



## **Koh Kong Ministry Project**

### **Vision**

**To see the people of Koh Kong transformed by the gospel into communities of believers with spiritual influence that impacts their culture and spreads across district, social, ethnic, and national boundaries.**

The Koh Kong team launched full-time ministry, with all of its members present, in August 2008. Over the last year, we have been amazed at God's provisions and ability to open opportunities to engage with people from different areas, different ethnic groups and different status in society. As we prepare for future ministry, we want to recap for you our first year's goals and the results from God's outpouring grace. Secondly, we will provide our aim as we enter our second year and beyond.

### **First year team goals:**

- **Building team unity and cohesion:** spending time discussing personal values, personalities, ministry approaches, and learning to appreciate each other in deeper ways.
- **Becoming a team of Prayer:** spending time each week together praying, as well as promoting more prayer among our supporters.
- **Evangelizing:** sharing Christ 300 times the first year.
- **Building relationships:** being intentional about getting out and meeting people in their arenas (coffee shops, sporting events, markets, etc.). This goal also includes meeting local Church leaders and government officials.
- **Surveying the area:** traveling to local villages, islands and spending time asking questions about people's felt needs and their understanding of Christ.

### **Results**

**Team unity** has developed over the last year as team members have grown in their understanding and appreciation of one another's personalities, giftings and contributions to the team. We are still growing in this area but feel that we have made significant steps to solidifying this team's healthiness.

**Prayer** awareness has been renewed among our team members as we meet together bi-weekly to pray. We also are praying together once a month with other believers in the area. As a team, we have established a team prayer covenant which outlines our commitment as individuals and as a team. Although we are still growing in our commitment to prayer, the team as a whole is realizing our need to take everything to God in prayer.

**Evangelizing** the people here has been a concerted effort from all team members. Over the last year we have shared the gospel 270 times and had 330 spiritual conversations which involved discussions about God, sin, death, afterlife, and Buddhist beliefs, etc.

**Building relationships** with the people in Koh Kong has been fun; we have met so many people. By going to community events or community hang-out spots, interacting in villages, and meeting neighbors, we feel we are broadening our sphere of influence. We realize that meeting people is just the first phase in establishing long-lasting bonds; but we are excited for these beginnings. Believe it or not, we have met about 1,700 people! In addition we are experiencing a growing relationship with local churches.

Survey takes time and decent weather. At times we have both, at other times we have found ourselves in a 16 foot boat in the midst of a monsoon rain and crashing waves. But through it all, we have made some great initial findings in most all of the major populated areas which is helping us focus on the coming years' goals.

### **Thankful for God's Grace**

We have all been reminded that this great work we have embarked on is one that is fought only by God's power. As a team, we strive to make great gains for the kingdom but with each step we know that God must re-shape the landscape of man's heart if we are to see fertile ground. It is our temptation to trust in ourselves but we strive to refrain from doing so in order to rely on God.

### **What is our strategy?**

As stated in other documents and e-mail updates, our key focus will be on relationship building. In an article that discusses people moving into new communities the writer said "it usually takes 1-3 years before the community will trust them." This time period is under normal situations, I think we can add some time to this when we consider the war torn atmosphere of Cambodia where trust is not common practice even among fellow Khmer. Therefore, the Koh Kong team is committing itself to planting churches through the long-term task of establishing solid relationships rather than starting churches in a shallow relationship base. This particular strategy takes time and patience; however, we do feel in the end not only will there be more fruit, but solid fruit which will yield a church that will last after the missionaries are gone.

### **Being in the Community**

This past year has been amazing, we have met so many people and we are watching those relationships be established deeper and deeper every day. One way we are meeting people is through the Koh Kong Health Club which we opened in April. A club may not be the first thing you think of when considering church planting, but then again- what is church planting? Is it not meeting people where they are, being a witness in word and deed and then leading to people to Christ? The gym provides a place for us to meet a lot of different people on a regular basis. A regular basis is the key! As foreigners, we don't live, work and interact on the same social level as the nationals. Thus, the gym provides a neutral place for us to meet and start relationships. I would agree that the idea is "out of the box" a bit, but God has used it thus far. From April 09' to August 09', we have had 4,300 people come through the door. These are not all new people but this shows the repeated visits of so many whom we have been able to meet on a continual basis. It is our hope that as time continues we will be able to deepen our relationships, and people will begin to trust us, thus listen to the gospel message as we share with them.



## **Our Second Year's Focus**

The team has several focuses this year while continuing some from the previous year, such as a continued attention on prayer and surveying. It is through the following ministries that we hope to be part of an ever growing community of Khmer believers.

### **Church Strengthening Ministry**

One area we want to focus on is training and Bible teaching in the local churches. Many believers here, like many in other parts of the country, really haven't had the opportunity to grow deeply in their faith. Many lack a good solid Biblical foundation which hinders them from being victorious. We began teaching the Bible at a local church in July every Wednesday night. Currently we are teaching a chronological study, but will move into other studies in the future. Another area we want to help the church is in specified training. In August, we hosted a week-long training on evangelism. We feel that equipping the church is important; we are calling it our "church strengthening ministry". The team feels that one of our mandates is to partner with churches and facilitate their growth any way we can. By doing so, we feel that we are equipping more laborers for the harvest.



