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ASIAN OUTREACH CAMBODIA FIRST QUARTER REPORT 2015.



ASIAN OUTREACH CAMBODIA
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For more information visit: www.aocam.org

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

The beginning of lasting transformation and the road to dignity in a community development model.

"And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." - Luke 2:52

Wisdom
is Mental Sustainability

Stature
is Physical Sustainability

Favor with God
is Spiritual Sustainability

Man
is Social Sustainability

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This is the opportunity for growth across all ministries. Taking into consideration our annual budget and the impact on the rural communities we work in, we view ourselves as a medium size INGO, but in reality we are the Church fulfilling His will to build His lasting Kingdom in Cambodia.

When we work within a new community, it is essential to bring healing and a change of mindset and worldview of the local people and culture or else we cannot move forward and lasting transformation cannot take place. We also have to spend the time to build relationships of trust. For example if we approach one new village we need to look at the different areas and assess the self-sustaining indicators that are already there at the village level such as land ownership, availability in transportation, local history and challenges and community dynamics. We need to understand what we are working with before we begin.

In every village we work in, we strive to bring sustainability through five areas: economic (infrastructure), physical (health, water and education), social, spiritual (role model of leadership, building godly character and attitudes) and societal (peace, relationships, fellowship and ownership by the communities). Unless we integrate these components from the very beginning of every project, long-term holistic sustainable outcomes will be difficult to achieve.



God gave us a model for holistic community development in Genesis 1 when He created the earth and made man and woman in His image. Our mandate was and is still to care for His creation. Especially now living in a fallen world, we are called to bring the Kingdom of God to every corner of Cambodia and the world.

Thank you so much

Romaree Thong.

ORGANISATIONAL UPDATE

PERSONNEL UPDATE

New year, new beginnings and new opportunity. There has been lots of exciting changes here at AOC. It's been a busy and productive start to the year. We have had a number of new arrivals to the AOC team, from all over the world. From Canada to New Zealand, they have come to make Cambodia their home and serve God's purpose within AOC.



Jared & Emily Reid

"Hi, we're Jared and Emily Reid from New Zealand. We arrived here in Cambodia just over two months ago, on 16th January. We're working in Stung Treng where Jared is Stung Treng Model Farm/Co-op Manager and Stung Treng Regional Coordinator and Emily is the Training Centre Manager and looks after hospitality.

While serving with YWAM, in June 2012 we had the privilege of bringing a team here to work with AOC in Stung Treng and really enjoyed our time. We returned to New Zealand where we did further training and equipping in missions, at Eastwest College of Intercultural Studies. We went into training with the intention of returning to missions full time. During this time we missed Asia more and more. Through Katy and Grahame inviting us and spending time praying and talking with our elders we felt this was definitely where God was calling us. We're really excited to be able to partner with God in the work that He is doing here.

Some highlights for us since arriving have been being able to connect with the staff and getting to meet their families. Emily always manages to return home from the market telling about something funny happening most times. Jared has been busy playing vet with the 24 baby piglets that were born a couple weeks ago."



Edith Watt

"Hi I'm Edith, from Canada and am Program Operations Director at AOC.

A good friend of mine made me aware of Cambodia quite a few years ago because it is his passion and work to help this country. When my former church in Canada asked me to find an organization in Cambodia for them to partner with long-term, my friend told me about AOC. When I arrived for the first time in 2011, I felt God's call to move here. When Noel (AOC board member) told me about the new position, I felt like God wrote the job description for me. It's broad, strategic and challenging, capitalizing a great deal of who I am!

I would say my time so far has primarily been about learning about AOC. I've attended many meetings and they've all given me information and context. I'm now putting things in place to increase communication with and support of the staff in Stung Treng and Phnom Penh and to assist/empower the project managers to formulate a strategic plan for the next three to five years. Highlights: visits to Prek Ho, meeting the staff, and just being here at AOC!

Challenges: learning about the culture and getting my head around the differences.

