



John and Tess Castledine, Cambodia

November '06

Dear Friends and Family,

Tess and I hope this update finds you well, we're both really good.

The work at the Community Centre has been progressing well over the past couple of months. Our teachers and older boys are back into academic study after spending a few months vocational training whilst working on the construction of the new building. The younger children are all going great also in their studies as they are learning both Khmer and English.

Last month we had a visit from Community Care International Director, Vic Stolar. Vic and his son-in-law Markus came for a quick visit to catch up on the progress of the work. It was great to see him and the teachers and older students really enjoyed the time learning from Mr Vic.

We're just coming to the end of the wet season last month in Cambodia, but the rains haven't left us completely just yet. A couple of days of tropical rainstorms and the Mekong River has risen again. This has made conditions a bit more cramped in our current building as our kitchen has flooded from the rising water. We have had to move it from the downstairs area into our second classroom and squeeze the school classes all in together. The cooks are managing well and the children are ok, but really looking forward to when the new building will be ready to move into!



This is a photo of our back toilet - under water!

Introducing

We've recently had a new member arrive to join our team in the work here. Peta Thomas has come from Australia to help us with the administration side of the work, organising our communications and assisting with training the young people at the Centre. It's great to have some help here onsite and we're always looking for more people to join us in the work especially people in the teaching of the children. So please include Peta in your prayers when you pray for us and also pray that more people will come to join the work.



School

Besides being cramped at the moment the children are all getting along really well. We've had a visit from two families from Adelaide last month and the children really enjoyed getting to know their new friends. A donation of sporting goods from one of the children's Australian schools enabled us to teach our children some new games like Cricket and Frisbee! However, this week with all the rain, our sports ground has flooded so we'll have to play some indoor games until the waters recede.



*Hi from all the children in
Sovana Poom School*

New Building

The construction of our new building has progressed this past month. We've been excited as the roof is being put in place on the first section, the main auditorium. There's still plastering, tiling, painting and windows to be completed before it will be ready for use, but we're excited to see it coming along.

To finalise this part of the building in the auditorium and for the ground floor rooms which will be used initially as classrooms and a vocational training area (until the rest of the building is complete), we require a further US\$53,000.



Church

Pastor Thoeun, Peak and their son Jamie are all growing strong in the Lord.



They have some great news to report since our last update. At that time we were praying for an 18 year old orphan boy, Jomrouen. He hadn't been with us

for long, when he presented with a hard lump under his chin. Two individual doctors had diagnosed it as a TB tumour.

We'd been believing that the lump would go away without complication. Now we're really pleased to testify that Jomrouen is 100% healthy and the lump has disappeared completely!



Spotlight: Srey-Jen

Srey-Jen is a beautiful little girl with a big smile and lots of love. She came to live at Sovana Poom just this year with her two younger sisters, Srey-Nak and Srey-Mom.



Srey-Jen's story, like many children here is a sad one. She comes from a large family of ten children in a village nearby.

Srey-Jen's parents struggle with alcohol and gambling and are not able to care for their family properly.

When Srey-Jen arrived at Sovana Poom with her sisters we took them in because their family didn't want them and they had nowhere to go. We learned that the parents had tried to sell Srey-Jen, however nobody wanted to buy her as she has cross-eyes.

Often we hear of poor parents who sell their children to rich people who raise them as slaves in their homes. Unfortunately Srey-Jen's baby brother was more desirable and the parents were able to sell him for \$200. However, because of this apparent impediment Srey-Jen and two of her sisters have come to live with us.

Srey-Jen and her sisters are now thriving in the secure, loving environment. They now all have a great future ahead to look forward to as they grow and learn at Sovana Poom.

"Verify I say unto you whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein"

Mark 10:15