

Mission Report
Cambodia Elim Mission
July - October 2010

Hello again! It's a pleasure to bring you another report from Cambodia.

For those of you for whom this is your first news letter from us, we are John and Ann Turner and we have been serving God as Christian Missionaries in Phnom Penh, Cambodia for more than three years now. We are with the Elim Pentecostal Church denomination. Our UK home is in Newtownards, Northern Ireland and our home church is the Ulster Temple, Elim Church, Belfast. To enable us to live in Phnom Penh and work for God we receive financial support from our friends, family and home church.

We have just returned to Phnom Penh after being back in Northern Ireland for six months. I was completing my commitment to Sullivan Upper School where I have taught since 1980. The school kindly granted me a three year career break so I returned for six months. I resigned on St Patrick's Day and we have returned to the Cambodia as we are so sure God has more work for us here.

During our time back home in Northern Ireland, we experienced one of longest, wintry, cold spells apparently for years. There was freezing temperatures, snow and ice for weeks and weeks. We remember police detectives photographing footprints in the snow at our home. Thieves had broken in and stolen our computer equipment and unopened Christmas presents.

In Cambodia, such a break-in would be impossible as all doors and windows here are secured with steel trellis, bars and padlocks.

Moreover, there would never be snow footprints to photograph in Phnom Penh as temperatures rarely fall below 20 degrees Celsius and day time temperatures are usually in the 30's.

While we were back in Northern Ireland, our home church provided a taxed and insured car for us. A welcome, Godly gesture! We got around a lot. Apart from my daily run to school we drove to over thirty venues around Ulster where we had been invited to speak about God's work in Cambodia.



Back for another spell, serving God in Cambodia.



Scrabo Tower is the landmark of our home town of Newtownards, Co Down. It's often cloaked in rain clouds. Cambodia is hot all of the time and every now and again we miss the cold, damp climate of N. Ireland.



All our Khmei young people would love to experience snow. We agree with them that it is picturesque and very beautiful but they have no concept of 'cold' - they know cool - but not freezing cold.



All windows in Phnom Penh are secured with fixed steel lattice, often in attractive designs. This is fixed in the wall during the buildings construction. Sliding glass to turn the rain and a mosquito netting screen, completes the window configuration.

In so many places the interest, love and good-will shown to us, was quite overwhelming.

Of course we didn't drive, but flew, to Birmingham. We had a great weekend with Stuart and Amanda Blount and their family and mission team in the Christian Life Centre. We also popped round to see our good friends Ruth and Maldwyn Jones and their family at the Elim Church Centre, Selly Oak.

All too quickly our six months was up and after farewells, again, we returned to Phnom Penh. The best missionary pastoral advice given to us was that we should take a holiday for a couple of weeks before our return to the mission field. It was great advice but we didn't take it. The next best thing was for us to arrive and take it easy for a couple of weeks. This we did and it gave us time to pray, and gather our thoughts and plan. It was good for us.

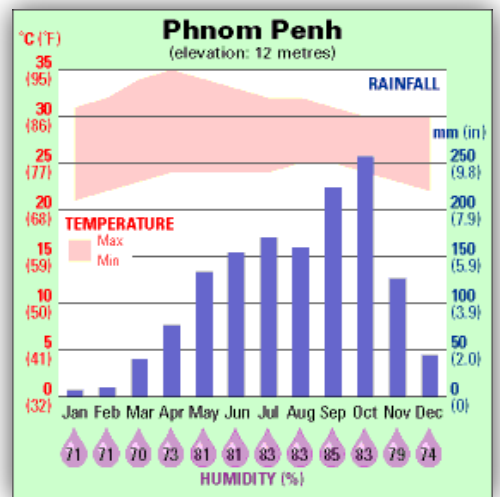
Baby Chantee greeted us cautiously. For those who don't know her story - we rescued her from the rubbish dump area of Phnom Penh where we minister. She had a hair lip and double cleft pallet and because of this, her family rejected her. Moreover, such a child would be at risk. We took her home and since then we have looked after her. She has now been legally adopted and at this time we care for her in our home. Chantee had her first operation to correct the hair lip last November. It was a great success. When we returned in July, she had her second operation to close the cleft pallet. Again, it was harrowing to see such a little one go through surgery, but it was necessary. God is so good. The operations have been successful and the surgeon assures us and that should do her until she is 10 years old.

We reviewed what had gone on in the mission while we were away.

The day-care centre had continued and by and large things were fine there.

The Khmei Church continued and while the footballer's attendance had fallen away, the general attendance was quite good. Credit is due to Chamnap and his Khmei Church Leadership team. The International Church continued. As we expected, numbers fell away by around 25%. However, credit is due to the International Church Leadership Team who carried on with the church services and given they were already busy in their own mission, they did a magnificent job.

The English Teaching, 'English from the Bible' classes, the Music classes and the computer teaching all had been inactive during our time away - that's mainly my ministry and



Temperatures rarely fall below the 20's in Phnom Penh. It is relentlessly hot and at the moment very, very wet.



Before and after! Baby Chantee was rejected because of her deformity but we took her in and, with God's help, look after her. She's had two very successful operations. In the above picture she's 4 months old and the one below now at 18months.



we were pleased that the Khmei church made a some visits to Steung Meanchey to minister to the children and families there.

But with God's blessing - we're back! At the end of our first month we have been in Steung Meanchey twice, the English and Bible classes' numbers are already back where they were and we can sense the relief in the two Churches that we have returned and that those burdens have been handed over. The first 'English from the Bible' classes have been really good.

