

A Greater Hope Orphanage & A Heart for Wisdom School

Cambodia 2015



Are Projects Of Calvary Chapel Fallbrook, California, USA Since 2006

Welcome

Hopefully you have had the time to learn a little bit about Cambodia's history before your arrival at one of CCF's projects. Perhaps you've reading a few books, have done some search online or even visited to a museum or some historical sites. Since there is already so much out there about Cambodia's past I will avoid repeating much of it here.

We will say that Cambodia did experience genocide in 1975 that lasted to early 1979. I will point out to you everyone you meet over the age of 33 years old is a survivor of that genocide. Nearly every family has had someone killed or murdered; most have lost multiple members of their family and it is not uncommon to meet the only remaining member of an entire family. Ream was good friends with a lady who lost 7 sons and her husband. It is believed that one quarter of the population was lost in those 4 years.

During Cambodia's long history it is believed roughly 30 of those years Christianity has been allowed to exist here. Communism and state religious laws prevented religious freedoms until recently.

So today many of the Christians you will meet here are truly first generation Christians.

My brother- in-law and father-in-law in 1994 were some of first few people in the country to hear and receive the gospel of Jesus Christ. Today the 9 surviving members of my family in-laws are all Christians and most are serving in ministry.

A little bit about our own history

A Group from Calvary Chapel Fallbrook, California, USA originally visited Cambodia in 2000. We started with a short-term trip helping existing mission groups do medical clinics, praying for the sick and playing with children. We took Bibles into Vietnam and passed out tracks in Thailand. Our mission board was seeking where CCF might begin doing greater mission work.

Cambodia is the area we felt led to continue working. We prayed about where we could help and built relationships with local Christians who needed assistance.

One of these 8 members was Kit Carson. Originally Kit Carson's interest was to visit Vietnam. He was in the military at the time and really wanted to see the place where members of his family and their friends served their country and many had died. He was also searching for God's plan for his life. In this search he felt the most important thing was to be humble, willing to serve in any way, to be flexible and to be used in God's will.

During this trip Kit fell in love with the country and the people of Cambodia. It was an adventurous, exciting place with kind and beautiful people that had great need. Kit felt as a person without a college background and several low-income jobs he was still able to help these people who had far less than he did.

It was also on this trip that Kit met his future wife, Ream.

Ream was a local Cambodian woman and is really where the story starts. Kit was the key to one world but Ream was the door to another. Ream provided access to her family who was already working mightily in the villages of Cambodia as a pastor and first generation Christian.

Kit made three more trips to Cambodia. One in 2002 after he and Ream were engaged, one in 2003 when they were married and before Ream moved to the U.S. and in 2005. Ream helped lead several Calvary teams in 2004 and 2005 before they both eventually moved to Cambodia in 2006. Samuel the first son was born in Hawaii 2003, Joseph was born in 2006 in Cambodia.

Our purpose in being here was to meet the needs in the village where her family lived and that was to build an orphanage.

- In 2004 donations for land was accepted.
- In 2005 CCF became a recognized International NGO in Cambodia.
- Purchase of land and construction of the orphanage started shortly after.
- The grand opening for [A Greater Hope Orphanage](#) was held in September 2006 with a number of U.S. guests, pastors, the governor of Takeo and Minister from the Ministry of Religions and Cults.
- In November 2006 AGHO accepted its first children.
- In 2010 we reached our limit of 40 children
- In 2011 we graduated our first 2 children. One child chose to return to his adopted family. The other child we sent to a vocational school that teaches maintenance and construction.
- In 2013 we graduated our 3rd child. She is attending college for tourism management.

Our Projects

A Heart for Wisdom School

In October 2009 the Carson's rented a room at the church and opened a kindergarten that brought in 30 students by the end of that year. Mainly the kindergarten was to see if people would pay for the service and see if the classes and teachers would be any good at it or even a help to other children. The answer, big yeses all the way, kindergarten was a large success and parents asked for us to add classes.

In 2011, the school under Calvary Chapel of Fallbrook's NGO [A Heart for Wisdom school](#) officially received permission to open additional classes for an elementary school grades 1-6. In 2013 we included grades 7, 8 & 9. In 2014 we are opening grades for high school classes.

We are at capacity with 454 students and have had to turn away new students who are looking to join mid-year. We currently rent the entire church during the week and are seeking to purchase property to build a full campus that would include future grades of junior and high school.

Night School and Vocational School

The Carson's also have a desire that the school grounds be used at night for adult education and/or a Bible college. Their ideas for this campus use would be ground-breaking for Cambodia. The school will host a medical clinic that will serve the students as well as the community. The school will include vocational classes into its curriculum such as mechanics, welding, electricity, farming and more. We enjoy such subjects at most schools in the U.S. but are not included in schools here.

We will look to employ local professional to teach the subjects allowing them to run their business within the school. This creates like an apprenticeship class, hopefully to reduce overall cost of the teacher and materials in which to practice on, as well as helping the community by possibly offering reduced rates on services, and a more trustworthy service because we will not be looking to take advantage of the customer like a business might.

We are aiming to have an extensive sports program, which is nearly nonexistent at local schools. Not all the ideas will be possible, but we are certainly excited to see what we are able to do.

Just the knowledge and willpower go a long way here and we have a lot of it. We have the willingness to say, "Why not?" and if there isn't a good reason then pursue it.

We could really use your help in funding this project.

