

Community Health and Agricultural *development*

Advent | 2008

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 Leng Thy

Living in Atsue village, Kompong Thom Province, Mrs. Morm Khy, a 55-year-old widow is dreaming to own a cow one day to help her family farm the small plot of land that was left in her possession after a divorce in 1995. The divorce left her only with 1000 square meters of rice land and three young children. Since then, she became the breadwinner of the family and all the heavy burden of caring for her children fell on her. To supplement the 72 kg of rice she harvested from her very small plot of land, Morm Khy has to work as a farm laborer where she earns a meager wage of 5000 riels or \$1.25 per day.

One year later, in 1996 her hope was restored as she joined a Christian community in her village. That group of people provided her a lot of support, even inviting her to be a member of the cow raising group project. Being one of the poorest families in the group, Morm Khy was chosen to be one of the first recipients of the cow gift-loan from CHAD (Community Health and Agricultural Development). She said that since owning a cow her situation has changed significantly. First and foremost, she benefits from building a good relationship with her neighbors who help her feel that she is not alone and who stood by her side during times of troubles and difficulties.

For Morm Khy, owning a cow means she only needs to borrow one cow from her neighbor in order to plow her field and transport firewood from the forest to her house. In the same way, she told that owning a cow also gives her the ability and opportunity to help her neighbors by letting them borrow her cow. According to her, she saves 30,000 riels for transporting firewood and about 1,500 riels/day for vegetables she harvests from her garden that has been fertilized by manure from her cow. Another benefit she mentioned from owning a cow is it keeps her busy and allows her to be more productive at home. For instance, with cow manure she started composting, which led to cleaning the area surrounding her house, cultivating the soil, and then watering and fertilizing a vegetable garden.

According to her, these projects help her overcome her boredom and also help her to become industrious. She

said, “These benefits also enable me to send my 18-year-old youngest son to school ‘til now.” With her smile, she expresses her joy. Even though she is working hard, Morm Khy said that she would like to say “thank you” for all the support from her church and the cow raising group that chose her to be the first person to receive the cow gift-loan from CHAD.



Leng Thy facilitates a community development workshop.

See our blog for more stories of transformation:
<http://chad-cambodia.blogspot.com>



Alternative Giving

"...he has lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry with good things..."

Many churches and individuals are now supporting the Community Health and Agricultural Development (CHAD) program of the Methodist Mission in Cambodia through an Alternative Giving Bazaar.

As an alternative to buying material goods, your gifts will contribute to Cambodian mission projects in the name of loved ones. Every purchase is a gift of love for people in need that can bring joy to the hearts of those less fortunate.

Raising livestock, especially cows, and engaging in micro-farming are ways that Cambodians can fight poverty and hunger. Many rural Cambodian households like Morm Khy have low incomes because their livelihood depends almost exclusively on wet season rice production. Developing profitable dry season enterprises is a way for the rural poor to combat poverty and improve their quality of life. Here are some of the projects that the CHAD program supports:

RICE BANKS feed communities during the dry season when supplies run out. Your gift can help these communities get through difficult times.

- 1 Ton of rice \$250
- Rice share ... \$25
- Irrigation project ... \$500
- Irrigation share ... \$20

VEGETABLE FARMING is a project which helps feed families, generates income, and can lift the standard of living for a family, making it possible for children to attend school.

- Garden plot/seeds ... \$500
- Garden share ... \$25

MUSHROOM FARMING is something women can do to help feed and clothe their families. This type of farming is especially important in resettlement communities where the poor have no assets and have limited access to land.

- Mushroom Project ... \$350
- Mushroom Share ... \$15

COWS are desperately needed in rural Cambodia. They require no special feeding, they can be used for transportation, and they provide both fertilizer and food. Cows drastically improve the standard of living for small communities.

- Cow ... \$300
- Cow share ... \$25

SEWING & WEAVING can allow impoverished young women to earn a living and support their families. Scholarships support the costs for machines, looms and thread or fabric. Secondary support helps women expand their business to silk weaving as their skills increase.

- Loom & thread ... \$350
- Weaving share ... \$25

HOSPITAL REGISTRATION is necessary in the "cash & carry" medical system. Poor patients can receive free treatment through the Equity Fund, but they 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
- 1 meal ... \$2

CLEAN WATER is essential to good health, but in most places in Cambodia it does not exist. The water filter consists of a clay pot painted with a bacteria-killing substance which is placed inside and on top of a much taller plastic receptacle. When contaminated water is poured into the clay pot, clean water starts to drip through; with 3 fillings, the unit can produce 30 liters of clean drinking water every day.

- Water Filter ... \$8.50

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

PRAYER REQUESTS:



From Ken Cruz

Missionary from The Philippines
kennedycruz_chad@citylink.com.kh

- For God's continued guidance and wisdom as I teamed up with CHAD team in equipping our local congregations for implementing holistic development programs in their communities.
- Pray for me as the newly appointed Chair of the Social Concerns Committee of the Methodist Mission in Cambodia for God's leading and direction.
- Pray for my family as we go through major transitions this year and next year as my two sons are heading to college in Australia and US.

From Irene Mparutsa

Missionary from Zimbabwe
irene.mparutsa@gmail.com

- Pray for equity and quality in health care services, especially that the poor may receive care with respect and dignity.
- For the church to be an advocate for the poor, the pastors need courage and diligence to build bridges with health care service providers. Please pray for them.
- Pray for my renewed role as mother and grandmother following the loss of my daughter-in-law. Pray for staying power and clarity of vision for the future.

From Katherine Parker

Missionary from the USA
katherineparker@gmail.com

- As our Methodist pastors and congregations expand their work in health and development in their local communities, please pray that they will have boldness of vision in their efforts and personal strength in addressing the challenge of being publicly associated with Christianity in a mostly Buddhist country.
- Pray for me as I continue my language study, that it will give me the courage to develop stronger relationships and deeper friendships.

From Leng Thy

CHAD staff from Cambodia
lengthy_chad@citylink.com.kh

- Pray for the church in Cambodia to avoid the lure of dependency and to take leadership.
- Pray for me to have the wisdom to take care of my son and give him direction for a future career.



How to send your gift



- For online giving go to www.givetomission.org and Find Project 14916A.
- 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 "Alternative Giving" cards are available when you call or make a request on-line.