### **Evangelism**

Building off of last year's goal of meeting people, we are giving our attention to identifying several key people in our friendship sphere. We are calling this PWI, which means People We're Influencing. Each team member is identifying various people that they will spend time in prayer for, look for opportunities to build a better relationship with, and ultimately share the gospel to. Each team member could have 4-8 people in their PWI group. Along with this effort, we are also continuing with our mass evangelism approach as God opens up doors.

### **Radio**

Since Cambodia is an oral culture, they spend a lot of time listening to stories via radio or T.V. We want to capitalize on this cultural practice by utilizing this tool not only to reach people in the city but in the villages and islands. In recent surveys, we found out that most all people have access to the radio and listen to it frequently. So, coupled with our evangelistic effort we intend to use the radio to broadcast. We are partnering with TWR (Trans World Radio) this year and will be broadcasting five (5) days a week for thirty minutes each day. We feel this is one of the ways we can do a lot of pre-evangelism work prior to us going into these villages. As you can imagine, we are very excited for this opportunity.

### **Small Groups**

It is our hope and prayer that through the relationship building process, we will see several from our PWI groups by August 2010 that will have a desire to study the Bible with us. We are praying and working towards having 2-3 small groups within a year. It will be these small groups that we will nurture in the Word, disciple and train.



2008 Prayer Summit: One of the highlights of the year

### **Future Goals and Dream**

There is a lot of work that needs to be done in Koh Kong, a lot of places that have no Christian presence and we are too small to do it all. Recently, we have begun talks with another organization about partnership. We are seeking new workers from them that can come and join us, which will fortify our numbers in order to move some team members out into surrounding villages. We have two locations in mind at this point, both of which require a team to live there since traveling back and forth would be limited by seasonal weather and distance.

We are also looking at long-term goals such as having team members who have a desire to reach the minority group in our area. Also, we would like to see a Thai family come to work among the Thai people here in Koh Kong. Since we live on the border we have a large number of Thais but no one to work with them. These may be a distant hope, but one that we would like to see happen.

### **New Teammates**

Home schooling our children take a lot of time in preparation and delivery. From the beginning, we desired a teacher to come and help us home school our kids. We have a family that is in the process of coming but is trying to raise the needed funds. We are praying they will be here early 2010. Many people don't see teachers as "front line missionaries" such as "church planters" but we would disagree. We understand that it takes a body to function and each member has its role. We are looking forward to our home school teachers' arrival because that will mean the work can be divided and greater impact can be made. Please pray for Victor and Carole Hartsfield and their son Dillon as they prepare to join us. (If you have a desire to support them please contact us or World Team).

### **National Workers on the Team**

We have been very blessed to have Sret and Dah as a part of the team. Having Khmer nationals join with us gives us such an advantage and insight into the culture, and of course a very fluent speaker. Sret and Dah continue to reach out to their neighbors and are a vital resource for the team as we plan our future steps. As we enter our second year, we are confident that we will see even greater benefits in having them as fellow team members.

## Continuing in Ministry

We hope that the brief overview gives you an idea of where we are headed as we continue to minister here in Koh Kong. For those that have prayed and given financially to this ministry we want to thank you for the role you've played. As a team we are excited about what the future holds and are expecting great things from God. For us to continue the work here we are in need of continued prayer and financial support.

Below is a brief overview our 2009-2010 ministry budget. Further information can be given upon request.

## Project Budget

Our second year budget is \$15,000 and is divided into two parts. The first part is for our Khmer family team mates. The second part is for the on-going ministry.

### Khmer family:

- Khmer team member Consultant: **\$5,500.00**
- On-going ministry: \$9,500.00
  - Prayer Summit \$2,500
  - Gym \$2,000
  - Evangelism \$5,000

## Your Participation

We are asking you to consider how you and/or your church can play a part in this ministry. We have seen God do amazing things in the past and each time He used people and churches to bring Himself glory. We feel this project is worthy of your consideration and we trust that God will meet these ministry needs. If you want to participate in this project financially, you can send your donation to the address below. To insure your gift is appropriately designated to this project, please write, **Koh Kong Project #44008** on the memo line, and send it to the following address:

World Team; 1431 Stuckert Road; Warrington, PA. 18976

If you have any questions please contact any of us, we would love to hear from you:

[James.Cottle@worldteam.org](mailto:James.Cottle@worldteam.org)

[Jeff.Hogue@worldteam.org](mailto:Jeff.Hogue@worldteam.org)

[Pat.Hartsfield@worldteam.org](mailto:Pat.Hartsfield@worldteam.org)



Sharing and praying at a local spirit house during the 2008 Prayer Summit.



Top two pictures are from our fun night with the regulars from the gym, Wii games and dinner out.

Immediate Right; James and Pat training Khmer and building relationships at the Koh Kong Fitness Club.



From Top Left: Pat, Jeannie, Sret Dah, Lynette, James, Moriah, Jeff, Courtney Bong Niang, Victor, Carole. From Bottom Left: Hannah, Seth Galen, Caleb, Luke, Rachel, Kailyn, Dillon.