Clean Water Projects

We recently started having wells installed, 100 of them are currently planned, which is pretty exciting. We love the thought of covering people's needs and this is a great way. You can't lead a person to Christ if they aren't around to do it. As of January 2014 we place 22 of our goal.

Cambodia poverty level is still about 31 percent. This means most are subsistence farmers, people living day-to-day by the land, eating what they can forage or sometimes dig out of the trash. Helping families with their basic needs such as water, food, fuel, clothing or housing changes their lives and that, may eventually change their soul.

In conclusion

Calvary Chapel of Fallbrook Cambodia is a faith-based NGO that treats its work with quality, its staff with care and its children with love. We are a family — a large family that invites willing hearts that are flexible, humble servants, professional or not to help us reach our goals.

There are a number of links to the different works we are involved in that are more specific to the individual project. Additional links will be coming for clinic and water projects as they grow and become more concrete.

Links to our Projects

New Orphanage Blog: <http://ccf-cambodia.blogspot.com>

Old Orphanage Blog: <http://agreaterhopeorphanage.blogspot.com/>

Orphanage Website: <http://www.agreaterhopeorphanage.org/>

Orphanage Email: agreaterhopeorphanage@gmail.com

Please feel free to contact us. Please pray for our ministry even if it is just mentioning us for a brief moment "God Bless CCF" or anything really we desire your agreement in prayer for health, safety, prosperity and to be constantly in His will above all things.

A Greater Hope Orphanage

Who are we serving?

We are serving the LORD, we serve our community and we serve the poor. We serve the widows and we care for orphans and children at risk.

We often serve foreign guests as well. This mission has often awakened the guest to what life in Christ can mean.

How does a child qualify to live with us?

- We care for school-aged children normally 5 to 18 years old who are: (there can be exceptions)
- Children from poor families inundated with illnesses that keeps the family's condition unstable.
- Children from aging grandparents who no longer can care for the children.
- Children from extremely poor families with a large amounts of children, 5 or more generally.
- Children that have been abused by a member of their families, physically or mentally.
- Children that have been abandoned or children that have lost both parents.
- Children from single parents with multiple children who cannot care for their child.

Reasons may vary with each person. Each request is weighed out with thought of the child's best interest in mind, for that moment but also in the future. Who and where the child is now and who they could become are important factors to us.

We make every attempt to insure our kids feel this is a family and that they do not become institutionalized. This is achieved in most cases just by their interaction with their community and their friends.

Why are there so many orphans in Cambodia?

Poverty is the largest reason orphans exist. Poverty leads to many types of orphans. Poverty often stresses a family to do thing they might not do: physical or mental abuse, slave labor, alcohol or drug abuse. All of these things can lead a child to the orphanage.

Today's orphans are not related to the genocide directly.

Today's orphans come from the children raised during the war who are now parents but do not know what it means to be a parent or raise a family.

They grew up during and after the war without parents and orphans themselves probably watched many of their own family members die or be killed. To say kids grew up in a dysfunctional family is an understatement for them. They grew up with violent and traumatic surroundings. Many may have been child soldiers themselves. In the past 33 years many of the people of Cambodia have struggled to connect with the outside world. They lack knowledge and values the outside world takes for granted.

There are challenges with arranged marriages here. Many families end in separation and the children become baggage that neither family member wishes to carry and they are left to the grandparents, relatives or even neighbors.

Another part to the story is that Cambodia is so underdeveloped in the countryside. People have such poor hygiene and poor health care. Often if the illness doesn't kill you, the doctor will. Cambodia also has a very high accident rate on the road and in life. Few standards and willingness to follow the rules ends in a tremendous loss of life here.

So what did we do?

We started by taking children within the church who needed a family. We worked with them to build a good foundation. We felt these children would be the easiest to aid since they did not have someone that cared for them. Then we added children that might not have been good, but because they came into an established environment, they saw children that were good examples. It became easy for them to transition into good children themselves.

The first 12 children were recommended from nearby churches so the first non-Christians to arrive easily saw the difference in the way Christians lived worked and prospered and the new children desire these same changes and have become Christians themselves.

It is God's will that we have our own free will to choose, I had mine and they will have theirs. We live and lead our lives by example and this has made the difference with us and our work. Even the community recognizes each person who comes here is changed for the better.

I personally would love each child to share the faith I have in my Creator — it would be my greatest joy. It would be sad for me to have a child leave not believing in their Savior. I think about that even with my own two children, but in the end the choice is theirs to make. I can only be a good example and pray.

We train our children to farm and care for the animals as backup in case they are unable to go to college or if they chose to be a farmer and just lead the simple life as long as they have a choice.

Our farming programs also serves the locals in educating them how things are done or maybe how to do them better. Many local pastors and cell group leaders have benefited from our farming programs. We have a number of groups that use us for training and purchasing their own stock. We also like to teach our children to be flexible and able to change with the markets. We see many people around us are not able to move with trends, they raise pigs and that is all they do, or cows or rice. We know many, many people that keep buying pig when pork prices drop through the floor. We know people that refuse to sell something different even if it means huge profits for them. They know what they know and they only do what they know and it seems they will be stuck forever.

My repairman tendencies see this as a problem and I want to make sure our kids don't end up the same.

We like and promote the Cambodian culture. We also teach the children to function in a western society and lead a healthy lifestyle. We teach them to be proud of who they are while helping them to improve. They have learned how to make baskets, mats, jewelry, clothing foods and learned music and dance. Our children often ask to perform for guest but are not required to do it. We do not promote A Greater Hope Orphanage to tourists or to random guests. There are good people with good intentions, but it doesn't fit with what we do.

