

ASIAN OUTREACH CAMBODIA

BI-ANNUAL REPORT. JANUARY-JUNE 2016.



DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

THE POWER OF DISCIPLESHIP

“Fortunately, God made all varieties of people with a wide variety of interests and abilities. He has called people of every race and color who have been hurt by life in every manner imaginable. Even the scars of past abuse and injury can be the means of bringing healing to another. What wonderful opportunities to make disciples!”

Charles R. Swindoll

Dear Friends and Partners in Christ:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
(Mathew 28:18-20)

After the reign of Khmer Rouge came to an end in 1979, like many other religions, Christian belief came back to life slowly. There were only three pastors left among the few hundreds of Christians who survived the genocide. Within the past three and a half decades, these vital believers shared the story of Jesus and disciples were made.

A local Christian ministry, Mission for Kampuchea (MK2021), under the Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia, came up with the vision to raise up and disciple a group of believers in every village in Cambodia by 2021. The outcome is churches planted in 7,000 villages with another 7,016 to go. Partnering with other ministries and churches, AOC is playing a meaningful role in this endeavour. Over the past 25 years of community development, we have made disciples in 31 communities and 124 villages.

Each time I accompany our staff to the villages, I sense the spirit of God moving in the local churches as they reach out and disciple their own people.

I see the next step of discipleship to be the influence of the younger generation to be agents of change. When I am in a village, I always ask myself, “Where are the Christian doctors who can treat the poor? Where are the Christian lawyers who can advocate for peace and fight for justice? Where are the Christians who can impact politics? We need to focus on the young to open up opportunities for post-secondary education and skills acquisition and more importantly, to care for their spiritual growth and maturity.

Thank you for partnering with Asian Outreach Cambodia (AOC). Please pray for us as we continue to seek guidance from God for our future in making disciples in Cambodia.

Blessings,



Thong Romanea
National Director
Asian Outreach Cambodia

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

VISITORS/TEAMS UPDATE

The past six months have brought many faces to the doorsteps of AOC. We have been blessed with visits from long-term partners who continue to inspire us with their commitment, as well as the energy that short-term teams inject into the life of the organization. We know some will return in the years to come.

Noel Hutchinson, the Director of AO North America, brought a small team from Canada to attend the dedication of the Stung Treng Training Centre. Gary and Bev Laing and Kristy Devries from the Pentecostal Assembly of Canada were also present. It was a great time celebrating what God is doing in Stung Treng.

A team from Youth with a Mission Newcastle, Australia ran a children's program and Bible studies in the villages in Stung Treng. They also spent some time partnering with the local YWAM.

April and May were very busy months for us. We had the pleasure of welcoming Russell and Philippa McLachlan from New Zealand for a second year in a row. Philippa offered her expertise in education by assisting us with curriculum preparations for the Training Centre opening later this year. Russell organized some training and teaching for various pastors and church leaders on discipleship.

A team of four leaders from Mission 1 11 came for a week to scout and research the avenues for a potential future partnership with us. It was an encouraging time as we experienced some true 4X4 driving when we visited various unreached people groups!

A special thank you to Dave and Heidi Frazer from New Zealand who brought a team of young adults to serve around the farm cutting grass, weeding the pineapples, and collecting saw dust for the pigs for a few days. It was a short but impactful visit.



Another great group of 12 came from Agincourt Pentecostal Church in Canada. They brought bags full of amazing donations for our various children's ministries. From the moment they arrived they were willing to serve working in the hot sun painting, pruning trees, cleaning up shrubs, cutting grass, helping the building team with different projects around the farm, and teaching English to the staff and children in the village. They also handed out school packs to 40 of our new ACTS children.

We want to say thank you to all who came and supported our team. We are so thankful for your compassion and love for us and our communities.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

The AOC Board passed the mandate to update our financial accounting process and system during the meeting in February this year. Since then, a small committee spearheaded by Emily Reid, the co-Executive Team Manager at Stung Treng, actively researched and employed the help of a local firm and one in California to assess and make recommendations. We are now transitioning to a simplified more efficient system that will bring great benefits to our internal administration and donor reporting.

The composition of the Board has changed since February. Sheila Reid moved back to the U.K. after serving many years in Cambodia. Vaughn Darby from New Zealand joined as a new member and attended his first meeting in June.

THE NEXT SEASON OF LEADERSHIP



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Over the past year the AOC Board and Romanea have been exploring and praying together what God could have for us in the next season of effective ministry in Cambodia. Romanea has also been sharing openly how God is speaking to him and his family about their future.