There have been a few significant developments in the Phnom Penh Elim Mission since we returned. The Walkers, the preceding Elim Missionaries, had lived in a house in Street 470 and it became the Church Centre when they moved. Generally, it was quite unsuitable for a Church Centre. There has never been enough room for all that we do and this has stifled our ministries and cost us money as we had to find other additional space for ministry. It's an unexceptional house apart from the fact that when we have heavy rain the water from the street pours into the front yard and, along with sewage, into the building. So, when the opportunity came for us to move to a bigger, better and proportionally cheaper premises - we took it! So as I write this, I am in the new Elim Church Centre.

The Day Care Centre has moved in and we have made some personnel changes both to economise and to improve the quality of our service. The staff and children love their new facilities. The International Church has had their first services in their new church space and their reactions have been very positive.

Members and leaders of the Khmei Church are also delighted with their new facility and we have seen an increase in numbers since we moved. The Khmei Church is growing. It's a blessing on a Sunday morning to share with them in their praise and worship. This service is exclusively in the Khmei language except when Ann or I are asked to bring the word, in which case, we use translators. It is good to see families whose children go to the Day Care Centre coming too, and enjoying and taking part in the services. We also have families from the Steung Meanchey dump village, attending. They faithfully attend every Sunday. We send a Tuk Tuk to collect them at 7.30 and then we leave them back home after the service. We have witnessed God answering prayer



Our Day Care and Church Centre staff on the day we moved into the new centre.



The new Church Centre premises on St 430. It's bigger and with huge potential for God's work. Our policy is that it is God's facility - so where we can we will share, allowing smaller Christian organisations to book and use the Church facilities.



For example, a local orphanage asked could they hold a barbecue in the yard and huge porch area. Around 80 were there. Sadly most of the children are HIV+.



Some of our Steung Meanchey dump village children praying during a recent Saturday morning visit.

in many ways and every Sunday in the service people come forward, for prayer. They have great faith. We have recently started a Khmei Sunday School while the service is on. Afterwards they enjoy fruit, a drink and some snacks with the parents and have a time of fellowship with each other.

Our Trainee Programme continues. We have two new girls who have started their one year training. One of the girls is from Steung Meanchey and the other girl lives near the centre. We recently presented completion certificates to our successful candidates. Ann employed two of them as full time staff for the Day Care Centre.

The Day Care Centre is doing well. We have up to thirty seven children. We have babies from three months, toddlers from one and half years and the preschool from three years old. Sokhom is our preschool teacher and she, along with an assistant, teaches English one day and the next day Khmei. The children are taught Bible stories and memory verses every day and they love to sing choruses in English and Khmei. It's sad when the children leave Day Care to go to school but we thank God that we were part of their lives and it was a joy to watch them grow and develop.

The Steung Meanchey ministry continues. Ann and I, along with a team of young people from the Day Care Centre and the Khmer Church, minister every other Saturday in two of the villages in the Steung Meanchey area. This is a notoriously poor municipal dump area of the city and it is the focal point in Phnom Penh for rubbish collection and recycling. We have been ministering in these two villages for over three years and have good relations with the villagers. Few seem to care about these people, so when we arrive in our fleet of tuk tuks the children come running. It's such a blessing to see their families come and listen when we sing and share about Jesus.

The Medical Ministry continues. There are over two hundred families in the villages where we minister. There is always sickness, injuries, pregnant women and disease. We take the pregnant women to the antenatal clinic for check-ups and then keep an eye on things in the postnatal period. We have had a few babies born prematurely. They need help to survive so Ann takes them to the National Paediatric Hospital where she has a strong relationship with the doctors and nursing staff. This is the hospital where Chantee attends and had her surgery. So every, other



Gift distribution to the orphanage children at the new Elim Church Centre



Here we see Sokhom doing an action chorus with her pre-school children in the Day Care Centre. They love their new facility



Above - the Khmei Church, and below - the International Church services in action. It is one church separated by language and culture Ann and I pastor and serve both but at the head of everything we do is Jesus.



Tuesday morning, around 6.30am, she starts her 'hospital run' to pick up the sick, the pregnant, the injured and any old women for medical attention at another hospital called the Hebron Hospital. It's a long day for her as hundreds of people wait for medical attention. It's a Korean hospital and most of the treatment is free. The old women don't mind the long Tuk tuk journey. It's like an outing for them and on the way home Ann treats them to a meal of rice, vegetables and meat and a bottle of fresh water.



Our Fellowship Nights continues at our home on the third Tuesday in the month.

Our Fellowship Nights continues at our home every third Tuesday in the month. Staff from the Day Care Centre and Khmer church, meet for a time of study, praise and worship, followed by snacks and fellowship. We thank God as we see these young Christians hunger for the word of God. Please keep them in your prayers.



The English classes have re-started in the new place and have taken off. This is only our fifth night and already the outdoor classes have mushroomed to over sixty.

I continue to take many photographs. Why not visit our photo website at www.picasaweb.google.co.uk/johnturner460 You can also read the latest news and issues concerning the mission on our Blogsite - www.johnann460.blogspot.com

Ann and I would like to thank you for your interest, prayers and support.

To contact John & Ann Turner directly send to PO Box 477, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Or E-mail us on jtsat@tiscali.co.uk or on our **new email address** jtsat2@gmail.com



You think you have seen everything in Cambodia, and then something like this comes along. So the question is how many bananas can you get on one motorbike?

All gifts towards our work in Cambodia should be marked "for the Turners" either Personal or Ministry and sent to the Irish Missions Director, Elim Missions Office, 1-3 Old Cross Street, Newtownards BT23 7NW with cheques made payable to "Elim International Missions". Or alternatively to "Elim International Missions", Elim International Centre, De Walden Rd, West Malvern, WR14 4DF. Charity numbers 251549 / SC037754.

Thank you and may God bless you. John Turner



And finally!
"Right, Chantee. This is very important to us women - this place is called a shopping centre and this is shopping, Ok?"