CCF has held the Firecracker Golf Tournament for the past two years raising funds for our children to attend college if they wish. Our first teen attending a vocational trade school will be done with his education in two years. We hope to hire him if he chooses to work with us.

We are working together with other groups to carry on our work with the children as they transition into the city life and college. They will provide environment to reaffirm their beliefs and continue making it their own.

It is very difficult for the children to continue their education and near impossible without money, support from a family and a place to stay — all things we can provide.

It is also very difficult to find a job in the city as most businesses are family run and owned. In addition, there are 15 million people in the villages with about a half a million jobs in the city. So it is crucial to their success that our family doesn't end at 18. We might not house them but we always hope to be there for them and assist them in ways they need assisting.

Our costs?

A Greater Hope Orphanage budget runs:

\$70,000 per year roughly

Costs for one child:

\$1.50 per day for meals and \$10.00 per month for clothing, school and medical expenses.

\$500 per year for college tuition (excluding supplies, books or living expenses)

Staff salary total around \$2,000 a month

Utilities run an average \$600 a month

We also raise vacation funds for the kids where we try and take the kids to the beach or something once a year.

Back in 2006 A Greater Hope's building and property cost only \$80,000. We make great effort to make every penny count.

A Heart for Wisdom budget:

Staff salaries currently \$4000, Rent and utilities \$300., Supplies \$500 a month

Future expected cost would include raises in salaries, lunches and buses.

What could we use?

Prayer and communicating with others on our behalf: Churches and businesses are extremely helpful.

Financial gifts

- Donations via Paypal, check, cash or wired.
- Love offering from your church
- Authorized fundraisers or participating in organized events.
- Paypal and payment options can be found on our website: www.agreaterhopeorphanage.org

We need to get people involved raising funds and awareness for what we do and what is accomplished. What it means to us and what it means to the children is priceless.

Knowing that you have been a part of helping a child become a responsible adult who might possibly change the future of his country for the better, it's hard to imagine.

Watching the last part of the movie "Schindler's List" where Schindler realizes what he did and what it meant.

He helped a few and but today now they're many. He also regretted he did not do more.

I hope you see on this trip, the value in things and what each dollar can mean to someone's life.

A Greater Hope Orphanage - House Rules and Codes of Conduct

Guidelines for Personal Attire

- Dress code, attitudes in Cambodia are quite different than they are in the U.S. and much of the western world. We do not wish our visiting missionaries and guests to give the local population or our orphans cause to take offense in our style of clothing. With these objectives in mind, please conform your manner of dress to the following guidelines:
 - The best policy is **modesty**. Allow as little of your body to show as is reasonably possible for the climate (Hot and Humid).
 - It can be considered offensive when your undergarments show in public. Low cut pants, low cut blouses. Short shorts, short skirts or short shirts are not appropriate. See through clothing “white shirts, black bras”, spandex clothing should be avoided.
 - Shorts and skirts may be worn, but should be knee-length or longer and loose fitting.
 - Body piercings are not really a part of this culture. If there is something you can take out during the day and put back at night, it would be helpful while you're here.
 - While at the orphanage:
 - Never wander outside of your room wearing inappropriate clothing or bathing outfits. A towel is not considered appropriate.
 - Do not wear shoes or sandals inside the building. You may have shower shoes/sandals to be kept in your room.
 - Remember that you are in ministry the entire time you are here, and the children will be watching at all times.
 - The reasons why we have a dress code is that we want people see Jesus and not you. The way foreigners look and dress can also make people laugh at you and you lose respect. In Cambodia respect is important; it would be very hard to win someone to Christ if they do not respect you. So we try to fit in and let our actions speak not our outfit. Thank you for understanding and cooperation.

Personal Valuables and Money

- We are aware that you may bring with you or purchase items here of great personal or monetary value. We recommend that you consider carefully how you disposition these valuables. Here are our recommendations:
- Leave nothing valuable out in the open or unlocked. We don't want you to unnecessarily tempt the children, staff or your fellow missionaries
- At your request, we will attempt to lock your valuables in the office for safekeeping
- In case of loss:
 - Report the loss to the office. All reasonable efforts will be made to find the item(s)
 - **NOTE:** A Greater Hope Orphanage will not be responsible for any loss
 - The use of cash:
 - In Cambodia the US Dollar is widely used, currencies from other countries will have to be changed in the city for either USD or Riel the Cambodian dollar. Smaller U.S. dollar amounts are fine for use in the village, bills larger than \$10 maybe hard to use the farther out you go. Try and keep smaller bills with you.

Housekeeping Guidelines

- Please bear in mind that you are responsible for the cleanliness of your area. No one will clean up after you. We find it best if you adopt a “Clean as You Go” mentality. Here is what is expected of you:
 - Personal items should remain on or under your bed
 - Your bed should be made when you are not sleeping in it
 - Dirty clothes should be placed in bag. Clean clothes must be neatly stowed
 - The floor of your area should be clean at all times
 - If you make a mess, clean it up immediately. If you are unsure of how to do so, please ask a member of the staff
 - Neat and clean is taught to our children and it would be a good example for them to see you do the same.

Food and Snacks

- WE HAVE A LOT OF ANTS...
- Because of this you will not be allowed to keep open or unsealed food items in your luggage or in your room. The staff will direct you as to the storage of these items
- Food, snacks and drinks may only be consumed in the team house or dining room. When finished eating and drinking, please clean and sweep the area thoroughly.
- Keep the children in mind when eating your special snacks or foods. It may be difficult for the children to see you eating things that they may not have or cannot afford. If you share your snack with a single child, they will all want some, so keep in mind fairness. We want to avoid favoritism if possible.

