



Cambodian Servants

Children of the Jungle: Bringing hope of a bright future to a whole generation of Christian children isolated from the developed world.

INTEREST:

- Only 2% of Cambodians graduate from High School.
- There are nearly 500,000 babies born every year in Cambodia.
- The average education of Cambodian pastors is 5th grade.
- Most children have no access to any school over 5th grade.

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Training Center and Children's Home

Several years ago we had the vision of reaching a whole province for Christ. This province was only accessible by a day long boat trip up the Mekong river. The vision for this center is that it be evangelistic a model for the entire country. It is a place that provides continual training for new believers, and leaders of the new churches. When Words of Life Ministries began church planting in the area there were no churches and only ten believers. Since 1997 fifty churches have been started in this province with well over 1,000 believers. As the body of Christ began to grow it became more difficult to find a place where the teaching and training of these new believers could be done. Since the goal of Words of Life Ministries is to start a sustainable church in every village in the province, establishing a training center was an important step for us. The present structure on the property provides training space for 200-300 persons.



A Sunset over the Mekong

At the time Words of Life Ministries purchased its property to begin the training center, there were no roads leading to the area. All travel to the area had to be done by boat on the Mekong river. God saw more! Now, in only eight years, Asian Highway Number One is being built, directly connecting China with Saigon, Vietnam. The highway passes very near the Words of Life Ministries training center. This highway, when completed next year, will be linking China, Laos, and Vietnam, directly through Cambodia, providing unlimited opportunities for spreading the gospel into those countries that are presently closed to the gospel. This training center has the potential of being a regional training center, and eventually an international training center, taking Jesus Christ into Asian nations, discipling and training new believers in Christ. The God given vision for the center is for more than a lifetime, and will continue with following generations through the children.

There is further significance for the location of the training center. This province also has nine ethnic minorities living among the majority Khmers. Seven of these tribes have no believers at all. Because these people are ethnic minorities the Cambodian government will never reach out to help them. They are outcasts in the society. They have no access to education, nor the basic needs most people expect.

Holistic Ministry

The ultimate goal of everything that we do is to see people come to Christ and have lives changed. In such a poor country, we cannot overlook the lives of the hurting people. Paul said, "I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings." (1 Corinthians 9:22-23). We have become well-drillers, medics, farmers, house parents and many other things so that people can have a chance to understand what we believe and accept Jesus Christ themselves. Everything that we do is used as an avenue to share Christ. It is Jesus Christ alone that can truly change lives.



Well Drilling

Children in Need of Hope for the Future



Sophat and her mother

The next phase for the center is for raising up and equipping the second generation believers. These are the children. The people in the region have low education because schools have not been available to them. The vast majority of ethnic people live deep in the jungles. Sometimes a teacher is sent to a village one day a week, which obviously provides little instruction. The people have to work hard simply to exist day after day, and by age ten most children do not study at all. Parents are not able to give good care to their children.

Sophat, age 11, and her sister Sophia, age 9, live in one of these jungle villages. Their father and mother came to know Jesus Christ and became leaders of their village church. Sophat and Sophia soon came to know Christ personally as well. Life is not easy for them. In the last dry season they had no water for seven months. There are no water wells in the village for clean water. The two girls daily helped their parents dig down into the bottom of the dry river bed for muddy water. There was also no food for five months during that season. Only the poisonous mushrooms and fungus on

trees grew. The family boiled them for three days to neutralize the poison so they could be eaten. There are no roads to the village. It is difficult walking through the thick jungle in dry season. But in the rainy season, however, a boat is needed to reach the village because of flooding from mountain run off. Sophat has an older sister who volunteered to go to work as a maid in Malaysia. She was only 17 at the time and desperate for money to help the family. She was assigned to a Chinese family who beat her regularly until her face was constantly swollen and unrecognizable. She finally escaped from the house and a taxi driver took her to the Cambodian embassy. She was cared for there for two weeks until she was able to get enough money to go home and another \$1,000 for her two years of work there. Because her family is so desperate for money, she is now seeking to return.

Sophat, Sophia, and their sister, are like thousands of other children who have no education, no hope outside of life like their parents and the other children born in Cambodia's jungles.

Children's Facilities



A simple Cambodian house

Simple one-room houses on stilts are needed at the Words of Life Training Center for children isolated and without hope for a future. Each small constructed home will be 18 feet by 27 feet. Each home will house 10 children, between the ages of seven and seventeen, with a Christian house-mother, or Christian couple, so that the children can have a home environment, and not an institutional setting. The upper floor will be the sleeping area for the entire "family". Below will be a simple bathroom, and shaded area for play, study, and other activities. Cooking will be done outside at the back of the structure. There is no electricity at the center, as there is none in surrounding villages as

well, but hopefully some generators can be built in.