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ORGANISATIONAL UPDATE (CONT.)

I am most excited about building unity amongst the team, especially the project managers. When I leave, I would be happy if I can say that the nationals are better equipped to carry on the work because of what they've learned and gleaned from me."



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Chad McCarthy

"Greetings! My name is Chad McCarthy. I am the contact person for those interested in partnering with AOC. I also coordinate guest and team visits, ensuring that they can engage with the culture with purpose and make an impact. I have been living in Cambodia for a year and a half with my wife and four children. I was born in Cambodia and adopted in 1980 at the age of 6 months. I was on the last plane to Canada from Thailand before they closed off the country to keep the remaining survivors to help rebuild the country. I spent 28 years in Canada before God called me back to the nation of my birth. I am excited to be able to share my experiences and to work with Asian Outreach as we reach Cambodia for Christ."

We also have a new member on the ACTs team in Phnom Penh. Ms. Ravy who has joined as a new trainer/facilitator and works alongside Sophea carrying out home visits for the children under ACTS project, co-delivering Happy Children's Club etc. She lives in Phnom Penh and has two children.



OPERATIONS UPDATE

In February, Romanea attended the Asian Outreach Network meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, along with 25 members from 12 countries. It was a positive and useful meeting, creating a healthy and transparent relationship amongst all organisations within the AO Network.

AOC's first bi-annual board meeting was held at the end of February, with a new Khmer board member joining, Mr. Ea Ponloeu, Cambodia's Tearfund in-country coordinator. It was a productive meeting, discussing the ministry and exciting plans for the future.

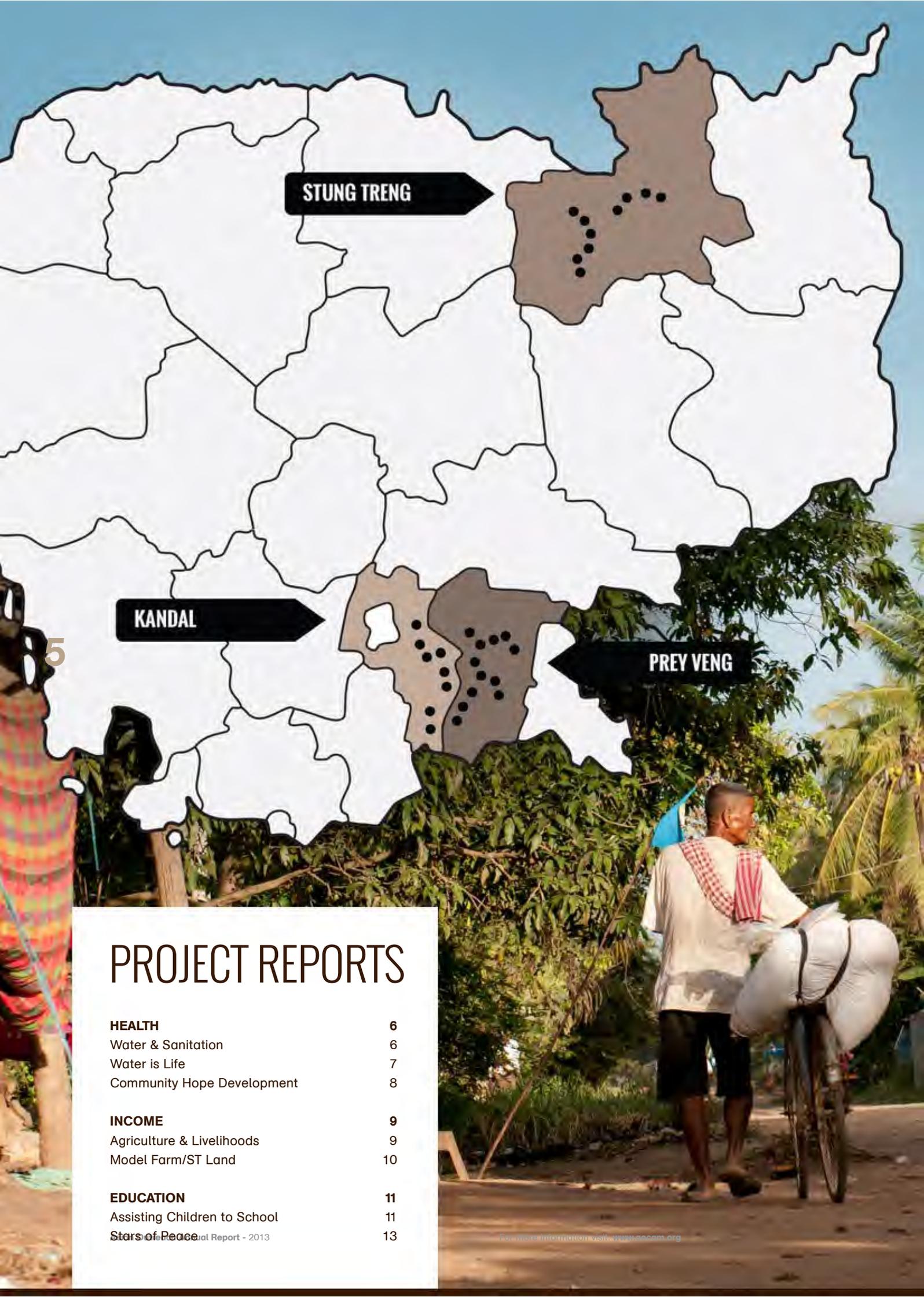
We received our MOU from the government on the 17th March. As of May 2015 it is a legal requirement for all NGOs to be registered with MOU, so we are well ahead of time. The MOU agreement is with the ministry of rural development. As a result of this, the minister asked to visit the AOC's ministry up in Stung Treng in the first week of April. Project managers have been attending training provided by our board member, Grahame Taylor, about NGOs and future trends and how times are shifting focus from relief work to development and market place opportunities.