Entertainment

- This is a place of ministry. Your choices of music and movies/DVD's should reflect this fact. If you are unsure if anything that you are bringing does not reflect this fact, simply do the right thing and leave it at home.
- Internet is available. Access to inappropriate sites is prohibited
- Think PG, entertainment above that should be avoided.

Tobacco, Alcohol & Drugs

- Use of tobacco and alcohol are not allowed on the orphanage property
 - If someone is a smoker or tobacco user, he or she may leave the orphanage property in order to engage in this activity
 - We suggest that our missionaries abstain from drinking while there, as no one who is inebriated will be allowed onto the orphanage property. We also want to set an excellent example in the community
- Anyone caught with or using illicit drugs will be immediately and completely removed from the missions field

Orphanage Conduct

- **Rooms.** No male should enter the females' rooms, and no female should enter the males' rooms
- **Privacy.** You should never be in any staff area without permission, opposite sex are off limits. This is their home.
- Please respect the children personal area and their possessions. This is their home.
- Each guest on your team or not has the right to their privacy. You have no right to rummage through or use items that do not belong to you. We may also have with us long-term guest; their privacy is to be respected.
- **Personal Contact.** Males and females should keep an appropriate distance from each other at all times. This includes time spent with the children. Husbands and wives are exempt from this rule, but we recommend that they be somewhat discreet about their affections. Non-married couples should not be affectionate with each other. You may hold hands. You should not kiss or hug or lay upon each other. It is not appropriate for the culture.
- **Curfew.** The building will be locked at 8:00 p.m., and most children are in bed at 9:00 p.m... The children wake up at 5:00 a.m., to begin their day. Please respect their need for quiet time and sleep. Even loud worship after these times should be avoided.
- **Contact with the children** should be appropriate to their age. The older the child is the less appropriate it is to have physical contact with them. Once a person has entered their teens and older should not be physical with members of the opposite sex.
- **Flirting** with our children or our staff with the thought of creating a relationship is inappropriate.
- Alone, being alone anywhere with a child it not allowed. Going anywhere alone with a child is not allowed. Going somewhere with a child of the opposite sex there must be a member of the same sex with. This protects you from accusations, and protects the child.

Child safety is most important to us we understand the fun and interaction with children should be enjoyed and carefree.

But not everyone has the best intention. Also interaction with a different sex of older ages can possibly cause problems or temptations for you or for the child. That child might form a crush or feelings for you that are not entirely healthy, we want to be safe and avoid such things.

Missionary Commitments and Support

- **Commitments.** Please do not make any commitments or promises to people while in the mission field. They are usually well intended but may be hard to keep. We recommend that you return home and prayerfully consider the issue prior to making a commitment. Failure to follow through on a commitment can be personally devastating to someone in the mission field.
- **Support.** If you see an area of need and wish to donate in support of that need, please bring it to the attention of a Director and they will make the appropriate connection to make it possible.

Discipline

- If rules are being broken we will gently remind you. If rules continue to be ignored or broken, a meeting will be held with your team leader to decide upon appropriate action. Any team member who is out of control or a danger to others will be removed from our property, and possibly sent home early. The organization responsible for sending the individual will assume all expenses in dealing with their removal. A Greater Hope Orphanage and Calvary Chapel Fallbrook **will not** be required to provide any assistance with such a person's removal and **do not** assume any responsibilities for this person's removal, actions or safety
- Abusing a child sexually is punishable by law here in Cambodia and most likely in your own country.
- Abusing a child in other in any other manner might also be punishable law, be careful to follow the rules given to you. Exercise common sense and make every effort to be safe.

We do sincerely hope that you will enjoy your time spent here and that your walk with the Lord will be strengthened by working with the Cambodian people. We pray for your safety and health while you are here. Thank you for your willingness to do such a wonderful thing and for the blessing that we know you will be to the people here. And we certainly thank you for your prayerful consideration and understanding regarding these very necessary guidelines. May God richly bless you.

Sincerely,

The Directors and Staff of

A Greater Hope Orphanage

About Your Trip

This is not just a "mission trip"; rather look at it like you are becoming a missionary. You're not just going to do this thing for a few weeks, more or less but that you have chosen or been called to do missions. You are growing in your Christian faith and walk following the Biblical great commandment of "going into the world". You will always be a missionary if you continue to share the Gospel with others whether at home or overseas.

We really hope this is not just a one-time thing for you but a lifelong friendship and commitment to us — a commitment to help our ministry increase and grow.

What will you be doing?

You'll be learning to love a people you did not know before. You'll be learning what the mission field can be and what God might have for you. To do that, you need to learn about the people and build relationships with them.

It is easy to get started because we are providing an easy avenue for you to do so, but the rest is up to you.

Try and spend quality time with each child and not just the "cute" ones. Try and also find the shy ones, and seek out the ones that stand back in the shadows. Most of them will participate with a little nudging. Love on them, smile and laugh with them.

Spend as much time as you can take mental notes of what you see so when you leave you can remember the people you came to serve. Explore the area when you have time, see and do as much as you can here. Exhaust yourself in case you do not have the

I get asked a lot by people if they should come here on a mission trip or just send money. Well, the answer really depends on the person. Will *you* do enough? Will *you* work hard and serve? Will *you* make relationships? Will *you* change lives? If *you* make every effort to do God's will while you're here? If you can answer "yes" to some of these questions then your trip will be more valuable than just sending your money.

