



Kone Kmeng
Churches in Cambodia that respond to the needs...



Reported by:
Pang Sophany

Annual Report

Jan - Dec 2008

Letter from Director

Kone Kmeng was started by a heart of God that wants His churches reaching out to the lives of children in need. Since 2005, we have made many churches in Cambodia to possess the call. They are involved in different ways in serving children's lives.

Throughout these 3 years, we worked hard to develop our strength to become a real bridge that the churches, individuals and organizations can share their resources to local churches in Cambodia, so together we can bring restoration into the lives of children.

Finally, I am thankful to you for your involvement with Kone Kmeng such as prayer, financial support and time.

May God richly bless you, your family and work!



Pang Sophany
Director
Kone Kmeng

Acknowledgments

On behalf of Kone Kmeng, I would like to acknowledge to the members of Board of Directors and volunteers who commit their time and energy to guide the way for Kone Kmeng and the following organizations, churches and individuals who have partnered and supported the work of Kone Kmeng for this year. We achieved many things through their contribution and support.

Organizations:

- Wine To Water
- Doorsteps, Viva
- World Emergency Relief
- AIM – Agape Intl. Missions
- YWAM – Scotland
- Chab Dai
- Hosea Ministries
- Liberty University
- Freedom's Promise
- Ethnos Ministries
- Compassion International
- Crossworld
- UNICEF

Churches:

- Oak Hall Church
- Eastside Community Church
- Integrity Community Church
- Chrong Sdao Church
- Tenth Presbyterian Church
- Tokyo Chapel

Individuals:

- Glenn and the family
- Laura Fok
- Sue Lamarre
- Jenn Wilkins
- Cora Hogue
- Tricia Traub
- Claire Lacey
- Charlotte Evans
- Sheila Reid
- Dean Morihara
- Jessie Looi
- Samantha and Dean Stamler
- Steve Kays
- Bill Forbes

Vision Statement

Churches in Cambodia responding to the needs of children at risk in their communities

Mission Statement

Empowering churches to respond to children at risk in their communities

Core Values

1. We believe God places a high value on children and families.
2. We believe the church is the most important agency in transforming communities, including the lives of children at risk.
3. We believe that supporting the children's families is essential in order to ensure their long-term well-being

Strategies

1. Raise awareness of children's issues among churches around Cambodia
2. Build up the capacity of churches to respond
3. Provide funding, training, materials and other resources
4. Provide ongoing support and encouragement to churches

Objectives

1. Churches have resources to start the specific projects and respond to immediate needs
2. Churches are effective at implementing activities related to children at risk
3. Churches care for children spiritually, socially, culturally and environmentally

Brief Cambodian and Church History

Cambodia is a constitutional monarchy. It has a democratically elected prime minister with a National Assembly composed of 120 representatives and 60 senate members. King Norodom Sihamoni is the reigning monarch, but his duties are mainly ceremonial. Hun Sen is the current prime minister.

Cambodia was colonized by the French from 1863 – 1953 when it became an independent nation. For more than ten years, it enjoyed a period of prosperity. However, with the war in Southeast Asia escalating, Cambodia fell to the Khmer Rouge Communists in 1975. For nearly 4 years, Cambodia suffered through a great tragedy, where an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians died during that Pol Pot regime.

Even after the Khmer Rough was ousted from power, civil was continued in various parts of the country for the next 18 years. Today Cambodia remains one of the poorest countries in the world relying heavily on foreign aid. It is still recovering from nearly 30 years of war in which all infrastructures for their social, economic and educational systems were destroyed.

In 1990, when the Christian church in Cambodia was granted permission to operate by the government, there were ten Protestant churches in the country. A report from the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor in 2006 estimated that the Christian community now constitute approximately 2% of Cambodia's population, with about 2400 churches, though only 900 had been registered with the government.

Children's Issues

Some of the worst problems facing Cambodian children are health conditions, illiteracy, being trafficked, and violence. Most of these problems stem directly or indirectly from poverty.

