, everything ground to a halt. Phearun suffered a personal tragedy and felt like giving up and moving to a different area. In spite of this, he waited and held on to the faithfulness of God until it was possible to start afresh in late 2021. Now *Cambodia for Christ Sports Ministry* has three football teams: one for under-17 boys, one for under-15 boys and one for girls.

CCC is helping Phearun with the cost of hiring a field for practice in 2022 and we are linking him with sponsors in the UK who can help with providing kit and equipment.



'Keep On Studying Hard'

We are pleased that we can help with the fees of several students at **Asian Hope International School**, Phnom Penh.

The father of 'R' and 'J' wrote recently, 'I really appreciate what you and your team have been doing for my children. It has been such a great help to us, especially at this Covid time.'

'S' (in Grade 5) wrote, 'Thank you for your financial and spiritual support. Please pray for me to keep on studying hard at AHIS.'

Meanwhile, 'D', whose education at another international school we sponsored, is completing his education degree at Universitas Pelitan Harapan, Indonesia, and is about to embark on his teaching internship there before his intended return to Cambodia to teach at his old school.



As we wrote in the introduction to this edition, *a single changed life can have an impact on a whole community.*

Cambodian Communities out of Crisis

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