If you've come thinking this will be a fun vacation, or have come just to be with friends who are coming, then perhaps you should have just made the donation and reduced the labor that goes into planning a trip. Your trip will cost about \$2,000 for a 2-week stay and I would like you to feel at the end of your trip that your money was well spent and that you "made a difference." We will do all we can to ensure that you have a memorable trip – making a difference is up to you.

Please know that \$2,000 dollars in the U.S. is about \$8 million Cambodian dollars or Riel and that is a lot of money to not value. You can easily feed a person for 8 years with that amount. So I encourage you to make your trip count and we'd love to have those willing to serve much more than the money.

You don't have to save the world to be effective here. You don't need wealth, a master in education or ability to build or do something special. Having abilities can make you more effective and can add to your trip but the easiest way to be a success here is to be friendly. Your smiles, your joy and your love will show them that you care and that Christ is the only true God whom you are representing. You taking time to care is all it takes to make your trip worth it because we find the people here are quite receptive of what you have to offer.

I also encourage you to not just love on these people for a day or two and return home never to give thought to them again. How does a person love a people, and then go home and do nothing? I feel if you cared at all you need to continue to care after your trip. It doesn't have to be the people of Cambodia, but it should be someone.

Love is a verb, it is an action and it carries beyond a moment. Love prays, it speaks and it does. Become a Doer of the Word, let your walk and your time here shine. Cambodia needs your love. Our children need your love. Ream and I need your love.

Cambodia is a challenging mission field. You'll be tired, and you may be hot or hungry or sick. In some way you might possibly be uncomfortable on your trip while you are here – that is the nature of a short trip in a rough and dirty place. In your tough time try to rejoice, try to find a way to bless or help someone else, and try to get through it by speaking with your leadership. Issues often arise with fellow travelers during trips such as this. Please view all such issues through the lens of love, speak with the other person and your leadership about the issue, and don't let the issue fester.

Also remember the Enemy will be doing as much as he can to ruin your trip. Taking time to read your Bible, worship God and rejoicing in the opportunity you have will help combat problems. Be aware that this may only intensify the problems. When God works, His adversary will try to stop that work. Satan might turn up the heat on the person that makes the most difference. He might not do it to you because you're prayed up but he might use a team member who is not, he might attack the weakest link. He might use some bad food, a bad experience, the wrong order at restaurant, a person being late when the van is ready, etc. All of these little things will be used to try and irritate you in order to knock you down. Do all you can to ensure that this doesn't happen? I don't believe every little problem is the work of Satan. I do think how we react to a problem, or how that problem affects us, might be a different story.

At the same time you must be your brother's keeper. Looking out for you teammate and making sure they are walking with the Lord prayed up will helpful to them and help you. We will keep a very busy schedule while you are here so keeping your Bible with you and making times to read and pray is very important. Continually ask God for protection and that His will would be for you. Ask God to show you things while on the trip. Ask Him to reveal Himself to you.

According to a 1998 report Cambodia is 96% Buddhist, 2% Muslim, 1% Christian and 1% Other, so please understand that you are on the Enemy's ground. Most everything you see around you while you are here is a product of Satan's deception. Notice the temples everywhere. Whether old or new, they are the buildings used to worship something that is not GOD. Most of Buddhism is not pure; it is a mix of witchcraft, ancestral worship, Hinduism, Buddhism and whatever else they want to use. We have a witch doctor a few houses down from us at the orphanage. Ream's father's only sister was beaten to death by a witch doctor years ago before they were saved.

Satan is real and the evil is real. The presence here is strong and powerful. There are demon possessions and all the stuff you read about in the New Testament but may not have seen.

But God is at work here and there are miracles as well. Ream has many stories of faith overcoming and people being healed. Ream and I have been blessed to be used and have seen people healed.

The average national income for 15 million people is about \$31 a month. In a normal Cambodian family each member will eat for 0.25 cents a day. Many may not eat every day, and about half of the children that come to live here had not eaten at all the previous day. We have had children come that hadn't eaten for days before arriving at our doors.

The clinics will be out in the villages along with the child programs to share about Jesus and to help the sick in their time of need. Most families are too poor to afford any medical help. This will be the best time for you to reach out to the people here. Much of the rest of the time you will be building relationships with our kids here at the orphanage.

Other opportunities:

- There is service at the orphanage
- We host medical clinics.
- We run the school where you may help with a verity of ways. There is also a number of preschools to help at.
- We have started installing wells in our area.
- Witnessing in our village is not difficult but there are ways to do this and ways not to do this.
- There are many children's churches to be involved with.

Plus there are a number of ways to just have fun here in Cambodia.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

Planning for a trip:

1. You should start planning for your trip at least 6 months before your arrival.
2. You will need a passport, **a passport which is valid for at least 6 months and has at least one completely blank visa page remaining, you need at least 1 blank page for each month you stay.**
3. **Visa Info.:** Visas can be obtained at Cambodian embassies or consulates. Visas are also available on arrival at both international airports, all six international border crossings with Thailand, some international border crossings with Vietnam, and at the main border crossing with Laos.
 - **Tourist visas:** all are valid for one stay of up to 30 days. Those issued in advance expire 90 days after issue. In [Phnom Penh](#) (or elsewhere via agencies), tourist visas can be extended only once, allowing an additional 30 days at a cost of USD15.
 - **Ordinary visa** or **Type-E: the best choice for stays over two months** and/or multiple entries, as they can be extended indefinitely (approx USD140 per 6 month extension) and have multiple entry status when extended. Most Phnom Penh travel agencies process the extensions. Foreign nationals of some countries including India require prior permission from the Department of Immigration of the Ministry of Interior to gain an Ordinary visa. Such visitors can also apply for permission with the Department of Immigration after entering the country on a T (Tourist) visa, which is located near the Phnom Penh International Airport, after which they may be granted an Ordinary visa upon exiting and entering the country once again.

