



# ACTION

Number 195 : Winter 2023



Sowing the seeds of a new tomorrow for Cambodia

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# Cambodia Action

Registered Name:  
Southeast Asian Outreach  
UK Charity Number: 293382

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Cambodia Action is an evangelical inter-denominational mission and development agency, founded in 1973 by Major Taing Chhirc of the Cambodian Evangelical Church. The object is to promote the Christian faith and relieve poverty and distress among the peoples of Southeast Asia. Work is now solely amongst Cambodians.

Cambodia Action is a member of International Co-operation Cambodia (ICC), Global Connections and the Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia (EFC).

## DONATIONS

We rely on God to meet our needs through gifts. All donations are acknowledged unless otherwise requested. General gifts may be allocated to the greatest need, although donors can indicate a preference. Funds given for a specific appeal will be used for that purpose.

Cheques should be made payable to "Cambodia Action" and sent to the Yate Office.


## BANKERS


National Westminster Bank Plc,  
12, HighStreet, Doncaster,  
South Yorkshire DN1 1ED, UK.  
Current A/C: 69404054;  
Sort Code: 60-02-50  
A/C name: Cambodia Action

## CONTACT

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 CambodiaAction

 @Cambodia\_Action

Cambodia Action is working in partnership in Cambodia with a number of local NGOs

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## >> Editorial

### 2023 a good year.



Dear Friends,

As we come to the close of yet another year, it is good to reflect on 2023, seeing all that the Lord has done in this mission as well as in the country of Cambodia.

In 2023, we witnessed the celebration of 100 years of the gospel coming to Cambodia, with thousands gathering in Phnom Penh. We saw a peaceful general election in the country and - to everyone's surprise - a changing of the guard from Prime Minister Hun Sen to his son, Hun Manet. Back in May, Cambodia successfully showcased to the world its ability to host a major sporting event, the 32nd Southeast Asian Games, with eleven member countries. Cambodia won 282 medals, coming in fourth: well done! This boosted local and international tourism with confidence returning to the 'Kingdom of Wonder' as a travel destination. All these are good for the country.

This past year we hosted two celebratory events reflecting over the

last 50 years, celebrating what the Lord has done; you can read of Sheffield's celebration in this edition.

But, as important as it is to look back, it is imperative for any mission to look forward. 'What is next?' This was the challenge David Adams, Cambodia Action's chairman, left with us both in May and in September. Isaiah tells us to behold the Lord is doing a 'new thing'.

And as we venture into 2024, we are looking to the Lord for that new thing, new ways to reach Cambodia, new ways to engage with potential team members who will fill the gaps, such as the gap that will sadly be left as we say goodbye to one of our dear couples, Zoran and Margaret Sulc, on their return to the UK after eleven years in the field.

Thank you for standing with us in 2023. I trust that you continue to do so as we move into 2024.

May we look forward to many more years with faith and expectation of what the Lord will still do.

God Bless, Chris

**Cambodia Action wish all  
our readers a peaceful  
and blessed Christmas.**

## >> Bethel Mission



I would like to be a teacher

With the strong support from Cambodia Action, Bethel Mission is able to help the people living in the graveyard, the slum, the urban and the poor rural communities. Lives have been transformed by addressing their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Among the project targets, those living in the graveyard are one of the most vulnerable people groups. Among these people, Bethel Mission is working towards providing education, hygiene and sanitation, clean water and important bible studies. More than 300 children are impacted from this project. One of the children, aged 7 tells her story.

*"I was born in graveyard, sleeping on tomb stone each night. My father is a delivery worker and my mother is a traditional cake seller. I have 3 siblings,*

*and am with me being the first-born. I'm very excited to tell you, my story. In 2022, I started pre-school with Bethel Mission. I was not good at study; but that changed after I started with the mission. I enjoy studying, and have a dream to become a teacher one day. At school I not only learn Khmer and English, but also bible study and songs.*

*Now, I can read and write. I help my parents by taking care of my younger siblings and doing some housework after school. I love Sunday School and always bring my siblings to join. I love worshiping and Bible study, learning more through watching the Jesus film and hearing stories from SuperBook.. now I am able to sing songs of worship.*



My house among the dead

*My mother can see a change in me as I have become helpful around the house. Bethel Mission rebuilt our house as it burnt down in a fire. We also were supported with clothing and sleeping materials that we lost. . Bethel Mission also connected water supply to my house along with a new toilet.*

*Thank you for the support to my family, my friends and my community. I do hope you will continue to help.*

# Christmas Giving Catalogue, 2023



Please note that all the gifts featured are selected by our partners and will play some small part in bringing the goodness of the Lord over this festive season.

To give, please select a gift, complete an order form and return this to our address. Please don't forget, if you are eligible for Gift Aid, mentioning this adds 25% to the gift: every bit helps. If you would prefer, you can also give via our website at [www.cambodiaaction.org](http://www.cambodiaaction.org); click on the 'Give' button and search for Christmas 2023. Please clearly indicate in the PayPal instructions your gift preference.

Thank you!

## Prison Fellowship Cambodia



Christmas gift pack consisting of noodles, fish, drinks, toothpaste, soap and shampoo.  
£10. Code: 13001

“Prisoners tend to experience loneliness without their families and are in difficult conditions in Cambodian prisons. We want to shine a light of hope in these dark circumstances through providing food and basic needs packs and the

sharing of the gospel to prisoners in prison in Cambodia. PFC will invite pastors from local churches to speak about Christmas in the prisons as well as to provide food and basic needs packs.”-

Director Sabun Ong

## M'lup Russey

Gift # 1 Medication -Cream . Code - 13002

Some children currently cared for by M'lup Russey's Emergency Foster Care families have medical issues and disabilities. There is a 3-year old girl in emergency foster care who has very serious eczema and is in need of special cream.  
£4 per month will help this child.

Gift # 2- wheel chair. Code: 13003

Another child - who is being cared for by her relatives, supported by M'lup Russey - is in need of a wheelchair.

£6. (50 people giving £6 each will enable M'lup Russey to buy a wheelchair.)



## Sunrise

Clean water system. Code: 13004

Clean water is essential for health and well-being and everyone should have access to it. Sadly this is not the case in poorer communities. Last year, Sunrise installed a major clean water system in the local prison and this year would like to provide clean water for families living with HIV, by giving them an inexpensive water filtration system that can be set up in homes.



Each durable filter system cost £18.00 per family.

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## Bethel Mission Organisation

Educational packs. Code: 13005

This organisation supports over 333 children living in dire conditions. The extra money for school materials that these poor families need for their children is just not available. As a result, many children go without the proper books and bags. Bethel's vision is to see every child given an opportunity to succeed in school, providing extra classes in English, computer and Bible study.



For £10 we can help a child with a new back pack and the necessary books and stationery.

**ACTION**



# Christmas Gifts Order Form



Please complete and return to the Cambodia Action office, address below.

Title: ..... Forenames: .....

Surname:.....

Address: .....

..... Postcode: .....

Tel: ..... Email: .....

| Gift Code | Description | Price | Quantity           | Total |
|-----------|-------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
|           |             |       |                    |       |
|           |             |       |                    |       |
|           |             |       |                    |       |
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|           |             |       |                    |       |
|           |             |       |                    |       |
|           |             |       |                    |       |
|           |             |       | <b>Grand Total</b> |       |

I would like Cambodia Action to treat this donation as Gift Aid:

This Gift            Yes                            No

*giftaid it*

All donations from the date of this declaration until notified otherwise.

Yes    No

(I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.)

Signature: ..... Date: .....

Please return this form and payment to the address below. Cheques payable to Cambodia Action. If you would like to receive a receipt, please tick box.



Christmas Gifts  
Cambodia Action  
15 Bushey Ley,  
Welwyn Garden City,  
AL7 3EY  
Registered as Southeast Asian Outreach.  
Charity No: 293382

You can also email your order to:-  
[c.catlin@cambodiaaction.org](mailto:c.catlin@cambodiaaction.org)





## >> Honouring Zoran and Margaret Sulc

This October sees the return to the UK of Zoran and Margaret Sulc after eleven years in the field. Zoran recalls how back then he had just started to work as a Job Centre Manager in UK and had a conversation with a work colleague about his interest in Cambodia, to which she responded "I know someone in Cambodia". The seed was sown. An old back-dated Cambodia Action magazine was located, and the call that changed everything for this wonderful couple was made to the then Executive Director, John Heard, who asked him that all important question "Do you want to go to Cambodia?"



After weeks of prayer, they decided to venture out on an awareness trip. Zoran recalls how once he was in Cambodia with his feet on the ground, his heart was settled, but he was uncomfortable without a purpose or relevant qualifications. The decision to come to Cambodia was helped along when God used other people to bring encouragement and nudging them to make that leap of faith to go to the country.

On reflecting on this dear couple, I first met Zoran at the Phnom Penh International airport on my very first trip to Cambodia. On arrival, I was told to look out for a tall friendly looking man, a man who stands out in a crowd, ready to serve and help, with a beaming welcoming face. Zoran was there, and has always been there for me. Margaret I describe as a calm, supportive, mature prayer warrior and someone who served me many wonderful meals. I spent many hours travelling with them, learning about the 'Kingdom of Wonder', as Margaret put it with a chuckle. I will miss that.

In our magazine we usually write of the great work carried out, the projects and the partners, but in saying our goodbyes to Zoran and Margaret, I choose to write and honour a couple whom I see as friends, a couple who have a burning desire to see the Kingdom of God come to Cambodia. The Sulcs are leaving Cambodia but Cambodia is not leaving them. They will be returning periodically and remain close to the many relationships formed over the years.

I will miss our talks on Bible topics, wonderful meals that we shared like my birthday Indian curry. I will miss the travelling in tuk-tuks across the city and miss our laughing at the small funny things. I honour and thank you both.