We have had many friends and partners from Canada and New Zealand visit us over these three months. They have been busy building churches, providing training and advice on agricultural techniques, visiting and helping ministries and projects, through provision of resources and knowledge, creating relationships and new opportunities for current and future partnerships. It has been wonderful to have so many visitors passionate and involved with AOC's activities. Thank you to all those that have come to Cambodia and joined us!

We want to thank our partners and friends for your continuing support for the start of this year. In February we were delighted to be able to purchase a new Toyota truck for AOC, thank you to all those who donated towards this. These new four wheels will be invaluable in getting out to our projects.

Prayer points

- Funding for projects and staff retreat
- Training centre funds
- Current staff commitment to serving community growth. For strength and energy as the hot temperatures roll in during April.
- Smooth transition of staff
- SoP preschool move
- Sick piglets at Stung Treng model farm to get better and grow strong



STUNG TRENG

KANDAL

PREY VENG

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HEALTH

80% of Cambodians die due to preventable disease through unclean water and inadequate sanitation practices. 70% of the rural population still do not use a latrine or water filtration system, 50% do not have any access to clean water at all. Basic health knowledge is also a large contributor.

WATER & SANITATION

The beginning of this year for the WatSan project has been concentrated on training at community level to increase the impact and new opportunity of sustainable development through health and hygiene and better water and sanitation. Throughout January to March 2015, WatSan has helped formed two volunteer groups, with four people in each. This promotes good relationships with volunteers and beneficiaries and the volunteers also are on hand to deal with any issues and questions that arise concerning the latrines and BioSand filters (BSFs).

Two community health promotions were delivered in Stung Treng, where turn out was high, attracting 155 participants, 89 of these women. Covering topics from good sanitary practices, as well as providing advice on health and well being for the whole family.

As well as developing four village development committees (VDC) made up of 60 people, working in their community of Thala Borivath, Stung Treng, these committees create ownership and responsibility and registration for new beneficiaries is done through these committees alongside AOC. Alongside this WatSan has also constructed 55 BSFs and 73 latrines in this period. After installation, a one-month training for beneficiaries is carried out to provide greater knowledge related to the BSFs and latrines, how to use them, keep them safe and how to maintain them.

Challenges WatSan have faced this quarter include delays in installation after construction, resulting from the beneficiaries away at work all day and therefore not able to collect the completed BSFs and latrines.

Story of Change

Mr. Yen Ry, 66 and his wife, 55, are rice and vegetable farmers. They have five children, two sons and three daughters and live in Lvea Village, Prey Veng.



Every day Mr. Ry gets up early to water his vegetables with pond water from beside his house and also to take water from the well to his house; the water from the well is not clean and smells terrible. Their water fountain at home is contaminated drinking water, which means the family is often ill from catching water borne diseases, costing the family money to buy medicine. It is a constant battle for the family, trying to stay healthy.

One day Ry heard from the village leader that Asian Outreach Cambodia (AOC) were coming to promote their water and sanitation project in his community, which made him and his wife very happy. Shortly after, AOC's staff came to construct and distribute water filters and toilets to the community. Ry quickly came to register to receive a water filter and toilet. When he started using the water filter he said, "I'm so happy, because of the water filter I have clean water for my daily use and don't have to use dirty water anymore".

He believes 100% in the benefits of the water filter and now doesn't have to spend time boiling water to sterilize it; he also saves a lot of money because the family is ill a lot less because of having clean water. Now he has more money to invest in his farming work and to put towards his children's education. He is thankful for his new clean water supply, to AOC and wants us to continue to help others in his community.

trainings shows the people's commitment to change and wanting to improve their living standards through better health and hygiene.

Beneficiary training has also been taking place, 50 group leaders have been trained on how to care and repair the wells. Fifteen families on average use one well and AOC asks for a one off contribution of \$150 per well. This contribution is kept in the bank and is used for any maintenance or repair costs that arise.

Challenges this quarter have been keeping appointments with some villagers, who have not been able to make the appointment due to work commitments.



Story of Change

Mrs. Cheng Sophy, 29, has one son and she is a church member in Anlong Chrey village, Thala, Stung Treng province. Before the new hand pump was installed, she was drinking from a small stream. Because of the dirty water her family and also the church members were often sick with diarrhea. The stream would often run empty; people in her village find it too difficult to bring water from a small stream as it takes over half an hour or more to walk to the water source and back. One day some AOC staff came to her commune to conduct a survey for the wells project. AOC staff were sharing to the villagers that they were a Christian organization and they wanted to provide wells for the community. Hearing this, Sophy was very interested and happy to work with AOC. She said, "Thank you God so much, now my family and villagers and church will have wells, so we will have clean water every day. Now I won't need to walk a long way to bring water back home, I will be able to save time and spend more time with my family. It will also give my villagers and church good health." Now there is a new hand pump well close to Sophy's home that everyone can use, easily collecting the water they need. She added, "Thank you AOC for your help. I believe this community has been developed with the help of AOC and Neverthirst. You have both helped my community, everyone now has a clean water source close to their home."

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WATER IS LIFE/NEVERTHIRST

Water is Life has had a busy start to the year as wells are being drilled and communities are being given access to clean water for the first time. Alongside wells providing access to clean water, the wells also provide water for growing produce and water for livestock, which leads to increased provision of food security. 25 wells have been planned across four communities throughout two districts, Thala and Siem Bok. Ten of the 25 wells were drilled in February, in Srae Kraesaeng and Anglong Chrey. The other ten of the 25 are being drilled in April.

Before an area is decided upon for a well construction, AOC carries out a baseline survey in the village community to assess the water needs. After most surveys we often discover the majority of villagers find it difficult collecting water for every day life for them and their families, due to unclean water sources, and drought during the dry season. Alongside clean water provision, Water is Life visits church leaders and provides training to enable them to grow in their faith with Jesus, which they can then pass on to their congregation.

Water is Life has conducted twelve health promotions in the first three months of 2015, where 156 participants from four communities took part. The high turnout for these

COMMUNITY HOPE DEVELOPMENT (CHD)

AOC has been working with local churches in Kandal and Prey Veng provinces. More than 560 families have now heard the good news and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

At the beginning of 2015, Community Hope Development (CHD) and community churches have been discussing about having a church presence in every village in Lvea Em and Por Reang districts by following the Mission Kampuchea 2021 (dynamic mobilization of local churches in Cambodia). This quarter, the CHD and community leadership met with 16 cell churches and have all agreed that the need is to focus on how they can establish the presence of the church. We plan to build a solid foundation within the Sunday school program, women's empowerment, youth classes and church pastors' leadership to establish the church's presence.

In the first week of 2015 our youth development group moved its computer class to Lvea Sor high school, which is located in the next village. The purpose of this new presence in the government school is to create more relationships and resources, by having the computers at an easily accessible location for students. There are 85 students involved in three types of computer classes, Typing, Ms. Office skills and English vocabulary. These classes also double up as a student center where the students can come and share with each other about life, school and the gospel.

Other CHD activities this quarter include 25 Sunday school teachers from sixteen cell churches attending Sunday school training, where they can access their bible studies together and reflect on their ministries as well as discussing how to encourage and nurture the next generation to be role models of the church. About 120 children from churches and AOC ACTS, Happy Children Club join together for Sunday school across the communities.

60 women believers in two groups in Lvea Em came together to share their testimonies to other women and unbelievers in their community. Fifteen women have signed up for a Christian women's seminar that will be held at the end of July. The topic will be, 'The woman of God in the community'.

CHD has formed a support group for fifteen HIV/Aids families in Prey Veng province. AOC staff at the start of this year trained this group, enabling families to share experiences and to be mentored.

CHD project is pursuing communication and coordination with church leaders and some key potential people to break dependence of NGOs and to empower them with self-sustainability through the local church model. Challenges we face are community churches lacking in resources to maintain existing churches or establish new ones.

Story of Change

Mr. An Vuthea, 45 and his wife, Pechsy, 40 are two of HIV/Aids project beneficiaries, living in Prek Chmuse village, Kandal province. Mr. An Vuthea joined the HIV/Aids project in 2000. Before he joined this AOC project he had many problems, because he didn't have enough medicine and enough support from his family, and faced discrimination from other villagers. Vuthea and his wife had lost all hope.

Vuthea was infected with HIV/Aids in 1999 while he was in the city to find work. During this time, the water festival was on and Vuthea's friends invited him to go to a beer garden, where Vuthea contracted HIV and then passed it on to his wife.

AOC helped contact the local health center to provide regular medicine for them both. AOC also provided Vuthea with a loan to start a new business, planting mango trees, which is proving fruitful. This month Vuthea earned \$150 from 1,000 little mango trees sold.

Through all this both Vuthea and Pechsy have come to know God and now are enjoying trusting in Him. Vuthea said, "when I am coming to God, He always hears my voice and I am impressed to have Him as my personal Lord and Savior".

Finally, Mr. An Vuthea and his wife would like to say "thank you to AOC and Community Hope Development project that still support us" Vunthea said, "I am very happy because I heard the good news through AOC staff and they have been so kind. God's love is a great love and is never ending for my wife and me. May the Lord bless you all too."

It has been a long journey for Vuthea and his wife. With encouragement and support from AOC, their hope has been restored and Vuthea is now emotionally, mentally and physically in a better place.





INCOME

34% of Cambodians live on less than \$1 per day. The average household makes \$70 per month. At least 12% of poor people are landless, with no way of making an income. Due to lack of income and food security, many children have to work the fields rather than go to school.

AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS

Agriculture and Livelihoods have been forming new farmer support groups since the start of this year. This includes training on sustainable and effective farming methods. Since January 32 new beneficiaries have formed two farmer support groups, where farmers share access to new agricultural techniques and training on producing a better yield. Already the majority of farmers on this training scheme have noted positive results, which in the long term will provide better incomes for them and their families.

As well as learning about better farming techniques, emphasis on reducing expenses to increase profits and education on marketing produce strategies have been focused on to further increase profitability for the farmers.

The new beneficiaries have also had training on nutrition and diet, to encourage them to eat a balanced diet and understand the nutritional values of the food they eat, to enable them to be more aware and make good nutritional choices when the option is available.

This quarter, fourteen households have received loans from AOC, to help them invest in their farming businesses. All of those who have received the loans have already paid them back on time and are set to see positive results from their farming investments.

Alongside agricultural practices, the project aims to improve spiritual awareness through mainstreaming spiritual components in to every day activities. This is implemented by setting aside a time of prayer at each meeting, praying at the field for farmer's crops, allowing the opportunity for new relationships with God to be forged and His Word to be taught and discovered.

A big challenge we face during this dry season is water control. We are involved in educating on how best to utilise water resources to ensure adequate supply.

Story of Change

Mao Pakk, 43, lives in Prum village, Prey Veng Province. Pakk is married to Sory Moeurn, 42 and they have three children, Mith, Mita and Sreymenh. The family has two hectares of rice fields and 40 x 100 meter block of land surrounding their house.

The family's livelihood depends on three tons per hectare of rice yield, but little money is earned from selling rice. Besides rice farming, Pakk also has several chickens and ducks which they use for food. In January 2014, she was selected to join AOC's agriculture training program. She learnt all about up-to-date agricultural techniques, including integrated farming, chicken raising, pig raising, and natural fertilizer making and home gardening. After finishing the training she got a 300\$USD loan from the project.



She started gardening a small patch of land behind her house and has been growing vegetables such as morning glory, lemongrass, wax gourd, ivy gourd. She makes around \$30USD a month profit from selling her vegetables to other villagers.

She also now has sixteen hens to raise and produce chickens, as well as growing and mixing her own chicken feed, using green vegetables from her garden. Now Pakk has 171 chickens and sells them to villagers most days and every four months she sells around twenty-five chickens at the market, which makes her a profit of \$168USD. Her rice yield has also increased to 3.5 tons and she has reduced her chemical fertilizer expenditure by switching to natural fertilizer, which is also more natural and healthy too.

Pakk told us, "I can now earn up to \$2,070USD a year, \$1,220 from selling chickens and vegetables and \$850 from selling rice" She continued, "our family now doesn't need to worry about sickness as much because we have organic vegetables from our garden and pure water from the Bio-Sand Filter. I really would like to say thank you to AOC for their help and training."

MODEL FARM/ST LAND

Up in Stung Treng we have had a busy start to the New Year. Many things are happening in all areas. There has been a number of people coming and going through out the last few months. Some volunteers from New Zealand came and served for 3 weeks. Philippa and Russell Mclachlan and Annabell Bricknell were an amazing blessing to all the staff here. We also had the privilege of some of the AOC board visiting us along with AO North America board and they were able to participate in our first distribution of school packs with ACTS project.

We have begun building a relationship with ECHO which has involved a visit from their Thailand office to look at what we are already doing and discuss possible avenues to go down in the future. Jared and Hourn, our Agriculture Manager, were able to travel, along with Samaritan's Purse, to Indonesia to an ECHO Sustainable Farming Workshop. They both returned feeling encouraged with new ideas.

Some other exciting news has been that we had our first two pigs give birth to a total of 16 piglets, all of which have survived. There was great excitement when labour began. It has been a big learning curve for the staff here, researching and trialing different techniques for looking after and caring for piglets. We have been very grateful for both local knowledge and modern day communication to vets which we have contact with. Unfortunately one of the mothers was unable to nurse her babies so there has been a lot of bottle feeding for four of our piglets.

A few weeks ago we had Jason Berry from Neverthirst come with Nathan, who was doing some filming and photography for promotion for their well projects. One of our staff, Samai, who is in charge of our well projects, took them to the village where they were able to have some interviews with the locals. Prior to leaving Stung Treng they also managed to do some filming of the model farm, using a drone. Jason returned a week later with a team from Brookhills Church in America. They were able to visit the village, see the wells and share with the local church.

Last week we had the privilege of having the Vice Secretary of Rural Development come and visit the model training farm, as well as visit the work in one of the villages we are working. He was very impressed and said we were heading in the direction which the Government is planning to go in the near future.





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EDUCATION

57% of children have not completed primary education, and less than 20% finish secondary school. Due to poverty 20% of children ages 5-9 are involved in child labor, this number rises to 47% for children aged 10-14. 60% of schoolteachers received, at most, secondary education.

ASSISTING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL

During this first quarter, ACTS project activities are all on track. ACTS works closely with parents, teachers and children in order to assist children in rural areas to have the opportunity of receiving good quality education. We do not limit our activities to just children, but also work directly with their parents, helping them to understand the importance of education, good parenting, basic healthcare and the rights of their children. In addition, ACTS also assists parents in looking for income generation opportunities so that these families can increase their independence and can afford to send their children to school once the project has finished.

Earlier this year, we provided new school shoes for the children as well as two new playgrounds to play in! The playgrounds have been built at two schools in Prey Veng. Play is an integral part of a child's development. There is substantial research linking play to brain development, motor-skills and social capabilities. Playgrounds that promote different types of play are vital for a child's cognitive, emotional, physical and social development.

Extra tuition classes for 253 children in Prey Veng and Stung Treng are going well. Mathematics, Khmer language and life skills are the main subjects focused on. Through these classes children get extra tuition to develop and expand their knowledge and build on their state education. Alongside this, 72 children are individually supported through the ACTS project in Lvea Em and Prek Ho villages, with provision of school tuition fees and study materials. Through home and school visits, ACTS can monitor progress of children and through these visits relationships are created with the whole family to educate and encourage the importance of the children's education.

Happy Children's Club takes place every Thursday in Prey Veng for between 50-80 children, who come to a safe and fun environment, to play games, crafts and hear stories about Jesus. Many children have come to know the love of God through this fun club. It also provides a safe environment, where children can just be children and let go of daily worries and enjoy themselves. In March, ACTS provided training and coaching on 'Essential Acknowledgement of Parental Training and Awareness of Children's Rights'. 120 parents and caregivers participated in the session and topics covered were the five sectors of child development: physical, intellectual, emotional, social behavior and spiritual. The purpose was to motivate and raise awareness to parents and caregivers surrounding child development within the home as well as at school.

Challenges faced this quarter, as March comes and April approaches, the hottest time of year in Cambodia, the temperature is very high, often reaching in to the 40s (degrees Celsius) meaning it is hard for children to attend school in the afternoon, having to walk in this heat on the dusty roads. We provide hats to give them some sun protection.

Story of Change

Rachhan is 9 years old and studies in grade two at Hun Sen Porthoum Primary School. His parents divorced when he was just one year old and he stayed with his father, whilst Rachhan's mother left her family and married another man. Rachhan is the youngest of three. His family is very poor and live in a very old bamboo hut with a torn roof in Tameng Village. His father is a construction worker in the village, where he earns about 15000 Riels=\$3.75 per day. He has sole responsibility to feed and look after all three children.

Since he was seven, Rachhan has been enrolled in the ACTS project through a Tameng Church member and the village leader who knew his family and that he was in need of help.

Every morning Rachhan goes to school by foot with friends. His teacher in the extra tuition classes has noticed a big improvement in Rachhan's reading and writing abilities. Rachhan also enjoys attending Happy Children's Club every Thursday and has greatly improved his behavior, through having activities to occupy, educate and entertain him. He learns about the love of God and has a good heart for God; he particularly enjoys the worship and has a heart to pray to God.

Rachhan's father has been joining the parenting training, and although he was the only man at the trainings, he sees the value and importance of these trainings and likes to attend. He says, "my behavior has changed as a father and a man, I have learnt to be patient when instructing my children, I now no longer use violence towards them and I try and encourage my friends to do the same. I now show love and care to my children".



STARS OF PEACE

This first quarter of the year has been very busy for Stars of Peace (SoP). The team has put a lot of time in to setting up, planning reviews and creating new resources.

Some of the highlights from the first quarter of 2015 include, the first Children's day trip held on the 20th March for 45 children to the Royal Palace and Sovanna Mall. It was a combination outing for the 25 preschool children and another 20 older children (aged between 10 to 15 years old) of AOC's integration project with ACTS. It was a first on many levels, for the SoP project it was our first day trip and for 80% of the children it was their first visit to Phnom Penh city. It was a great day, creating fun memories for the children, and the adults too! SoP staff and other AOC staff and board members came along and all had a great day.

The team has been continuing to work on the curriculum to make adjustments in order for it to best work for the preschool's needs. In March, Diane Taylor, a trained teacher spent a week helping the team. She trained the team on how to use resources and gave input on building upon the current curriculum.

Marnie Hutchison, who helped at the start of the project last year, came back for another two months helping the team wherever help was needed and joined the preschool most days. She also brought along plenty of preschool resources and supplies.

Integration across projects is growing in Prek Ho, with the ACTS project increasing its support to 21 children for the 2014-2015 academic year. This support has really lightened the burden for the families in the village, through support of school materials and fees as well as encouraging the children with their studies.

Six wells were installed through the Water is Life project for approximately 40 households in Prek Ho village.

New beginning and new opportunity is the situation we face both for the project and the community we serve. For the under-fives, it is a new beginning for everyday life as they come into our care, which is the center of everything SoP is trying to bring forth. Our team thrives to seek every day opportunities to respond to the children's holistic development with love, care and protection within their own family and community.

We continue to run the preschool Tuesday to Friday and have just secured new premises for the preschool, providing a larger and cooler space for the preschool. We will move to the new premises in April. Challenges we face are in business training, for us to move forward with other planned activities and the preschool. We hope to have someone with business knowledge to help us for a six-month period.

Story of Change

Ms. Kim Yeay, 65 is a widow with four children. Her children have left four young grandchildren in her care whilst they have gone to find work elsewhere in Cambodia, to support their living. Some of her children are separated and have moved away. During our visits, Ms. Kim Yeay shared her life story with the team. She used to be financially secure, however since she has to provide for her grandchildren life has become harder. She has used all her savings and is now in debt.

Not to be defeated, Ms. Kim Yeay got a loan from the village moneylender in order to earn a living by starting up a small vegetable and food shop in front of her home. She makes approximately US\$1.50 profit per day from her shop while the interest is over 20% of the loan.

Last year one of our partners in Canada, 'Hungry for Life', donated for food distribution. The team agreed that rather than give out one time rice distribution (lasting for just one month), they wanted to support some kind of family income generation, which can continue to provide for ongoing needs. The team selected four families in the preschool who are working hard and showed high commitment and Ms. Kim Yeay was one of those families. She is not a trained tailor, however she used to dream about having a sewing machine, which she could make some simple clothes or make adjustments.

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On top of her small shop, Ms. Kim Yeay can make approximately US\$1 per day. Ms. Kim Yeay is very happy and thankful for AOC's support and training on learning how to use a sewing machine.

Piseth is one of two grandchildren who attend the preschool. After almost ten months in the preschool, the team and his grandmother have noticed many positive changes in the boy. He loves to help in the class and he loves art and building blocks. Ms. Kim Yeay said, "I saw Piseth is getting much better since he joined the preschool. He helps me with some simple housework, he uses kind and nice words with me and he often sings to me the songs he learnt at school".