Those allowed to live at the center will be Christian children of Christian leaders. Their general education will be conducted at a government public school in the near-by city. Although quite in-expensive, the education at these schools is limited since the ratio of teacher to student is generally 1 to 80 or 90. Therefore, at the training center there will be additional study for reading and writing. The goal being that every child will be able to easily read and understand the Bible. There will be Bible training, health care, and agricultural training for the children as well.

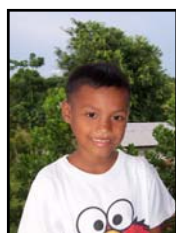
Little Angels Come Out of the Jungle



Kom



Tira



Vichet



Mum



Srie Ti



Chan Tria



Phala



Malet



Sophat



Sopy



Kum Hien



Kum Heng



Building their Home



Sick boy with Malaria

Seeing these kids for the first time was a personal joy. Not only are they extremely cute, but they are all so well behaved and full of gratitude. They range between six and fifteen years old. Most of them arrived with only the clothes they were wearing as their only possessions, one even arrived with a towel wrapped around his waist. He didn't own any clothes. Four of them have severe malaria and have bulging stomach's. Most are also malnourished, as evident by their brownish hair. Some of the kids even died their hair with charcoal to make it black so that they would look more presentable. One was so sick, he was violently shaking with the Malaria fever and had to be put on a drip (IV) immediately. We have a doctor caring for them all full-time until they all gain in strength and nourishment. Most were starving living the last five months and eating leaves from the trees and funguses. Some were more lucky and have bits of corn mashed into water. We allow them to eat as much as they want and most are eating two to three plates of food with giant mounds of rice as they have been so hungry. Even six year old kids are eating more than adults. They will normalize soon though as their bodies adjust to having enough of food.

As we brought in the children quickly we had no dedicated building for their housing. We have a large training center there so all of the children are staying there for the time being. We plan to build two houses initially, a boys house and a girls house followed by a dining hall and group kitchen. Hopefully a playground can be built soon as well.

First Day of School



First day of school was a joyous day!

Eleven of the children were able to go to the first day of school. It was quite an event. Classes started at 7:00am and they have to walk about a mile to school. They were up at 3:00am ready to go! It was an exciting day. The previous night we had taught them how to walk orderly in a line so that when they walked to school they would stay to the side of the small dirt road and not wander all over the road in potential danger. They all lined up from smallest to biggest, girls first and boys in the back. . . and began their march to school. As they marched away from the house and came to the road they suddenly realized they didn't know where the school was. . . They began marching to the north when the school was to the south. Some of us adults just started laughing. . . In all our excitement, we forgot to tell them where the school was. So one of the church leaders pointed them in the right direction. They marched the entire mile in formation.

They made it to the school and had a wonderful first day meeting their teachers. They are in a brand new five-room school house, so they are really happy! The school has no other facilities though, just five empty rooms.

Investing for the Long-Term in lives!



Future Church Leaders!

In the county of Cambodia only 2% of the population have graduated from high school. For ethnic minorities the percentage is far less than that. By investing in the lives of these children now, their future will be much brighter and they will be able to have a chance at another life other than survival farming and selling themselves as foreign labor in countries where they have no rights.

Investing in the children through out Kracheh province, is investing in the next generation of church leaders. Church planting will continue from the center until the goal of one church in every village of the province is accomplished. As the road connects Cambodia to Vietnam, Laos and China (all Communist countries which persecute Christians) the Lord could raise them up as evangelists to those countries and maybe use them to open closed doors.

The cost for one house on stilts (similar to the one pictured on the previous page) is about \$2,500-4,000 for the main structure. This does not include any furnishings or lower flooring, nor kitchen utensils and such.

When we decided to start this project to help the children, it was out of a sense of duty to mankind and a burden for a lost world. Christian children should have hope for a bright future. Without Christ, they never would be able to leave the jungle life. Only after the decision was made did we sit down and begin to calculate the costs that this project would incur. The cost for maintaining and caring for 10 children in a home will be approximately \$400 a month. This includes their school fees, food, materials and medications for a month.

There is also need for play ground equipment. Cambodian children have never seen a play ground that we take for granted at schools and parks in America and other developed countries. It is our desire that a beautiful play ground be developed at the center for these deprived yet deserving children.

The expense to help the life of Children from the jungles of Cambodia is an investment of long lasting value.

Ministry Expenses

Facilities (one-time setup)

- Each Khmer style house for 10 children: \$2,500-\$4,000
- Playground: \$500 and up! (the bigger the better!)
- Dining Hall (Kitchen and Eating Area): \$5,000
- Paved Sidewalks between buildings: \$1,500

Equipment (one-time setup)

- Kitchen Utensils (pots, pans, plates. . .): \$450
- Beds, bedding, pillows: \$900
- 5kva Generator (or larger): \$1,200
- Motorcycle and cart for "school bus": \$1,300
- Library (shelves, books): \$500

On-Going Expenses

- Food, education expenses, clothes, medicines: \$400* (per month, per 10 children)
- Currently 20 children (\$800 per month)

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