To apply for a visa, you will need one or **two** (depending on where you apply) passport-size photo(s), passport photocopies when applying at some embassies/consulates (not needed if applying on arrival), and clean US\$ notes with which to pay the fee (expect to pay a substantially higher price if paying in a local currency). If you don't have a passport photo at visa on arrival in [Phnom Penh](#) airport (and possibly other entry points), **they will scan in the one on your passport for an extra \$2.**

At [Phnom Penh airport](#) head to the **Visa on Arrival** desk, join the queue to the right, where your application form is reviewed (you should have been given the form on the plane). Then move to the right and wait for your name to be called. You then pay and receive your passport with the visa. Officials have difficulties pronouncing Western names so stay alert and listen out for any of your names in your passport, any of your given names or surname may be called. Once reunited with your passport, join the Immigration queue.

- **E-visa at <http://www.mfaic.gov.kh/evisa/>**

Citizens of most nations can apply for an **e-Visa** online. This is a **Tourist Visa** but costs US\$35 instead of the normal US\$30. The visa arrives as a PDF file by e-mail within 3 business days. The application requires a digital photograph of yourself (in .jpg format). You can scan your passport photo or have a passport sized photograph taken with a digital camera.

You need to print **two** copies (one for entry and one for exit) of the PDF visa, cut out the visa parts and keep them with your passport.

Visas in advance (either online or from an embassy/consulate) save time at the border but are more expensive. However you do get to skip the lines to apply for the visa and to pay for it. If arriving by air, you'll probably have to spend the saved time waiting for your checked baggage.

E-Visas are only valid for entry by air or at the three border main land crossings.

4. **Planning and buying your plane ticket:** Ticket prices seem to be decent if you plan far enough ahead. They are always cheaper during our hot seasons March and April. Also August and September seem to be good.

From California normal price is about \$1000 USD after Tax.

From back East averages about \$1700 USD after Tax.

Eva air is consistently a good flight, with shortest flight times, direct, but a little pricey.

I would at all cost avoid going to Thailand, unless you are coming from Europe. The layovers there are long, plus you have an extra 2 hours in the air. We've flown to Malaysia it was great the first time, really unhappy with the second trip.

If you do have a long layover ask about day rooms. Or if you can extend your layover a little longer often the airline will provide a free hotel. This often allows you to get out into that country for a bit. **WARNING:** that idea can add risk to your trip, best reserved for groups or the hardened traveler. Also a warning there are a lot of Muslim countries out this way, if you have an Israel visa in your passport it might be difficult for you to travel or stay in places like Malaysia. Some planning will be required for such cases.

From the USA you are normally allowed 2 bags of 50 pounds and 1 carry on of 15 pounds plus a purse or laptop.

You may want to use some of this space to bring some gifts for the kids or supplies for us. Bringing 2 bags even if you don't need it allows you to do some shopping here and have enough room to take gift and things home.

Also it is helpful if you bring a pen to fill out any info on the airplane in advance. Other helpful things for your travel are to carry an empty water bottle and fill it or empty it when you can to avoid buying bottles at the airports. Carry snacks with you to avoid buying at the airport. A lot of the time you will have to change money just to buy the snack and it becomes a challenge. I would suggest that you carry at least \$500 for unexpected travel expenses.

Bring a travel pillow and wear layers or a light weight jacket that can be used on the plane but taken off when needed.

5. You need to tell people that you are leaving. Banks, credit cards, friends, family, mail man, power people.

If you don't let your bank know that you are here they can shut off your account thinking it was hacked or stolen.

You might ask to delay payments while you travel to avoid getting in trouble.

* Also it is important not to bring old torn money. They will not take it here if it is ripped at all.. Best thing is to take cash out at the bank and make sure they are giving you clean, neat bills.

Cambodia uses US currency so you do not have to change money. I do suggest bringing mostly large bills so they are easy to store, hide and carry. I also suggest carrying around \$100 in smaller bills \$1's, \$5's and \$10's this will be helpful for buying small snacks and things. In the village and many small shops they cannot always make change for large bills. But once you are with the orphanage we can easily help you change money.

6. **Itinerary:** arrivals we must have a copy of your itinerary before you leave in order to pick you up from the airport. We are often on a different time zone and a different date. We have had trouble with past guest arriving a day later than they told us they would. We also waited 2 hours for one person that arrived shortly after we decided to leave.

7. **Problems:** Once you are in Cambodia there is only one gate you come out of and we will easily find you.

- Please don't go far from the front gate. If we do not see you right away please just wait.

If for some reason we are not there, here is a list of things you will need to do.

1. There is an airport map you should print out included with this paper work. Follow the red line on the map.

2. *Don't panic.* You're safe and we'll get to you soon.

3. Directions: The airport is a small place. There are some directions to help you gain mental picture of the area you will be at soon. You can see on the map there is a bathroom directly in front of the exit gate. You can use this no problem.

There is a little outdoor food restaurant to the right of the gate with outdoor seats.

