



News Update

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AWARENESS CAMBODIA INC

Issue 2

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Dr Gary Hewett

Thank you for taking a little time to consider the huge difference we as members of affluent communities can make when we work together to change the lives of those who are less fortunate.

I know inside each of us there is a desire to know that when we leave the planet, someone else's life has been made that bit easier. At the same time, all of us at Awareness Cambodia know that we live such busy lives and it's not always possible to go in person, or to put in the time personally. In fact the truth be known, our money in the hands of someone who has already committed themselves to work at the "coal face" may just be the most effective way for us to make that difference.

With that in mind, Awareness Cambodia in 2000 identified a major crisis among parentless children in a country that had been ravaged by Polpot and the Khmer Rouge, the Vietnamese occupation and

finally the AIDS epidemic. This led to the inception of Sunshine House in 2000, our first building in 2001 and some 4 years later a developing "mini village" where orphaned children and staff have found employment, relief from hunger and disease, education, health and safety. All of this has been achieved through the private donations of an amazing group of people who have cared enough to partner with us in giving and going.

With this foundation in place, I believe its now time to expand our influence within Cambodia. So after much consideration and consultation, I've prepared a plan of what the next 5 years has in store for us. We have summarized the projects we plan to undertake during that period and it is available as a booklet. If you would like a copy of

"The Lead up to 2010" please contact our office.

Let me ask you on behalf of the whole Awareness Cambodia team to carefully consider the opportunities that lay ahead of us over the next 5 years and how you might be able to partner with us to see it happen.

Let me once again express my heartfelt appreciation to all of you who've made it your business to think about someone outside of yourself. I'm convinced it's going to be both an exciting and challenging 5 years of rebuilding some special people's lives.



Gary Hewett
Chief Executive Officer

Special points of interest:

- ☉ Our 5 year plan is now available. Contact us for a booklet.
- ☉ New Clinic "Operation Nightingale" is being planned for 2006. Funds are needed!
- ☉ Maintenance Team—After last years huge success we are sending another team of volunteer tradesmen to SH.

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Operation Nightingale Clinic

Dr Melanie Cheng from The Royal Children's Hospital-Melbourne has taken on the challenge of pioneering a Medical Clinic for Awareness Cambodia. We are calling this project "Operation Nightingale." Dr Melanie will spend 5 months in Cambodia beginning early 06 to establish this pilot project. Awareness Cambodia foresee running free clinics in the surrounding 6 villages of

Kompong Speu Province. (where Sunshine House is located).

Melanie has also taken on the task of fundraising. Her goal is to raise:

AUD \$10 000.00

(presently Mel is almost half way).

If you would like to contribute to Operation Nightingale feel free to contact our office. Please clearly label all

donations with the term "clinic".

After Melanie's initial setup and development we plan to continue operating the clinic twice monthly, using overseas volunteer doctors and employing local Khmer medicos. In time it will develop teaching programs such as hygiene practices and supply AIDS/HIV material.

We will keep you updated!



Above: Dr Melanie Cheng



Perth College is a private school for girls in Perth, Western Australia. In the April 2005 school holidays 12 students (Yr 10) and staff flew off to an inaugural Cambodian Odyssey. The girls visited Siem Reap, The Killing Fields and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum (the former Khmer Rouge S-21 Prison). This was a suburban school that was used up until 1979 for torture of prisoners. Although this was very confronting it provided information that helped the students understand the current plight of the Cambodian people who have suffered enormously in the hands of a dictatorship that resulted in the decimation of the academic and cultural wealth of the people.

Other areas visited was a rubbish tip on the outskirts of Phnom Penh. Here we met the poorest of the poor and gave the children food. Another emotionally challenging site was the Soldiers Hospital, where families were living and dying with AIDS. Both the visits helped us see first hand the environment in which some children from Sunshine House had previously lived.

The final stage of our Odyssey was our six day stay at Sunshine House. Here students and staff were able to join in

the work of Awareness Cambodia that is committed to making a difference to the lives of the children by providing for them a stable home and environment.

The girls made great friendships with all the children at the orphanage and joined in the daily routine of helping on the eco-farm and entertaining the smaller children with structured activities. They cleaned the piggery, fed the animals and undertook weeding and planting seeds. They got involved with the children by face painting, beading, reading and playing sporting activities. Today they continue there friendships through email.

Each girl committed to fundraising for a building of a "well" at Sunshine House and the purchase of a cow. Seeing the impact of the abundance of water financed by the Perth College community and friends was an incredibly rewarding experience for both the people at Sunshine House and the students and staff. A relationship with Awareness Cambodia has been forged with a view of providing on-going support for Sunshine House. It is with deep sincerity that we thank Awareness Cambodia Team for bringing this experience to fruition.

REPORTER:
Clare Hackett/Teacher Perth College

Quotes

"Today was a day when we found out where all our fundraising and hard work went and we were convinced that one person can make a difference. Today we as a group saw that in a developing country like Cambodia small things can go along way."

Caitlin White

The girls undertook to climb the mountain behind Sunshine House.

"We looked out over the mountain and could see for miles.

We Came. We Saw. We conquered!

