

# Community Health and Agricultural *development*

Lent-Easter | 2009

A program of the Methodist Mission in Cambodia. A joint mission initiative of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, the Korean Methodist Church, the Methodist Church of Singapore and the World Federation of Chinese Methodist Churches.

OUR VISION IS FOR METHODIST MISSION IN CAMBODIA CHURCHES TO BE ENGAGING COMMUNITIES TO EXPERIENCE WHOLENESS OF LIFE—PHYSICALLY, SOCIALLY AND SPIRITUALLY— AS THEY WITNESS TO THE TRANSFORMING POWER OF LIVING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

## A story of hope by Katherine Parker

Pastor Kiev Sophal came by our office one morning to help with lesson planning for a health volunteer training workshop in Kandal district. She told this story.

A woman in Sophal's district had been battered by her husband and received a back injury that caused her to be in bed unable to walk for about three weeks. Sophal, a graduate of the Bible School last July, heard about this woman from one of her church members. But Sophal told us that she was worried and hesitant to visit the woman: "I don't have money. What could I offer to this woman?" Sophal doesn't have a moto (motor scooter), but the church member took her to see the woman using her own moto.

Sophal told the battered woman, "I don't have money to offer you, but I have God, and I would like to pray with you." She came with three other church members and they all prayed for the woman. The members reported a sense of the presence of God in that place. "Everyone in the room could sense the awesomeness of God in their hands and throughout their whole bodies." The battered woman was very encouraged. The church member continued to visit with her and reported that within a week she was able to walk again. Everyone felt that the prayer meeting was a turning point in her recovery.



Woman prepares food to sell at market. © Richard Lord, photographer

Jesus sent us out to do ministry without taking anything with us. We need to trust that God will be sufficient and provide what we need for the situation. We need to act first and trust that we will be able to find the resources we need for the situation. Because if we just sit at home, then there will be no way for God to act through us.

I wish I could convey to you the sense of gratitude and awe that Sophal brings when she tells this story.

Irene Mparutsa, missionary and community health nurse, gives thanks to God for Sophal's testimony, not only for the healing that took place but also for the attitude of the pastor. Many of the pastors in Cambodia feel discouraged because they feel like they don't have money to offer to people. But Irene likes to remind me (and them) that

It reminds me of the song we used to sing at VBS: "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I give thee." (Acts 3:6) Let's start by giving people what we have. We have the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Irene says, "Many times I don't have money to help poor sick people, I can only give advice and prayer. But I just take the person to the hospital and sometimes we can find a doctor who can help us or another way becomes clear." We can't be paralyzed by our fears of what we don't have. God asks us to just do what we can with what we have and the rest will come.



Church fellowship meal in Cambodia. © Richard Lord, photographer

# Training & Empowerment

"...[H]e has lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry with good things..."

The Community Health and Agricultural Development (CHAD) program is engaged in both meeting immediate needs and long term development.

To assist our partners in ministry we have established two tracking numbers with The Advance ([www.givetomission.org](http://www.givetomission.org)). Funds donated through our standard number #14916A help to support our development work. This includes all of the different workshops below, as well as gift-loans for micro-enterprise development. Funds donated through #3020542 go to medical and other emergency welfare needs.

You may have heard about the micro-enterprise development grants (gift-loans) that CHAD provides to help improve the livelihoods in communities where MMC is working. But we don't just waltz in and drop the money. There is a long process of sharing and mentoring that also happens. Here are some of the training events funded by **Advance #14916A** that CHAD facilitates as a lead-up to disbursing loans or medical funds.

**CALMETTE HOSPITAL** exposure visit. Coaching and mentoring for five pastors to spend a day navigating the Calmette Public Hospital system or CSI Hospital (Christian). Each pastor is invited to bring a sick patient from his/her church to learn about the registration process and available services. One day Mentoring ... \$50  
Mentoring share ... \$5

**HEALTH MESSAGES** training is important for volunteer church Good Samaritans to have the confidence to engage in ministries of healing prayer and patient advocacy in their community. Picture cards help to effectively convey these messages. Set of picture cards ... \$60

**SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE (SCC)** is the national group of pastors that oversees the work of CHAD and monitors and encourages development within the districts (like a Board of Church & Society for Cambodia). Through monthly meetings and exposure visits the pastors are developing the capacity for the CHAD program to be locally operated and managed.

Transport for meeting ... \$160  
Transport share ... \$20

**THEOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT** is a 10-day training course for pastors that takes place over five months. It sets a scriptural foundation for the church to be reaching out to the community with ministries of compassion & justice. Scholarship for pastor ... \$100  
One day share ... \$10

**MOBILIZING THE CHURCH** is a series of 20 lessons that are designed to give practical skills to a local congregation about how to organize a local Social Concerns Committee to promote developmental outreach from the church into the community. Fellowship meal at 1 mtg ... \$30  
Resource books ... \$10

Check out our website for more stories about how these projects are changing lives: <http://chad-cambodia.blogspot.com>



When funds are available, the CHAD Developmental Relief & Emergency Health Care, **Advance #3020542**, responds to support costs such as the following.

**HOSPITAL REGISTRATION** is necessary in the "cash and carry" medical system. Even with Equity Fund (free healthcare for poorest), patients still must get themselves to the hospital, pay the registration fee and feed the family member that brings them. Hospital registration ... \$10  
Bus fare to hospital ... \$5  
One meal ... \$2

**ELECTIVE MEDICAL CARE** is not covered under the government's primary health care system. Many people suffer for years from ailments that are simple to fix if they had the awareness of options and resources. Our Cambodian pastors are bringing the awareness; you can help to bring the resources. Here are some of the medical care we have supported. Chest x-ray ... \$5  
Abdominal ultrasound ... \$10  
Pelvic Inflammatory Disease . \$25  
Goiter ... \$40

**CHAD is partnering with CSI Hospital (above) to provide dignified care in a Christian environment for poor people. The treatments they provide seem basic but they can drastically improve the quality of life and bring great hope.**

© Richard Lord, photographer

## How to send your gift

- For online giving, go to [www.givetomission.org](http://www.givetomission.org) and Find Project 14916A for CHAD development or find Project 3020542 for CHAD welfare and relief.
- Toll free hotline to Global Ministries: 1-888-252-6174.
- Write a check to your local United Methodist Church and include on the memo line "Advance #14916A."
- Mail a check to: Advance GCFA, P.O. Box 9068, GPO, New York, NY 10087-9068. Please include "Advance #14916A" on the memo line of the check.
- Free thank you cards available when you call or go on-line.



A special thank you to our Covenant Relationship churches. Your gifts through our individual Advance numbers enable us to be in Cambodia as a physical presence of our partnership in ministry with the Khmer people.



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