- **35% of Cambodians** live below the poverty line
- **70% of the population** does not have access to safe water.
- **84% of the population** does not have adequate sanitation facilities.
- **15% of children under five** suffer from moderate to severe nutritional wasting
- **220,000 primary school aged children** are not attending school
- **~ 2 million children** aged 5-17 yrs work.
- **30% of sex workers** in Cambodia are under the age of 18.
- **75% of rape** complaints were committed against minors
- **470,000 children** have been orphaned

Jesus said

*"See that you do not despise one of these little ones,
For their angels in heaven continually behold the face of my father who is in heaven. Thus it is not in the will of the Father that one of these little ones perish"*

Matthew 18:10, 14

.....

Kone Kmeng began its work in **June 2005**. But it really developed into a national non governmental organization as a result of God's vision to Kone Kmeng's Director later that fall, in which God clearly called him to direct this work through the vision statement above. It was registered with the *Ministry of Interior of the Royal Government of Cambodia in 2007* to support churches with a heart to reach out to children in their communities. The intended projects are not large projects requiring major funding, but are small projects where small churches are already doing something but need further resources in capacity building and minor funding or desire to do something for vulnerable children. Kone Kmeng opens to non-denominational churches or denominational churches to be partners with.

Church Capacity Building

The heart of Kone Kmeng is the children. Meeting the needs of children, especially the children at risk will happen as the church as the body of Christ responds. So although, children are at the heart of the program, building up the capacity of the church is a key. This year Kone Kmeng was able to help the leaders of our partner churches in the provinces participate in various trainings which focused on strengthening the capacity of the partners to plan and run projects, and to write reports.

Pastors from project partners, as well as, Kone Kmeng leadership staff attended Project Cycle Management conducted by Doorsteps and Chab Dai. This was to help them to learn how to set up and manage projects.

In various times, Kone Kmeng conducted other training for its partners include:

1. Operation Planning
2. Report Writing
3. Teaching methodology
4. Project consultant meetings



Projects by Province

Banteay Meanchey Province

Banteay Meanchey shares a border with Thailand. It is the main economic gate for Cambodia and Thailand. It has a population of 794,410 people. Many families in Banteay Meanchey province move to work in Thailand. In early 2006, Pastor Phearom, of Chhong Kork Christian Church, conducted a baseline survey to identify the problems that happen to children in Chhong Kork village. The result showed that children are vulnerable to displacement to Thailand for working, using drugs, poverty, trafficking, illiteracy and violence. In January 2007, Save the Children Project was started

to respond to the problems. In April 2007, the first Children's Prayer Fellowship was organized, which mushroomed in 2008, with a Children's Prayer Fellowship event in January and in August of 2008. Wells were also provided to three communities in Mongkol Borei district through the churches there in 2008.

1. Save the Children project

1.1 Non-Formal Education Program

The non-formal education program was started to give children an opportunity to pursue education. The children who lost a chance to attend public schools for various reasons or children who dropped out of school were selected to join the non-formal education program. It has been running for 2 years with 100 children, so far.



After the children are integrated back into the public school system, the project continues to monitor the progress of the children and provide for some of their school needs.

The first group started with 20 students in Jan 2007. By October that year, 12 of the 20 students were integrated into the public school system; nine students entered grade 2, three students entered grade 3.

In Oct 2007, another group started. Forty (40) children participated in the program. After one school year, 35 of them were integrated into the public school system; fifteen students entered grade 2, three students entered grade 3, six students entered grade 4 and eleven students entered grade 5.

In Oct 2008, a new class, with 40 children started. The program provided school uniforms and school supplies. The project was also able to help with supplies to improve the classroom, putting up walls and a roof. Twenty tables and 40 chairs were placed in the classroom so the children could be more comfortable while learning. The teacher uses the grade 1 and grade 2 curriculum provided by the public school.

In addition to the Khmer curriculum, the children also study:



"I am so glad to see my children are educated. I don't want them to be like me."

Thida's mother said.



- the Bible
- arts
- ways to sustain their living by caring for a vegetable garden
- basic child's right
- issues related to on human trafficking
- how to stay in a safe place
- basic hygiene and morality

Once every two weeks, the teachers go to visit the children's families in order to follow up on the children's activities and build relationships with their families.