If you go left from the gate there is the parking lot.

If you go out the gate and double back, meaning two quick lefts you will see the parking lot but go left again and go down the breeze way there is an indoor coffee shop on your left. This is a comfortable place for you to wait while you try and get a hold of us. They have wireless internet in here and you can shoot me an email.

If you have a phone you can try and call us. There are a number of ways you might have to try.

Our numbers are **012-593-708** and **092-916-754**

Don't add the **0** if you dial the international codes below.

You might have to use an international country code first try **855 -12-593-708** and **855 -92-916-754**.

If this doesn't work try adding **011-855 -12-593-708** and **855 -92-916-754**

If you don't have a phone or it doesn't work then you can ask the worker in the coffee shop to use their phone and offer them a dollar, they can dial it for you.

There are also a lot of little phone card shops by the gate it is possible they can help you.

If they can't help you there are taxi guys outside that can help you. If you go next to the curb a taxi guy is sure to ask you if you need help you can ask them to call us. At some point someone will get a call to us and we will deal with the problem.

* Worse comes to worse you can just make it to the hotel via taxi, rest and continue to try and get a hold of us from there.

If you end up taking a taxi. I would have the taxi call the hotel and they will help him find it.

We stay at a hotel called **Royal Palace Hotel** their number is 023-884-823 or 023-884- 824

#93 Monireth road.

Sometimes the taxi guys don't know where they are going, this can get scary. Just hang on and keep with it. If you want and you feel things are getting bad just have the guy stop at any hotel. Just tell him hotel, hotel. Grab a room and try and get a hold of us.

These are just emergency case situation. We've never had this happen and hopefully never, but it is here to help if it does.

8. Applications:

Be sure to fill out and sign any documents we have asked for, such as references or background check information we have asked for ahead of your buying a ticket in case we do not agree to your stay.

9. We charge: We and most NGO's have to charge guest for their stay, we do not have a budget to host guests.

We charge \$25 USD a night per person. This will include 3 meals.

Food Supplies will be supplied for your breakfast. Making the breakfast is your responsibility.

Generally we provide cereal for 2 days and on the 3rd day we provide eggs, toast, oatmeal and fruit for your breakfast. For large groups we might provide supplies for pancakes as well if requested.

We will make and supply lunch for you. This is a local style lunch.

Meal includes rice. Most meals are served with chicken, pork beef or fish. Most meals are cooked with a fish or oyster sauce, it is very good but please let us know if you are allergic to anything or do not eat meat.

We will also make and supply dinner for you. This is a local style dinner.

Meal includes rice. Most meals are served with chicken, pork beef or fish. Most meals are cooked with a fish or oyster sauce, it is very good but please let us know if you are allergic to anything or do not eat meat.

We do provide safe filtered water for drinking, but not bottled water.

We do not include snacks, sodas or supply food for more than the 3 meals already provided.

- Example: If we give a box of cereal that will last for 4 breakfasts' meals and you eat an extra bowl every day you will run out and we will not supply replacement.

The best way to cover your needs beyond what is supplied is to do a little bit of shopping before we head to the village.

A shopping stop is always provided before heading out.

Quite often it is ignored and later regretted by people that don't realize there is no chocolate or chips in the village.

The meals are large and often people gain weight with us, but the hard work, the heat, the humidity can make us hungry before the next meal.

Mainly we have a budget with the \$15 a day that we need to stick to. If you find yourself overly hungry we can help increase the size of your meals but we will require extra funds to cover it. If you naturally have a large appetite, you might request this in advance and we'll help you out.

10. **Hotels:** on arrival and departure there is a good chance that you will need to pay for a hotel. The cost will be \$25 for the places we stay, unless you'd like a more expensive place. The hotel we chose is decent place with a small pool, internet and a breakfast.

The reason for the hotel is we are far from the city and if you arrive late at night it is not safe to drive home. Also we tend to take the chance to get supplies while we are in town to reduce gas cost.

11. **Other options:** If finances are a concern with your trip say you're planning to stay a longer period of time, or you are coming with your family we can work some options out with you to help make your trip more affordable. Please discuss this with us if there is a need we can help with.
12. **Team house:** We will supply pillows, mattresses, sheets and a blanket. We have towels if you wish. We do not supply Shampoo, toothpaste or other toiletries. You must bring or buy them before your arrival. Short term guest will be provided toilet paper while guest staying a longer than a couple weeks should supply their own. The team house has air conditioners and hot water and a kitchen with a refrigerator and dishes.

We do live in the village and in the village we are at times without power and or water. We will make an effort to ease this when it happens, please be understanding and prepared.

The team house consists of 2 rooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 living area and 1 kitchen. 1 room and bath is for males and 1 is room and bath is for the ladies, both are in the same house. Each room will tightly fit 8 people, 16 for the house.

The house is rarely full, except when we have a large team.

If you are a single guest here when a large team is due to arrive we will make accommodations for you. This might possibly be with the staff or with the director in their private residence. Please be helpful and understanding during such a case. If this happens it is at longest 4 days and you will be able to return to you normal housing.

We need to make every effort to house teams well just as we have done for you. I know at times this will be inconvenient but again please be understanding. Often it is great enjoyment when teams come in, and we hope it will be the same for guest not a part of that team.

13. **Illnesses:** Getting sick on a trip is common. Different foods, bugs, water, bad food, change in atmosphere and times can all play into why you might not feel well. We do our very best to provide clean water and good food. But we are in a 3rd world country and food supplies are not always the best. We very rarely have someone get sick but it happens. It is important to discuss being sick with us so we can help and monitor your health. We don't want to find out 3 or 4 days later when the problem has gotten out of control.

