



# Cambodian Hope Organization

Helping to create strong, independent, hope filled communities

September 2009

## Praise Points:

- The successful handover of one of our Education Projects to the Government
- Completion of a new Biogas Unit, designed and installed by a team of engineers from Scotland. This unit will provide gas for cooking at the Safe Haven site.

## Prayer Points:

- Our School Awareness Campaign taking place this month
- Finances to build the next 2 houses at Safe Haven site, as the 3 existing houses are currently at full capacity.
- The continues growth of the churches that have been planted in the Poipet area.
- That God will continue to raise up good Christian leaders within the community.



Soklin

\*permission given to publish story & photo

## Safe Haven School Opening in October

On October 1st 2009, CHO's new school building, located on our Safe Haven site will be opening for the new school year.

We will initially be teaching students from grades 1-3. In the next year, we would like to see the school catering for students all the way up to grade 6.

We will be organizing a promotional drive later in September, to encourage families in the area and surrounds, to send their children to the Safe Haven School.

There are currently three staff members lined up to teach at the school. The teachers will receive training over the coming month from a Christian School located

a few hours away. This will help develop their skills and prepare them for teaching a Christian syllabus to their classes.



We are really excited to see God's plan for the Safe Haven School come into fruition after 2 years of preparation and planning.

We look forward to what is ahead, and trust that God will continue to provide for us—He has been so faithful.

In order to keep Safe Haven School open and running, we must continue to pray for God's provision for the following:

- Salary for 3 teachers (USD\$150 each per month)
- Salary for School Director (USD\$200 per month)

If you feel that you can sponsor one or more of these teaching positions, or make a donation to go towards their work, please contact Chomno via email at

[chomno@yahoo.com](mailto:chomno@yahoo.com)

## Safe Haven Project: Case Study 1

**NAME: Soklin**  
**AGE: 14**

My mother died when I was 7, and after that my father went to work in Thailand to earn money. I have not seen him since he left and I do not know where he is. When my father left, I went to live with our neighbours. They took me to Thailand with them and we lived for 2 years.

During that time, the family taught me how to steal from people and pick pockets, so I could make money for them. If I did not steal enough money, they would

beat me and not give me any food. I had to sleep on the bare floor, with no mat or blanket and when I got sick, they would not give me any medicine

I was able to steal between 100 and 300 baht (\$3—\$9) per day, but I could not keep any for myself because the family was watching me and would make me give all the money to them. I was always worried and scared and wanted to run away.

One day, I decided to escape, but I had no money and was very hungry. When I was near the border, I met a teacher from Cambodia who asked me what I was doing. I told him what had happened to me and he gave me

some food and took me to the Ministry who sent me to be with CHO at Safe Haven.

I am excited to be here because I finally have the chance to learn and get an education to get a good job. When I get older, I would like to study to become a teacher, so I can teach other children just like me.

Now, whenever I get worried I can pray to God and sing the bible songs that I have learned. I pray that someone will find my 2 siblings who were also taken to work in Thailand by other people. I want them to also come to Safe Haven so we can be together.

## Safe Haven Project: Case Study 2



**Srey Peap**

\*permission given to publish story & photo

### Hope Transformation Centre—Update:

**In October, the final installment for the purchase of our new building 'Hope Transformation Centre' is due. Please pray that we will see God's provision in making this happen.**

**If you feel you are able to help in any way, please contact us.**

**Our vision for this new centre is that it will be a place to rescue and restore young women escaping from a life of prostitution. They will be able to live in a safe environment, where they will receive counseling and rehabilitation.**

**They will also have the opportunity to learn new skills and receive training in sewing and cosmetics as well as gaining experience in food preparation through the restaurant/coffee bar that will also be located on the premises.**

**NAME: Srey Peap**

**AGE: 13**

I am one of ten siblings – 6 boys and 4 girls. My father went to Thailand many years ago and my mother lives with us and looks after the whole family. Only the 3 youngest are in school – the rest of us have to try and get work in Thailand to get money for our family.

When I was 9 years old, I was sent to Thailand for the first time to try to earn money for my family. The work that I did was mostly farm work, cutting sugar cane. It did not pay well, and sometimes I did not get paid at all and was forced to work for nothing.

After only a few weeks, I was arrested by the Thai police and put into jail. It was a very big jail,

and it was very dark inside - you could only see light when they opened the doors. There were many people in the prison; there was not enough food and there were many sick people. They shaved my head and I was beaten by the guards.

I was kept in jail for almost 5 yrs.

Finally, a new policeman came to the jail and saw that there were many young people in there, so he took us out and sent us back to Cambodia.

When I finally returned home after being away for such a long time, my mother was very angry because I came home with no money. I ran away, back to Thailand to try and find work for my family.

I found another job, but again they did not pay me what they

promised, so I did not have enough money to eat. While I was working there, I met my brother – he also did not have enough money, so we decided to try and go home. We went to the police and they arrested us and sent us back to Cambodia.

When we went home, my mother was again very angry that we had come with nothing, so she sent us back to Thailand to work. This time I got arrested again, but the police did not send me home. They saw that my mother kept sending me back to Thailand to get money, so instead they sent me to CHO.

I am very happy staying at the CHO Safe Haven. I want to finish school and become a teacher one day. I hope that my other brothers and sisters are safe and they do not need to go through what I have been through.

## School Project Handover

For the last 3 years, CHO has been working in the Malai and Sampao Loun Districts running a Water / Education Project.

These 2 target areas are the home to many ex-Khmer Rouge soldiers and their families. Because of this, the villages are very remote and are generally isolated from the rest of the Cambodian community. In the past they lacked access to clean water and had no means of providing much needed education to their children.

The project aimed to provide wells for a number of villages, so their children could go to school instead of having to walk great distances to collect clean water for their families. By providing the wells, the children would have the time to attend school and receive an education.

As well as providing access to clean water, CHO has built 4 schools—3 in the Malai District and 1 in Sampao Loun District. Up until now, CHO have been supporting the students at these schools by providing 10 teachers,

**Please pray that the Government will take on their responsibility and support the schools, now that CHO are no longer involved in this project.**

all the school materials and equipment.

This project came to an end at the end of August, and as planned, all 4 schools were successfully handed over to the Ministry of Education. The Government will continue to support the students and staff as they integrate into Cambodia's public school system.

**WANT MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A DONATION?**

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### OUR VISION

CHO envisions a network of hope-filled communities where adequate physical, psychological and spiritual needs are met.

### OUR MISSION

To strengthen the quality of life of disadvantaged rural people, and at-risk & poor children to achieve improved status in society; and cultivate hope for the future by assisting them to develop into a strong, self-reliant, independent community.

### OUR CORE VALUES

CHO is a Christian development organization. In keeping with this, we firmly believe what we do to help the poor in their communities is a response to the commandment to love our neighbours as ourselves.