1.2 Family Development Program

Save the children Project set a goal to develop the standard of living of the families in order to sustain the children's welfare. Two families were provided micro-loans of \$50 each: 1) to grow vegetables; and 2) to expand an existing business.

Ten families participated in a training on agricultural development by raising chickens.

1.3 Community Education Outreach

A workshop on human trafficking was conducted for children's families. Thirty (30) people attended the workshop.

Impact on the children and the community

- 90% of children in our program are integrated back into the public school and all of them continue their studies.
- 50% of children from our program who have been integrated back into the public school have become outstanding students.
- 65% of attendees to the workshop have become aware of human trafficking.
- The community is increasing their involvement in the project.
- Local authorities are encouraged and support the work.
- The public school director and teachers support the project.
- There is greater cooperation among all facets of the community.



Relief and Development Assistance Wells provided

In 2008, Kone Kmeng was able to provide 3 wells to villages in Mongkol Borei district, Banteay Meanchey province.

One was placed in Talom village through the Talom Methodist Church. *The well serves 10 families, with 72 people.*

Another well was dug in Dong Ron village through the CMA church there. *This well serves 15 families, with 150 people.*

The third well was dug in Kork Srok village through the Krok Srok Christian Church. *It serves 15 families, with 94 people.*

Challenges encountered:

- Many families migrate to work in Thailand.
- Children in the program are forced to stop school and made to work at the border or in Thailand.
- Some families gamble, as well as, use violence in abusing their children.
- Most parents are illiterate.

A boy was asked “How many time do you take a bath per day before the well installed?”
He answered shortly that “One time in two days”

The well blesses him and other community members so much!



Children's Prayer Movement

The Children's Prayer Movement grew out of a desire to see children develop of lifestyle of prayer; that they would grow in their relationship with God; and that they would know how much God loves and values them. As children's voices were listened to and their concerns heeded, resources were found to help increase awareness and teach on various issues. In July 2007, after the second children's prayer fellowship, children raised concerns about drug abuse and violence, especially towards children, in their families.

Children's Prayer Fellowship – Against Drug Abuse and Violence Toward Children

So on January 17, 2008, Kone Kmeng along with the **Provincial Children's Prayer Movement Committee** in Banteay Meanchey province conducted a children's prayer fellowship in Loung village, Ruesey Krok commune, Mongkol Borei district, Banteay Meanchey province. The main focus was for children to pray Against Drug Abuse and Violence toward Children in Cambodia. There were 394 participants; 340 children; 32 children's teachers; 21 pastors and a local authority.

The children performed role-plays on drug abuse and violence. Children from various churches stood up and prayed for those children who are addicted to drugs and for those living in a violent home environment. They prayed for themselves, for their families, for their friends, for their communities, for their leaders at all levels of government, for their nation. After the prayers,

five children were selected to come up on the stage to recite Bible verses they'd memorized.

The children enjoyed worshiping God, as well as, singing songs to praise Him together. Afterwards, the children played games and received leaflets and posters on drug abuse and domestic violence to display in their communities.



Children's Prayer Fellowship – My Village Clean (Protecting our Environment)

On August 7, 2008, the day of the prayer fellowship on *My Village Clean*, **480 children from twenty-four (24) churches** in Banteay Meanchey province started coming on foot, by bicycles, on motorbikes, and carts, some traveling more than 2 hours to arrive by 8:00 am to celebrate a time of worship, prayer and fellowship together. There was a sense of expectancy and excitement as each group arrived.

It was awesome to hear 480 children's voices lifted up in praise together! Community leaders were invited to share a few words with the children. It was amazing as the governor of the district, the provincial deputy director of culture and religion, the commune leader and the village chief each came up to speak.



Although they are not Christians, they wholeheartedly supported the program and praised God. They were happy to see the children learning to become responsible citizens of society, not just by taking care of the environment, but by praying for the political situation and other issues in society. They encouraged the children to pray to their God. *The children erupted with spontaneous applause as these leaders gave praise to God!* Prayers were led by groups of children for the leaders of Cambodia, for the land (at that time there were still Cambodian and Thai troops at the border), for their families, for themselves,

and especially for the environment. During the lunch break, groups of children gathered to play games and sing songs informally. By the time the afternoon program began, they were all having so much fun. Groups of children went on stage to recite Bible verses together. In the closing worship session, there was so much joy, no one wanted to stop. So the musicians added another song to the program, *Walking in the Light of God*. It was a great way to end the time together. Later some children stayed to pick up the trash and clean up the grounds before finally leaving.