There are illnesses from mosquitoes here in our area it is mostly Dengue fever. We do not get many cases of malaria around us. You can't do anything about most things you get so just take precaution and try not to worry about every little bite. We've been getting bit twice a day at minimum for 6 years and we have not had any problems.

As for shots; it is my own opinion that you do not need anything for our area. We are not in an area that is affected by disease noted on websites. If you plan to travel to remote parts of Cambodia then possibly you might get some shots.

I nor my family have gotten any shots for being here nor do we take any meds. It is completely up to you and we hold no responsibility for decisions you make.

I would suggest that you do have your HEP shots and tetanus shots covered but these are basics even at home.

Japanese yellow fever and malaria are common recommends on websites but not from me in our area.

14. There is **travel insurance** you can get at home or here. Here it can be pretty cheap. We don't have anything because we find medical bills are often cheaper than the insurance. And I mean it is cheap here about 1% of what you might pay in the States.

This is also an option if you need some dental work it is good here and very cheap well worth it if you have some needs.

15. Possible items suggested by past guest:

As long as they fit in the dress code shorts skirts and dresses are fine here. Mid thigh or very tight or revealing is discouraged.

The climate ranges from the 70 degree F to 120 F with average humidity 50 to 80%

Note. you are need **dirty clothing** you can get dirty in we live on a farm and like to play in the mud..

You will also need **some nice cloths** for church, or teaching at the school or a nice dinner in the city. You don't need a tie or suit.

Bringing a hat is suggested though you can get a nice sun hat here for \$1.50 if you wish. A scarf can be very helpful but can also be purchased here cheaply. You might want to bring a pair of sun glasses. Sun screen and bug spray, I like a bio-lotion from OFF, but I never use it.

A fanny pack or secure bag you can carry is nice to have. Really large purses should be avoided if possible. You want to keep pick pockets in mind.

Girls might want to make sure they have hair stuff to keep their hair out of the way most of the time.

Face wash was a suggestion. It is a dirty, sweaty environment guest can break out easily. Pours can clog easily here.

Suggested: If you're traveling by yourself for long periods of time here you might want a comfort item. Girls; a blanket, pillow something to hug when you get lonely.

A book, a journal something to do or read when you find moment to read.

You should have and bring and be reading your Bible.

Money I tend to travel with the cash I need. They do have ATM's here mentioned earlier. We do have a safe in the office you store money and your passport in.

Electrical items, i Pods, laptops, cameras, phones. We use 220 vt here make sure you item will be able to plug in.

Your valuable in general will be safe. But they are your responsibility. Lose or damage cannot be covered by us.

Also please try not to be distracted by items from home. Spend time with the kids and only at night or times alone or traveling should you find yourself on an i Pod. If it is the middle of the day and there are kids all about then you're missing your trip and might need to ask "What I'm I doing here?"

We have internet here it isn't always reliable but it's here. Having a Skype account is the easiest way to stay in contact with your family.

Recap.

Passport - blank pages - 1 year or more before expires - plans on how to get your visa

Snacks for airport - empty water bottle - light jacket - pillow.

Tell your bank, bill collectors and friends that you're leaving the country

Plane ticket and given us a copy of your itinerary

Read and understand how to operate if a mistake is made and we are not there to get you at the airport.

Costs regarding your stay at the orphanage and the need to pay for a hotel twice, possibly depending on your arrival times

Understand the team house, the use of it, what is provided and the possibilities of being jostled around when teams arrive.

Illness and what to do

Filling out and returning any paper work we ask for.

Having the funds and support to complete and pay for your trip.

Read and Understand the House Rules and Code of Conduct

Note and Questions raised by past guest:

1. Shots mentioned earlier working in our area I have no advice about getting shots. Traveling to other areas of Cambodia there might some recommendations. This is for you to research and make your own decisions about knowing I and my family do not have shots that tend to be recommended online. The illnesses that are most possible to contract in our area are not preventative with meds. It should also be said that we house nearly 50 people for 6 years with no illnesses that could have been prevented with meds or shots.
2. Sandals are the common foot wear you can get them here real cheap if you wish, we don't wear shoes in the house so wearing sandals really helps.
3. Dress cloths for working at the school generally a pair of slacks black, blue is great kaki is alright. Shirts that are cool but not see through and if possibly not to wild in style. Also cloths to have at home and to get dirty in.
4. Sun glasses, hats, hair ties, mosquito lotions, sun lotions, face lotions, personal products that may be difficult to come by here.
5. Comfort items when staying longer, a teddy bear or blanket or pillow though we have these items things from home can keep you when you feel home sick.
6. We encourage you to journal and read a book here mainly your bible but others as well.
7. You might also want to get a travel pouch for your money and passport.
8. I suggest that you bring enough cash to get by for a week to one month to avoid ATM fees and inconvenience of finding an ATM.
9. **VERY IMPORTANT:** You must let you bank know you are here and work out your bills so you don't end up in trouble here or have accounts closed because they think your card was stolen or something.
10. We have hot water, A/C and use of the internet. But we also living in a 3rd world country we have power outages daily, and sometimes have problems with water pump breaking, but we get through it....

Additional Links:

<http://wikitravel.org/en/Cambodia>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cambodia>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cb.html>

<http://www.tourismcambodia.com/>

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2732.htm>

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/cambodia>



PHNOM PENH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT -

