

## Feb 2021 Prayer update



### **One year on in Cambodia.**

A year ago, no-one could have predicted what our world would go through or look like because of the deadly Covid-19 virus. Recently, many newscasts have noted with bated breath the anniversary of the virus. Cambodia was not spared, and, on 27 January, marked the one-year anniversary of the discovery of the first case of Covid-19 in Cambodia when a tourist was diagnosed in Preah Sihanouk province. This first case, a 60-year-old Chinese man who had travelled from the Chinese city of Wuhan, was verified by the Institut Pasteur du Cambodge, a research facility under the patronage of the Department of Health. Thankfully, since that first detection, a number of strict measures were put in place, including the monitoring of visitors to the Kingdom, all these leading to the restriction of spread of the virus.

One year on in Cambodia and only 460 confirmed cases across the country with 423 recoveries, and the good news that no deaths are reported.

### **“We still must remain cautious”.**

These are the words of the Ministry of Health’s spokesperson. The communication from government has repeatedly been to inform the population of the dangers of Covid and the need to work together to prevent the spread of any further cases in the Kingdom. “Protect yourself, protect others and remain aware” has been the repeated call. These measures have paid off, with Cambodia ranking only 192<sup>nd</sup> in the *worldometer*, a daily source of up-to-date information on the virus, country-by-country.

## But...

But one year on, Cambodia is still in the grips of the effects of the virus. Tourism, the country's second largest industry, has been particularly affected, with a 90 percent drop in visitors to the Kingdom. One concern is the global fear of transmission, especially through travel. Many tour operators are not optimistic about visitors returning in 2021 and only feel people will return after an effective vaccination rollout is complete. Many of those directly making their living from visitors are turning to other industries and local tourists to make a living.

Although access to food has not been affected greatly during the pandemic, a recently published report says that more than half of households in Cambodia have needed to cut back on the size and quality of meals, at some point during the Covid-19 pandemic. These measures include borrowing food, reducing consumption and greater reliance on less expensive options. Furthermore, households also resorted to more radical livelihood coping strategies, such as reducing essential spending on education and healthcare, selling productive assets, and sending household members to other provinces to look for work. These impacts are most worrying for more vulnerable households. Cambodia Action and its partners are keeping abreast of the situation, helping where possible.

*Please continue to pray for Cambodia.*



### Prayer for our team:

- **Zoran and Margaret Sulc** - Pray for this dear couple who have been waiting to return to Cambodia and are still in the UK: pray that medical check-ups on Margaret's liver and the wait for a vaccination for both of them will not further delay their progress in returning.
- **Susie and Herry Heryanto** - have been separated because of Covid and travel restrictions. Susie is currently in Australia; please pray that they are reunited soon.
- **Sharron Catton** – She thanks the Lord for His many blessings whilst being in Cambodia, but asks for prayer for wisdom and insight in day-to-day life; also Sharron's daughter is soon expecting their first child, so please pray for safe delivery.
- **The Chhin Family** - We thank the Lord for the news of renewed visas, good reports from schools and protection to the whole family at home. Please continue to pray for protection on the roads as the family commute daily to work and school. Also pray for strength, wisdom and patience to complete