

Prayer update September 2020

The long- term effects of Covid.

According to the World Bank, in 2020 half of all wage earners in Cambodia are self-employed. These are your small fast-food vendors, transporters, plastic collectors and those who walk the streets trying to sell a few wares. For the many who spend hours per day, rain or shine, trying to make a small living, this virus has taken its toll.

One sector that has been overly-affected is those who get their living from local schools. Children need transport to and from home; snacks and fast food items are cooked outside school premises and offered to children during breaks. With the closure of the country's schools and over 3 million children staying home, those dependent on selling or providing a service to the children have all been hard hit. Some report these schools have been closed for up to 150 days, denying these self-employed service providers an opportunity to make any money.

Small transporters, having lost a lucrative clientele, have to look for customers elsewhere and with an already tight competitive market, many will simply be seen sitting around playing cards, gambling away the little money they have.

Some good news.



It is reported that some schools have been cleared to reopen and are starting to ease back into a routine that will allow eagerly waiting students through their doors. This is really good news for the thousands of children who have not been able to see friends and teachers. It is also good news for those who can once again provide a small service to the thousands of children returning.

Some more good news.



‘He covers the sky with clouds; he supplies the earth with rain and makes grass grow on the hills. Psalm 147:8

Most people in Cambodia either know how to farm or have a piece of land that can be farmed. Khmer people have a close relationship with their land, but farming depends on a ‘good’ rainfall season. ‘Good’ means just the right amount of rain, neither too little nor too much, as either is devastating to subsistence farmers who need to feed their families.

When I was in Cambodia last year, the country was going through a difficult period with daily power cuts to the major centres. This was caused because of a shortage of rainfall in the region, stopping the flow of the mighty Mekong river. Less water in the Mekong means less generated power to the major centres. The good news is the rains have been falling steadily this year which will pay dividends when it comes to harvest time. No power blackouts means the smaller businesses can operate.

We continue to pray:

- As the school open, please pray for the children who return: pray for their protection, pray against the fear of returning to school.
- Pray the children would quickly get into a rhythm of learning and make the adjustments from being at home to being in a class.
- Pray for the teachers and staff of these schools as they transition the school premises into safe yet pleasant learning environments.
- For those in the self-employed sector, the drivers, food vendors and small businesses: pray that they would see an up-turn in incomes which have dried up over these last several months.

Thank you for standing with us to see His Kingdom come in Cambodia.

God Bless

Chris