After 10 years serving so faithfully as AOC National Director (ND), Romanea now believes it is time for him to step aside from this particular role. This is so he can take time to be refreshed, focused and to pursue further training ready for the next phase of what God has for him and his family in Cambodia. Of course we are very sad to lose Romanea from this role, but fully respect his decision and want to do all we can to help launch him into his next season.

Romania will formally step aside from the ND role at the end of 2016. However, due to our strong relationship together, and his huge wealth of knowledge and experience, Romania has agreed to serve on the AOC Board from March 2017 onwards, as well as be a part time consultant for us. His heart is still very much for the vision and ministry of AOC. We look forward to many years of partnering together with Romania and his wife Naroth in Cambodia.

We are so grateful to God for Romania and Naroth, our great staff team and amazing partners. Although roles

change, our partnership and friendship in His Cause certainly remains.

We sincerely ask for the prayers, support and advice of staff and partners as together we carefully transition the leadership of AOC. We are now taking time to also look at what model of leadership, recruitment and structure is needed for the next season, as well as evaluating again how best AOC can be positioned to effectively meet our vision and the real needs in a rapidly changing nation. What hasn't changed though is the overwhelming sense of call and passion we all have for the wonderful people of Cambodia, as well as our key value to empower national leadership and vision.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me direct at brucet@asianoutreach.org.

Blessings,

Bruce Taylor
AOC Board Chairman

37%

OF THE POPULATION ARE USING IMPROVED SANITATION FACILITIES

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WATER & SANITATION

PREY VENG & STUNG TRENG

Overview

Back in March, the Stung Treng Water and Sanitation team approached the Village Development Committee (VDC) and key leaders living in Thala Barivat commune to discuss finding sustainable solutions to health issues stemming primarily from non-potable water and unhygienic toileting practises. We shared about our Water and Sanitation project and how to design and build a latrine and the effectiveness of the bio-sand filter. They, in turn, communicated their needs and ideas, such as first building a latrine and filter as a demo for the community to see. As a group they decided to partner with AOC.

Since then, 238 families received latrines and filters. Each one contributed a small percentage to the cost of the materials and built their own structures. And in order to empower local leaders to take care of their own people, the VDC was trained and given the responsibility to check and ensure the latrines and filters are maintained and used properly.

Through working with AOC, 80% of the villagers in Thala Barivat now have access to clean water and proper sanitation, and a greater sense of community in working together was an important bi-product. As we continue to take the time to listen and value their input, it builds trust, ownership, and the opportunity to share the Gospel.

Another integral component of the Water and Sanitation project is the installation of wells in Stung Treng. In the past six months, 30 afridev hand pump wells were completed in two communities. We facilitated the formation of 30 well committees and trained each to repair and maintain the wells in their own community.



Story of Change

My name is Vanov and I am 63 years old with three adult children. Before AOC brought bio-sand filters to our village we sourced our drinking water from hand dug wells and a river three kilometres away. The water from the wells was terrible for drinking because it was contaminated with rusts and lime stone which led to health problems, such as urinary and skin infections. We never boiled our water but just drank it fresh. When we could afford to, we bought 20L water containers from the store.

At the beginning of this year, AOC came to our village and started to install BSF's. After ours was in place the first thing I noticed was how different the water tasted. I could also see the contrast between the colour of the contaminated and new water. Now my family is a lot healthier and enjoys the taste. We have told all our neighbours about the BSF and they now trust it and want to have one.



COMMUNITY HOPE DEVELOPMENT

KANDAL, PREY VENG & STUNG TRENG

Overview

The goal of the CHD project this year is to work towards developing mature, indigenous reproducing churches. We are equipping church leaders to incorporate new believers into the life and ministry of the church and to disciple those under their care.

Ministry activities were tailored and delivered in the past six months to different age and gender specific groups. For example, 60 women participated in the thriving Women's Empowerment Group which meets for bible studies and health education. Five were chosen to attend a seminar in Siem Reap to receive coaching by national women leaders. Another significant area of ministry for the CHD team is the development of 26 Sunday School teachers to disciple and impact children's lives. Finally, 40 pastors and leaders received training in church planting.

In our methodology, we avoid using the models that foster dependency on outside funding and resources, but instead, encourage Cambodian Christians to look to God to supply for all their needs.

Story of Change

Today is the 2nd anniversary of my new birth in Christ. I received and accepted Jesus at the AOC Christmas Celebration in Prey Veng province in 2014. I decided to follow Christ because I saw Christians in my village work so well together with AOC to help the poor; this touched my heart. The pastors loved me by offering tangible help and they were so willing to share what they had with others as well. I realized that their love is from God.