After the children's prayer fellowship of August 18, 2008, eight of the testimonies were selected to be put in a Children's Testimonies Booklet.

Battambang Province

Battambang is one of the largest provinces in Cambodia. It is 291 km from Phnom Penh. It also shares a border with Thailand. It is well-known as a big rice production province. Population is 90,866. Most of them are farmers. Many people still live in poverty. For this reason, a lot of people move to work in Thailand or Phnom Penh.

These are some of the problems identified in their community.

1. Child labor exploitation
2. Children confront drug use
3. Gangster groups among young people
4. Violence towards children
5. Children orphaned by HIV/AIDS
7. Sexual exploitation
8. Children confront illiteracy

In response to these problems of children, Battambang Christian Church set up the **Restoration of Vulnerable Children project**. It has 3 programs: a non-formal education class, a sewing training class, and Community Development. In each program, the participants have some time to learn about God and to pray together for each other.

2. Restoration of Vulnerable Children project

2.1 Non-formal education class

There are 30 children in the class, most of them living in severe poverty. Three of the children have been orphaned by HIV/AIDS. The others go to public school, but they participate in the program to help them learn the basics. The teacher uses

the grade 2 curriculum of the public school. The children are also provided training on child rights and awareness of human trafficking issues.



2.2 Sewing training class

There are 12 girls from ages 14 to 16 participating in this training. These girls were selected to join the training so that they can have some life-skills and don't need to move to work far from their villages. The course takes 6 months. Five girls had to stop the course and went to work at the border in order to support their families. The other 7 girls are continuing to study. The course is going to finish in June 2009.



2.3 Community Development

2.3.1 Mushroom raising training

The mushroom growing project was designed to help young men develop a life skill. Six teens were selected to learn how to produce mushroom seeds and grow it.

2.3.2 Safe Drinking Water

In Battambang province, Kone Kmeng helped with putting in 2 wells in 2 different villages. The first well was placed in Bospor village, Odom Bang commune, Sangke district. It serves 10 families, with 50 people benefitting from the well. The second well was put in Pre Taton village, Prek Prehsdach commune, Battambang district. It serves 10 families, or about 35 people.



Kandal Province

Kandal province covers a land area of 3,556 square km, with a population of 1,261,297 people. The Bassac River flows south through the province. Saang district lies along the Bassac River to the south of Phnom Penh. Boeng Thnout village lies on the border of Svay Rolum and Sattubo communes in Saang district.

Although Boeng Thnout village is in the middle of a lake, access to safe drinking water is a problem. Factories along the shores of the lake dump their wastes, causing pollution to the waters. This is poisoning their water source, as well as their future livelihood, which depends on the fish in the lake. Digging wells do not solve their safe drinking water needs, as there are high levels of naturally occurring arsenic in the groundwater.

Other problems identified in the village are:

1. *Children did not go to school*
2. *Children had to work hard for their families' basic needs*
3. *The families are in severe poverty*

In response, the Light of Christ church developed *Restoration of Children at Risk* in 2007 and later changed it to *Firm Foundation for Children*.

3. Firm Foundation for Children

3.1 Children Community Club

The CCC provides extra Khmer lessons to the 22 children who have already been sent back to public school. They received 11 bicycles to help the children get to school. The CCC also teaches English to 35 children. These children participated in

workshops on human trafficking, child rights, basic health care, HIV/AIDS. Awareness and education arm the children with knowledge and courage to reduce the risks they face.



Learning some Khmer traditional dances is included in the project so that the children can experience their own culture. Christians are often discriminated against by people. Though knowledge of their culture in dancing, they can express their love for the nation.

Ny (given name for girl in the project) said in 2007 when asked about her dream *“I want to be a garment factory worker”*. In 2008, Ny was asked again for her dream *“I want to be a doctor”*

3.2 Community Development

3.2.1 Raising fish - Six families have started raising fish, with one of the villagers, mentoring and encouraging the families.

3.2.2 Mosquito nets - Sixty-five mosquito nets were distributed to the families in the village.

3.2.3 Houses repaired - Two houses in the village were repaired. One of them had fallen over in a strong rainstorm and needed to be completely rebuilt. The other had an old, leaky roof on a leaf house, and new metal roof was put on it.

3.2.4 Church building - A church building was started with a team brought in by Kone Kmeng. Worship services, classes and seminars can now be held under a roofed structure rather than under a tree. They don't have to worry if it rains, or if the ground is flooded; they can still meet together.

Impact

- 22 children are still in school after being integrated into the public school in 2007.
- Parents are motivated to encourage their children continue their education.
- Violence has been significantly reduced in the village.
- Villagers have hope in their lives.



Svay Rieng Province

Svay Rieng Province is on the border of Cambodia and Vietnam. Many children are sent to beg for money in Vietnam, as well as, work in the fields to support their families. Violence is common in the families. Children are often the victims.

Below are the results of a survey that the church identified as problems in their community:

1. *Child abuse*
2. *Child labor exploitation*
3. *Children in severe poverty, resulting in malnutrition and lack of access to schools*
4. *Trafficking*
5. *Displacement*

Mission for Good News Church had started something small to help the children. They prayed and gave out some school supplies and medicines. They began to build relationships with the children's families to help educate them. To respond to the great needs of the children, the church with Kong Kmeng set up the in 2008. The project is being implemented through four churches in four different villages in Svay Chrum and Kampong Ro districts, Svay Rieng province. It provides some school supplies and school uniforms to help children go to school, conducts workshops and seminars for various factions in the community on some of the issues identified by the church and started a family development program. As part of relief and development, Kone Kmeng has been involved in these communities by providing funds to drill 19 wells in these villages during 2008. Kone Kmeng was also able to bring a team to help put up walls for a house of a widow who had been living in this house without walls for several years.



4. Child Welfare Development Project

Mission for Good News Church, Bassac village, Dok Po village, Tanor village and Prey Thom village.

4.1 Children Education program

- a) Provided school supplies to 43 children to help keep them in the public school.
- b) Provided school uniforms for 43 children.
- c) Conducted three workshops for children:

Topic: Personal hygiene and domestic violence against children

Name of Village	Number of Participants	Trainers
Dok Po village	20 children	Keo Chhuen
Bassac village	40 children	Prum Setha
Prey Thom village	25 children	Soy Sambath

In conjunction with the workshops, 226 children received toothpaste and toothbrushes.

4.2 Community Education program

Conducted three workshops for adults and members of the community:

Topic: Domestic violence against children and child rights workshop

Name of Village	Number of Participants	Trainers
Prey Thom village	20 adults	Bun Meng and Keo Chhuen
Tanor village	16 adults	Bun Meng and Keo Chhuen
Bassac village	16 adults	Bun Meng and Keo Chhuen

4.3 Family Development - The project set a goal to improve the living standard of the children's families. Thirteen families were provided 12 pigs and 1 cow to raise. Another 30 families raised vegetables such as cucumber, potatoes, soy beans and morning glory. These families received some training so they could improve their animal and crop production.

Problems encountered - Svay Rieng province had just been through 4 years of drought and it lacked water for irrigation. The project workers don't have much skill in animal husbandry. The project needs more funding to meet the whole cost of the project.

Relief and Development Assistance

Wells provided - During 2008, with the support from Wine to Water, Kone Kmeng was able to help work with Mission for Good News Church to dig 19 wells in 7 villages in Svay Rieng province. Accessibility to clean water has been a huge blessing to 124 families, affecting about 750 people. The project is through the churches, but the village and commune leaders are involved in the process. This has fostered improved relationships and opportunities for sharing with the local authorities.

