



HOPE NEWS

Dear Friends and Supporters

It only takes a little bit of light to dispel the darkness. Cambodia is a struggling nation with a lot of darkness. The country suffers from oppressive political leadership. Corruption, bribery, bullying and extortion are common. Yet there are flickers of light from many Christian organisation, Stitches of Hope included, bringing light and hope into people's lives. Here is an updated report on our projects, following a ten day visit in May by Kay, Wendy and Londa (a SOH supporter). Sadly, we missed going to Mesang. However, we did enjoy a bonus trip to old friends Vy and Bunthoeun at Battambang sharing in love, joy and hope.

Dedicated Staff

Amidst very real personal trials our staff shine. Their maturity of faith, their capacity to show love, and their concern for God to be known in the lives of those they care for is a beautiful thing. Big responsibility rests on the shoulders of Punnreay and Chanthy, our in-country directors. They are two of the nine staff (some part-time) who are supported by your kindness and generosity. They are compassionate and considerate, strong disciples, and good role-models for those in their care.

Chrey Vien

Teachers Puthea and Chanthou are doing a wonderful job. The 85 students receive extra tuition in key subjects: bible study, English, hygiene and they have planted a vegetable garden and fruit trees which they all enjoy looking after. They loved to recite to us an English poem about hygiene and we loved giving them clothing and bread rolls. We also gave them Bibles and Bible storybooks purchased with funds from a Wagin lady.

Sadly, the home of one family had burnt down a few days before we arrived. Understandably they were devastated. They lost everything. It had taken them years to save the money to build, which they did about a year ago. Now it's all gone. Kind neighbours are allowing them shelter at night, but the village is too poor to be able to give the \$7000 necessary to rebuild. If you would like to donate to this family you can do so by going to our website www.stitchesofhope.org.au Thanks so much to those you who have already generously donated to this family!!

Porsat

Seyla sings like an angel and it was lovely to see her lead a time of worship for these poor village people. Chanthy gave a message of encouragement and then we had the joy of giving out bread rolls, pencils and songbooks. You just have to admire these impoverished people for their courage and determination. There were two other highlights of our visit to Porsat. One was the bed-ridden lady who Kay and Chanthy visited in her home. 90 years old and in poor health, she said she had asked Jesus to call her home – such beautiful faith. The other was the opportunity to pray for a 20-year old man, the income earner for his family. Lifting loads too heavy for him, he had seriously damaged his knees and has been unable to walk for three months. For the lack of \$50 he was only able to lie in pain on his mat at home. With \$50 he and a village man to assist him, he purchased bus tickets to the city, where he had meals and overnight accommodation – and the medical help he needed. He will have more treatment but can already walk 50 metres. It was the equivalent of saying to him, "Pick up your mat and walk" – a very special encounter, for which we thank God.



Kay, Wendy & Londa with Punnreay & Chanthy



Chrey Vien students

SOH Childrens' Home

We had some great times with the children – harvesting with them produce from their vegetable garden, admiring the new flower garden they have established, swimming in the hotel swimming pool, having a dance party, practicing conversational English and finding lots of things to laugh about. We encouraged the children to set high goals and work toward achieving them.

We are always proud of our students when they do well. One of our Year 4 students had topped the class in recent exams at the government school so he earned a warm pat on the back. It made for a beautiful family scene when we arrived one evening – Moses teaching music to two or three children, Seyla marking homework that five children were doing with toddlers crawling in between them, Punnreay installing curtain rods, pedicures and manicures happening in the corner, Chanthly passing out gifts, Srey Pov giving English tuition and Borany resting on the steps after a day of caring and cooking ... all in the one room! What an amazing (big) family!



Children in vegie garden

Sewing Centre

The Sewing Centre looks beautiful with the painted courtyard, new gate and stone wall. Vanna took a day off work to meet us which was so nice. A few sewers were working. We used the floor to cut out the first of the curtains for the Children's Home... always new things happening!

Thanks to God

We enjoyed a wonderful ten days and came home with hearts thankful to God for what he is achieving in Cambodia through your charity and prayers. It is all very humbling!

SOH Board News

We meet monthly. Input from supporters is always welcome. If you have any comments or ideas or questions, please contact Kay or any one of us. An extravagant shed party is planned for October ... more information to come. We are always on the lookout for new ideas for generating money for use in Cambodia; maybe you have some good ideas. The next Team Trip is planned for 14 days in late November, with some people already having registered their interest in joining the trip to Cambodia conducted by Kay and Alex. It is certain to be life-changing and you'll find the truth of it being more blessed to give than receive.

With love and thanks, Kay and the Stitches of Hope Board

www.stitchesofhope.org.au



Chrey Vien fire disaster
(see story front page)

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RAWCS Project No. 68-2012-13

Please consider becoming a **Monthly Partner with Stitches of Hope** to help support the wonderful projects that are being carried out. It is such a worthwhile organisation and we are appealing to you for your help with the ongoing running costs each month especially now that the US dollar value has dropped so much and we have a large commitment which includes food, power, water, transport, education, clothing, medical and wages to maintain. We would love to have you come on board with us to partner in this very exciting and worthwhile work.

If you are willing and able please complete the details below to contribute and receive a blessing.

\$30 \$50 \$75
 \$100 Other \$ _____

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