My name is Horn Poan and I live in Tameng village in Prey Veng province. I have four children and my husband, Dul Yei, works as a farmer. He does not like it when I go to church, but through the prayers of my pastor and a home visit from the AOC team, he has changed his mind and is even open to hearing about Jesus.

I am praying that everyone in my village will have a chance to hear the Good News and accept Him. I pray that AOC and their partners will continue to help the local churches to facilitate and lead their own ministries. I am committed to follow Jesus Christ no matter the circumstances.

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AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOODS

PREY VENG

Overview

The two-member strong AOC Agriculture team worked very hard the past six months on training and empowering four Savings Groups, influencing the lives of 75 people and their families. They developed solid relationships by listening, sharing and imparting knowledge and experience, and giving constant encouragement. They closely mentored those selected to lead the groups with a great deal of patience and warmth. As a result, they gained the trust of the people.

The outcomes are the capacity of the groups to run independent of any outside help and an increase in the number of people who request to put their money in with the Saving Groups rather than in the local bank. In addition to AOC's initial contribution to the capital, the members' savings totalled \$6,216 as of June! In other words, the Savings Groups are becoming an avenue for villagers to come together to improve and serve their communities.

The project will conclude in a month at the end of July, but the AOC staff leave behind a lasting legacy. They have touched the hearts of the people and improved their lives. When they told the groups of their impending departure, the members asked if they could visit them once a month at their expense! This is a testament that love is the key to discipleship.

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Story of Change

Mr. Chann Seangly is 27 years old and born in a farming family in Kompong Brang, Prey Veng. He is married to Ms. Kann Thida who is 26. They have a 10-month old boy named Pontue. Seangly is an active and hardworking rice farmer who participated in AOC's agricultural training and a member of the Farmers' Support Group since 2013.

In September 2015, Seangly was voted to be the clerk of the Savings Group in Kompong Brang. He quickly learned about financial management and now handles all the members' savings and their disbursements. Moreover, Seangly became so proficient that he helped the AOC project staff with financial management training for the other groups.

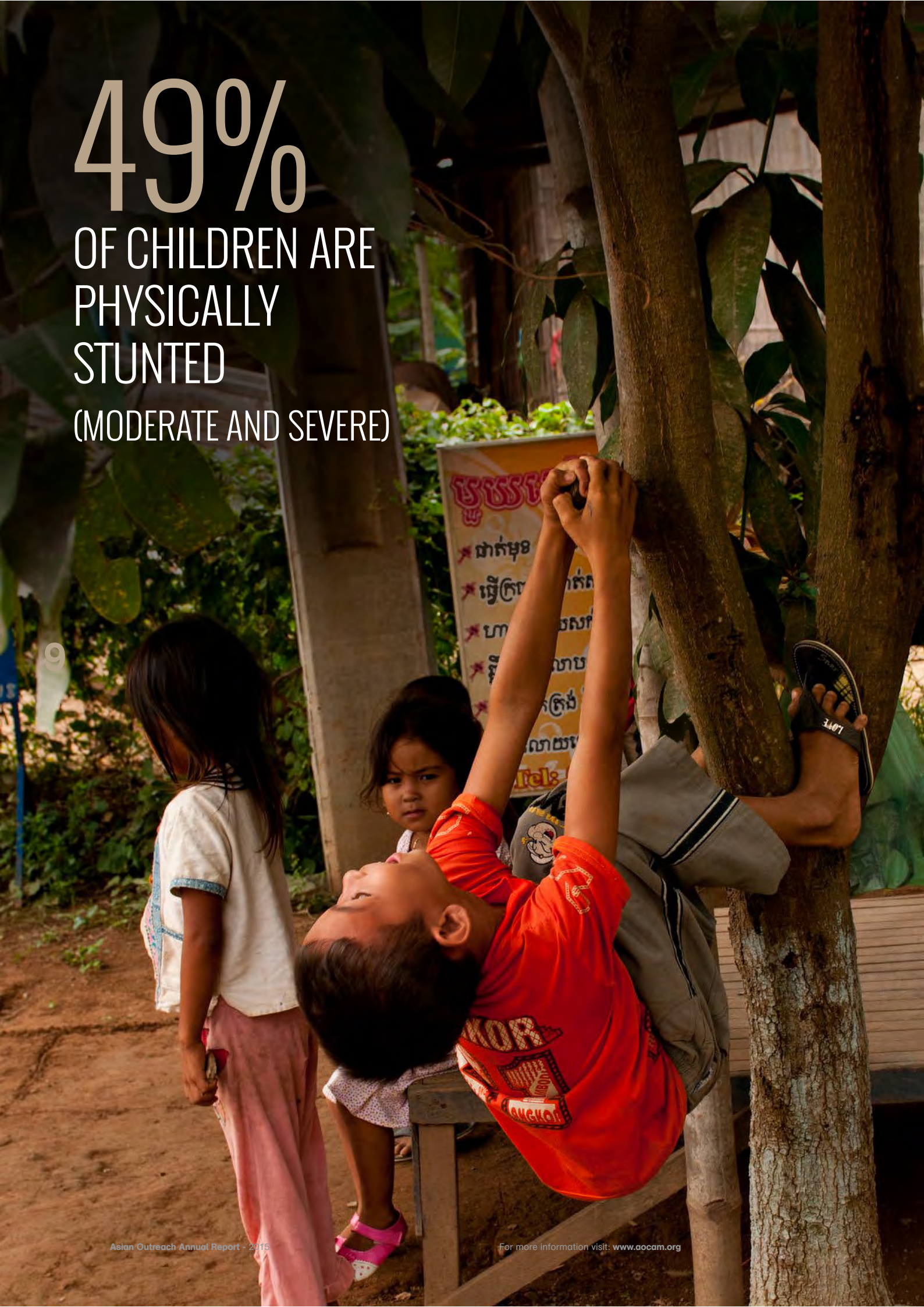
Seangly works very hard and takes his responsibilities seriously. He says, "I'm so happy that we have a Savings Group in my community. As a volunteer I can help the whole village improve". He added, "Now members can get a loan from the group and the money is from every member, so we can say that is our own. I have personally saved US\$67 in eight months".

I hope we will invest in a business soon as the capital keeps increasing."

49%

OF CHILDREN ARE
PHYSICALLY
STUNTED
(MODERATE AND SEVERE)

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AGRICULTURE & LIVELIHOOD/MODEL FARM

STUNG TRENG

Overview

The Agricultural Livelihood project and Model Farm are integrated and complement one another in Stung Treng. In addition, we work in some of the same locations as other AOC projects to bring a holistic approach to what we do.

Agriculture is able to address the physical needs of people to reduce poverty and empower locals and the Community Hope Development team is able to bring in the spiritual element. By sharing a biblical worldview combined with the provision of means to improve livelihoods, we hope to see people embrace a transformed life.

We have the privilege of working with different faiths within our staff team which offers great opportunities for ongoing discipleship and encouragement. We are seeing staff become more interested in the Gospel and understanding God's story.



Story of Change

My name is Long Sophat and my wife's is Srey Chen. I am 48 years old and she is 42. We have three young boys. We live along the Mekong River in Orey Village, Stung Treng province. Our income comes from buffalo and local pig raising and rice planting.

Prior to attending the AOC agriculture training, I raised two local sows. When they gave birth, each sow pig had around eight to twelve piglets. I kept ten piglets for raising to sell at the market and the rest I sold to the villagers at \$40 per piglet. The average weight of the pigs I had raised for eight months was 70 kilograms. The price was \$1.80/kg; I made \$1260 on ten pigs. However, I paid \$400 for 10 piglets and \$500 for feed so I made a profit \$360.

The AOC staff trained our villagers on pig raising over a three-day period at Model Farm. After the training, I started raising 12 hybrid pigs. The cost for buying 12 piglets was \$600. I had a mill machine so I no longer had to buy the feed from the market. With my feed, the pigs averaged 100 kg in only five months! The price for the hybrid pigs was \$2/kg, so I made \$2400. I paid \$600 for 12 piglets and \$1000 for feed and medicine. I made a profit of \$800 for selling 12 pigs.

When I compared the local and hybrid pigs, the hybrid pigs grow much faster and are more profitable. I am happy with hybrid pigs because it can increase my income and I can support my children's education.

On behalf of my villagers, I would like to share my appreciation to AOC for training myself and the villagers in my community.



TRAINING CENTRE (THE HOPE CENTRE)

STUNG TRENG

Overview

It has been a very busy and exciting past six months in Stung Treng with the Training Centre. We are hoping to have the keys and the first phase of the building completed by the end of July. This will allow our staff and overseas teams and volunteers to assist in the internal fit-out.

Time has been spent on networking, researching and finding the right curriculum, choosing tiles, paint colours and arranging other logistics for the next stage.

After reviewing the ideas from the staff and board on potential names, we decided on The Hope Centre. Our prayer is that The Hope Centre will be a venue where both staff and students are empowered and find hope for their future. We desire it to be a venue where discipleship takes place and many find transformation both spiritually and mentally, gaining skills to be the next generation of leaders.