A summary of the location and beneficiaries of the wells is given in the table below:

Project location	Number of Wells	Number of Families	Total Beneficiaries
Bassac Village Bassac Commune Svay Chhrum District Svay Rieng Province	2	16	120
Prey Thom Village Prey Thom Commune Kampong Ro District Svay Rieng Province	5	30	167
Prey Trom Village Nhor Commune Kampong Ro District Svay Rieng Province	2	16	66
Dok po Village Svay Thom Commune Svay Chhrum District Svay Rieng Province	3	20	104
Tanor Village Svay Teap Commune Svay Chhrum District Svay Rieng Province	3	19	131
Kan tout Brong Village Svay Teap Commune	2	13	90

Svay Chhrum District Svay Rieng Province			
Potheros Village Bassac Commune Svay Chhrum District Svay Rieng Province	2	10	69
Total	19 wells	124 families	747 beneficiaries

House built – In May, Kone Kmeng took a team for outreach to some of the churches in Svay Rieng province. At that time, in Prey Thom village, a widow, caring for her grandson, requested help with her house which had no walls, so was unprotected during the rainy season. A few months later another team came and was able to provide funds and labor to finish her house. It’s been amazing how God brings the teams and needs together for His glory!

Impact on the children and the community

- 43 children are able to continue studying in the public schools
- 40% of the children changed their attitude of how to care for their own basic health.
- ~30% of parents committed to stop violence towards children and have become aware of issues that the children face.
- The community and local authorities, with the parents or guardians now encourage the children to pursue education

“Before, I used a lot of violence to my children when I get angry but after I joined the workshop then I can control my anger.”
a participant said.

Financial Summary:

This year Kone Kmeng was blessed with twice the support from the previous year. Projects could be maintained and new projects started, such as, Restoration of Vulnerable Children in Battambang province, and Child Welfare Development in Svay Rieng province. Kone Kmeng still has not been able to develop a steady donor base, but God continues to provide as needed. Funding from Doorsteps/Viva to help support the children at risk projects through June of 2009 has been a large factor, contributing about 29% of the total income for this year.

Income and Balance:

Total Income for 2008: \$ 47153.60

Total Expenses for 2008: \$ 40078.17

Balance carried over from 2008: \$ 7075.43

Balance carried over from 2007: \$ 2547.14

Equity from 2007: \$ 541.30

Total Assets (Dec 31, 2008) \$ 10163.87

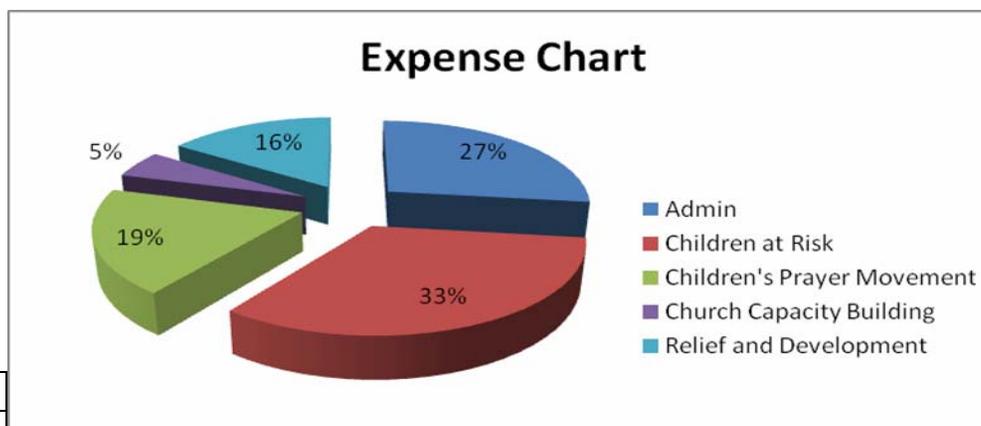
Funds designated for Doorsteps (\$ 7390.00)

Funds designated for building (\$ 2000.00)

Balance \$ 773.87

Expenses Breakdown

Description	Amount	%
Admin	\$ 10,790.09	27 %
Children at Risk	\$ 13,285.34	33 %
Children's Prayer Movement	\$ 7,652.42	19 %
Church Capacity Building	\$ 2,026.89	5 %
Relief and Development	\$ 6,238.33	16 %
Other	\$ 85.10	0 %
Total	\$ 40,078.17	100 %



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