What a sense of triumph we all felt, it was amazing. As we descended we sang "ain't no mountain high enough" which we thought was very appropriate"

Khazmira Bashah



Photos from PC's visit



"Many thanks for making our trip possible. I'm already missing all the kids and can't wait to go back!" Karen

"I don't know how to thank you enough. This trip really opened my eyes to the way different people live." Jess



It seems only a short time since we last organized a Maintenance Team to Cambodia. Yet here we are again having had our first meeting with perspective applicants wishing to be part of the team; some for the first time, others looking forward to their continued involvement in yet another maintenance program at Sunshine House.

As you read this newsletter, Dave Lundstrom a retired (mechanical engineer) who was part of the previous team (November '04), will be in Cambodia re-conditioning our main generator at Sunshine House. Another

former team member from 2004 has donated the funds for Dave's trip, as well as the costs associated with the work to be done.

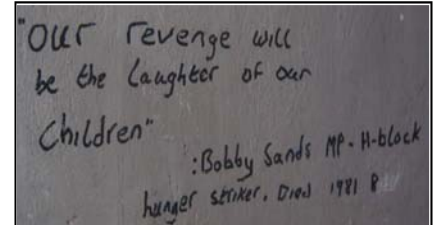
The opportunity to not only make a difference in ones own life, but to improve the lives of others leaves one feeling a sense of accomplishment that will last a lifetime.

I am reminded of an etching on the wall of Toul Sleng by one of the inmates who perished. The inscription reads:

"Our revenge will be the laughter of our children".

To be involved in a Maintenance Team or to visit Sunshine House is to be fortunate enough to see that saying lived

out. Seeing children of all ages having lost everything, yet happy and healthy living life to the full. With your support we at Awareness Cambodia are able to see these young lives set goals for the future.



Above: A photo taken of the actual inscription etched onto the walls.

Bobby Sands MP-H-Block

*Rob McCullough
International Director
Awareness Cambodia*

Who is Awareness Cambodia?

Cambodia saw the systematic execution of the top 25% of its population under Pol Pot in the late 70s and now reels under a 2nd disaster, having the highest rate of AIDS per capita outside of Africa.

After a life-changing visit to Cambodia in 1995, Perth dentist Dr Gary Hewett founded Awareness Cambodia Inc. Awareness Cambodia Inc is a not-for-profit charity which takes in orphaned children in Cambodia, who either have been orphaned by AIDS or who are themselves HIV+ or suffer from AIDS. Sunshine House is where we house, feed and educate our children. Attached is a eco-farm which helps feed and train our children. Over the next 5 years, we're looking to transform Sunshine House from its current "small village" status into a larger community called "The Awareness Cambodia Community" - Kompong Spue. Consisting over time of medical and dental clinics, half way house for our older children, a day hospital and eco-farm business development.

Births, Marriages and Death Registrations

The Cambodian Government is making concerted efforts to have all births, marriages and deaths registered in the country. The government hopes to have this completed by the end of 2005. A lot of the population are too poor to register under the present system and hence do



not have proper birth certificates. The government is registering all their citizens including our children at Sunshine House. Some of our older children decided to include their family name in the registering process.

Left: Government officials at Sunshine House.

*If you were arrested
for kindness,
would there be enough evidence
to convict.*

Anon



Left: Francis Mak with children from Sunshine House.

Francis a Occupational Therapist spent time volunteering at Sunshine House in Jan 2005. Francis worked with Sophoan (4 years) who has mild cerebral palsy.

A visit from the Royal Government of Cambodia to Sunshine House

On the 17th June 2005 we were honored with a visit from representatives of Hun Sens daughter—Hun Mana.

Her personal staff arrived with a truck load of presents and food supplies. Hun Manas staff advised us that they would come again.

The staff and children were really excited about their visit and presents. The children were given 10 000 riel (approx US\$2.50).

Our children thought they were millionaires!



Above: Children receiving Riel



Above: Ray Toy Awareness Cambodian National Director



Above: Gifts from the Government of Cambodia

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How do we fund Awareness Cambodia?

Awareness Cambodia is funded solely by donations & sponsorship. Our staff is made up primarily of volunteers in Australia and Cambodia. We employ local Khmer staff to act as carers and role models at Sunshine House.

This has at times proved challenging but we have a firm commitment to ensuring our donations get to the Cambodian people and our on the ground programs. This edition of our newsletter contains a few stories on how previous donations have been used to change lives.

Within Australia all contributions made to Awareness Cambodia Overseas Aid Fund are fully tax deductible.

Yes I want to support Awareness Cambodia!

Please fill in the form below and return by

FAX/POST/EMAIL

YOUR DETAILS: (Please Print)

I Wish To Pay By Cheque/Money Order/Credit Card

Name:

.....

First Name

Surname

Address:

.....

Country:

Post Code:

Email:

.....

PAYMENT DETAILS:

Please debit my (Circle)

Visa

Amex

MasterCard

Card Number:

Expires:

/.....Signature:.....

Our money in the hands of someone who has already committed themselves to work at the "coalface" may just be the most effective way for us to make a difference.



Thank you!



Above and Right: Children at Sunshine House having fun!