

Time of hope – Cambodia trip 2011

I'd like to invite you to join us on a visit to Cambodia in this winter to see the work of the local churches and our partners as they transform the lives of the most vulnerable women and children. We are inviting a small group of influential people from Ireland who have a passion for the poor to travel with a senior Tearfund ambassador. This trip will be a journey of learning and discovery. You will meet local people whose lives have been transformed, you will be able to better understand the challenges that they face, the causes of poverty and how the local church can bring real transformation.

We believe that the best way to make a lasting difference is by addressing the underlying causes of poverty and injustice. By working through the local church our impact is magnified and becomes sustainable.

Yours sincerely,

Reuben Coulter

Chief Executive

Tearfund Ireland

Bringing hope and demonstrating love to the most vulnerable and marginalised people – through the local church

During the trip there will be an opportunity to:

- Meet local women and experience the impact of poverty first hand
- Gain a greater understanding of our strategic Christian response to development and the effectiveness of working through the local church
- Gain an understanding of the issues of HIV, children living and working on the streets and human trafficking and how these can be tackled
- Learn how you can become an advocate for change in Ireland and explore ways you could support the partner's work in the future.



Leakheana's father was infected by HIV and died five years ago. Shortly afterwards her mother also died. Leakheana's grandparents took on the responsibility of feeding her and her three siblings. Project HALO helps Leakheana and her family by providing education, sponsorship, uniforms, school materials and toiletries to the children and 30kg of rice per month. They also help them to deal with their grief and provide the occasional fun outing. Now all the children can go to school and have hope for a better future.

Our work in Cambodia

TASK

TASK is a Khmer acronym for "Supporting the Health and Development of the Poor". They work in Mean Chey district, a slum area of the capital city Phnom Penh, seeing the lives of the poor transformed through meeting their spiritual, physical, social and emotional needs. The Little Conquerors project assists children with

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Registered charity number: 8600

disabilities to develop their God-given potential in all areas of their lives. These children receive stimulation therapy, physiotherapy, education in public schools or in the especially established Sunrise School. The children are also helped to integrate more fully into their community as loved and valued members. They also run Project Halo which supporting 500 AIDS orphans, helping them continue to live in the support of their own communities, after the death of one or both parents. Children are placed with caring local families.

Cambodian Hope Organisation

CHO works with the poor in the border town of Poipet to improve their quality of life physically and spiritually. They particularly look after children who are at risk from trafficking or whose parents have HIV or lack of money to provide food and education.



CHO was initially set up to address the rising problem of child trafficking in Poipet, situated on Cambodia's northwest border with Thailand. Due to gambling being illegal in Thailand, Poipet has become a Las Vegas style resort, and with it prostitution and trafficking has greatly increased. CHO has grown since then to address all the needs of the poor in that area, covering food security, health, skills and their spiritual lives.

Country information

Cambodia is beautiful tropical country in South East Asia. It is also infamous for the 'killing fields'. The country continues to recover from 25 years of civil war and the brutal Khmer Rouge communist regime, which ruled from 1975 to 1979. Thanks to relatively newfound peace and freedom, life is far better now for the people of Cambodia than in recent decades. Development is progressing, yet daily life is still difficult for many people. East Asia is facing the fastest growing AIDS epidemic in the world, according to UNAIDS. Cambodia was hit early on by the disease and still has one of the highest HIV/AIDS infection rates in all of Asia, with 2.6 percent of the population infected. There are an estimated 10,000 – 20,000 children living and working on the streets of Phnom Penh (UNICEF) many whom have been orphaned by AIDS.

Provisional Dates: 1st – 8th January 2011

Duration: 6 days (approx)

Cost: €1,500 (approx)

Trip leader: Tearfund Ireland staff member

If you are interested in joining me or want to know more email me at reuben.coulter@tearfund.ie or call 086 7911219

To obtain an application form contact: Christine Mulligan

Phone: 01 4975285

Email: enquiries@tearfund.ie

Please return application form to us by 1st August 2010

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