Chris Catlin ED

## >> 50-year Celebration

We planned two 50-year celebrations in order to enable folk both in the south and north of the country to attend a one-day gathering. In the previous magazine I reported on the event in east Grinstead (see Action 194). On 30 September, it was the north's turn, with Sheffield being the most suitable location.

Once again, our intention was to reflect on what the Lord had done through 50 years as a mission, using Psalm 66 verse 5 as our scriptural theme. It was a delight to see friends and folk who had played some role in Cambodia Action's journey over many years.

### **Special Cambodian guests.**

One very special guest was Bophana Reily. She and her husband, Tom, had made the journey down from Edinburgh, overnighting with Ivor and Carol Greer, another couple who are well known to the Cambodia Action family, as Ivor is a former Operations Director. Bophana is the widow of Major Taing Chhirc, the founder of our mission, and it was fitting to give her an opportunity to address the gathering, which she kindly did. It was very moving for me to be handed Chhirc's Bible, wherein I could see notes and references of the man who laid his life down for Christ's call. Bophana had brought a number of other items to the gathering for us to see, including a treasured letter from her late husband, after which she thanked Cambodia Action for the years of service to her native country, the dream Chhirc Taing held.



### **Three Cambodian ladies - Muylen, Bophana and Mary Barnett**

Also in attendance was a young Cambodian lady called Muylen. Muylen is the previous Director of Prison Fellowship Cambodia, one of our partners, but is currently working for another ministry called Brave. Muylen had come over to UK to spend time with her fiancé who happens to live in Sheffield. The two of them struck a lovely colourful couple with matching outfits selected for the day. It was during Muylen's encouraging talk that she thanked Cambodia Action for our work in her country, requesting those present to help us continue the work. It was wonderful to see Cambodians from two different generations spending time together over the lunch break.

### **A good group of diverse speakers**

As in East Grinstead, Geoff Collett (a former ED and trustee) and I shared a slot together, albeit a shortened version, as we had more speakers on this second day. It was a quick walk-through and overview of our beginnings, up until our current

## >> 50-year Celebration (continued)

achievements. Later, after lunch, I was able to speak on the importance of partnering with organisations in Cambodia.

Special thanks went out to all who had travelled from far and wide to speak and share on the day: John and Penny from the New Forest, Denzil Jarvis from Bournemouth, and Geoff and Carol Collett from Godmanchester. All of them spoke from their own experiences of Cambodia, its wonderful people and the opportunities they all had in seeing what God had done there over the years.

Zoran Sulc had pre-recorded an encouraging greeting from his home in Cambodia, again sharing his and Margaret’s joy of the privilege of serving in the field for 11 years.

Before David Adams, our chairman, came on to wrap up with the last talk, we had a key-note guest speaker, Dr. Edwin Pugh, who is a retired university professor and medical consultant with 35 years’ experience of charitable development work in Cambodia, including as co-founder of two active health charities working there. His talk entitled, ‘It Started With a Paint Brush’, encapsulated the last 30 years in Cambodia. Through his colourful slides, the attendees were

given a snapshot of the differences nurses and doctors from this country have contributed to the health-care of many in Cambodia. The talk finished with a passionate challenge that had been made by each and every speaker, “The job is not done in Cambodia, so please help Cambodia Action to continue bringing good news to those in this wonderful country“.



Dr Edwin Pugh

A special thank-you to Dr Edwin Pugh and his wife, Kim, for the time given to our celebration.

If you would like to become a supporter, please visit our website at [www.cambodiaaction.org/give](http://www.cambodiaaction.org/give).

I want to thank all those who attended and those who helped before and on the day. Chris



# PRAISE & PRAYER

## Praise God for

- All who supported Cambodia Action over the year, enabling us to clear a good portion of our deficit
- All who attended the 50-year celebration in Sheffield in September
- The safe return to UK of Zoran and Margaret Sulc

## Pray for

- Continued wisdom as we look ahead to the next few years as a mission
- New trustees to join the Board
- Continued financial support for the mission
- Rest and refreshing for our team and staff over the Christmas period.

## >> Cambodia Action Flight Cost 2024



Each year the Executive Director travels to Cambodia to visit team members, projects, and partners. He also places importance on looking for new partnerships. This year will be no different. He will be travelling in early February 2024, staying for 21 days. Each trip costs close to £1,300 with the bulk being the airfare.

Could you by contributing any amount towards the airfares?

There are three ways to give:

- Cheques, payable to 'Cambodia Action', sent by post to 15 Bushey Ley, Welwyn Garden City, AL7 3EY
- Online giving – go to [www.cambodiaaction.org/give](http://www.cambodiaaction.org/give)
- Direct deposit – sort code 60-02-50, account number 69404054

God bless, Chris



Cambodia Action, 15 Bushey Ley, Welwyn Garden City AL7 3EY  
Tel: 07749467049, Email: [c.catlin@cambodiaaction.org](mailto:c.catlin@cambodiaaction.org)

Web site: [www.cambodiaaction.org](http://www.cambodiaaction.org)

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