Please pray with us for

- God's continual provision of funds to complete the inside so we can start training.
- God's wisdom in sourcing out the right curriculum and partnerships for future trainings.
- Qualified employees to fill several key roles.
- Teams and volunteers with specific skills to complete the building.
- Protection and good health for all who come to volunteer and work on the Centre.

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ASSISTING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL

KANDAL, PREY VENG & STUNG TRENG



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Overview

Over the past six months, the WATSAN, ACTS and CHD project managers discussed ways to collaborate to pursue a holistic model of community development. In communities where all three are situated, they decided for CHD to focus on strengthening the personal and spiritual lives of the parents of the ACTS children and WATSAN to provide water filters for some of the families. This enables the ACTS staff to concentrate on the children's education.

ACTS is much more than simply sending a child to school. It also operates within an integrative approach to education by empowering not only the students, but all the stakeholders. The staff meets with the principals and teachers regularly to listen and advise on the progress and development of each ACTS student. The extra tuition classes are incorporated to help the children thrive and succeed. We also meet with secondary school students every three months to offer a platform for them share their joys and challenges. We support them by providing appropriate solutions to problems, guidance and motivation. And finally, the ACTS staff updates the parents on the status of the children's school work and strive to build relationships of trust and care.

Story of Change

Rorn Sayon is a nine-year old girl who is in grade 3. Her 13-year old brother is a monk and her parents are construction workers in Thailand. Sayon lives with her grandmother who already takes care of two other grandchildren. She earns \$1USD a day and receives \$30 per month from Sayon's parents.

Sayon's daily life is occupied with housework and she does whatever she can to assist her grandmother to earn an income. Due to her situation, Sayon cannot go to school because there is no money to buy uniforms or study materials. Her life changed though when she heard about ACTS three years ago. She now attends school regularly with the encouragement and full support of her grandmother who learned about a child's right to education and child rearing practises from our parenting classes.

Sayon excels in her academic pursuit; she is number six in ranking amongst 30 classmates. She told us, "When I graduate I want to be a doctor so I can work and help to support my grandmother and the rest of the family."



STARS OF PEACE

KANDAL

Overview

SoP firmly believes in the power of discipleship. As one of our goals, we aim to build up local people in the community to walk alongside the families for the best interest of the children. Pursuing this intentionally, three of the five-member team live in Prek Ho.

Discipleship takes place in our daily work in the manner in which we handle conflicts and problems, how we cooperate as a team, and the display of genuine care. We try our best to exemplify honesty, respect, integrity, hard work and a sense of commitment in and passion for what we do. We meet weekly to plan the preschool activities and pray for the children every day. We also take the time to meet with each individual staff member to encourage, support and share in their concerns and challenges, both at work and in their personal lives. And regular meals together go a long way to build relationship and fellowship with each other as well!



Story of Change

Ms. Cheorng Saveourn, Brost Khouch's mother is in her early thirty's. It is not easy for her to bring up three boys when her husband is not always home to help and support her. Saveourn usually attends the monthly parenting training that SoP provides. She loves to learn how to be a good mother.

Saveourn told the team that she regrets her inability to read and write. It makes it impossible to help her children in their homework. She said she does not want her children to become like her, but wishes for them to have a good education so they will have a better future.

Brost Khouch is five years old. He is the youngest son of the family. He has been a part of our preschool since he was three years old. Before Brost Khouch joined the preschool, Saveourn said that he, being the youngest, was a bit stubborn and cursed others who upset him and always wanted his way. During some of our home visits, Saveourn often shared her concerns and uncertainty in how to change his attitude and behaviour.

Early this year, all of the teachers noticed some significant changes in Brost Khouch. He loves coming to school and enjoys learning and moreover, he plays well with his friends. Saveourn said, "I used to bite my sons and used bad words to discipline them, but I stopped after learning about positive parenting at your classes". She continued, "Instead of harming them, I encourage and praise instead and I see the changes"!

The team is very proud of Saveourn because she wants so much for her children to have a good education. She told the team, "I want my sons to have knowledge for their future. Brost Khouch wants to become a teacher and as a mother, I want to give my best to support him to reach his dream. Thank you so much for helping my son".

Saveourn is also very active in helping the team with different events that the school holds. She loves participating and help as much as she can. She actively advocates for positive parenting with the other mothers.

Thank you so much for your support so that we can assist families and young mothers like Saveourn to be better parents and help their children develop to reach their dreams.