

Kevin Carson & Partners in Progress 2016 Year-End Report

Dear South Edmonton church of Christ:

In keeping with the mission agreements we have signed together, and to fulfill CRA requirements, I submit this year-end report to account for how the money was used that you provided in 2016 and to give an update on what was accomplished.

Financial Accounting

The South Edmonton church of Christ (SECOC) generously supported us in 2016. As detailed in our Intermediary Agreement, this support was to furnish living expenses while we directed the mission efforts of PIP in Cambodia. 100% of the funds were used for the purposes that you gave them. Specifically, we used the funds for:

- our daily living costs in Cambodia From January 1 - December 8, 2016 including food, clothing, medical expenses, in-country travel and other daily living expenses.
- part of the cost of maintaining our home in Edmonton.

In 2016 the SECOC also sent funds to help PIP operate The Ship of Life. The ship costs \$11,000 USD per month to operate. Your funds were used to purchase eyeglasses and medication which were given free to patients and to pay the costs to transfer patients from the ship to hospitals or clinics for further treatment. On average, 500 to 600 pairs of glasses were given out each month and 1300 patients saw the ship's doctor and received their prescriptions free. Your funds were used to pay the cost to refer a small boy for cleft-palette surgery, for skin grafting surgery for an adult male patient, for hospital treatment for a lady with an ovarian cyst and a lady with kidney stones, and for a specialist's care and monthly medication for a young boy with a rare skin disorder. All these patients were met in Phnom Penh by our project coordinator, Bunthoeurn

Ly, who is a Christian and very active member of the church. He and his wife even had one of the patients stay in their small apartment with them overnight before taking her to the hospital in the morning.

Progress of the Mission Work in Cambodia

Ship of Life

As PIP still does not have a full-time managing couple for The Ship of Life, most of our time in 2016 was spent living on the ship and serving as the managing couple. Sokim, the ship's cook, studied the Bible with Catharine, attended Sunday worship on the ship, and made the decision to become a Christian in February. One weekend we took her to one of the Church of Christ congregations in Phnom Penh and I baptized her there. Ravi, an older Christian lady in the church in Phnom Penh, is following up with her. They study the Bible together twice a week and Ravi or Bunthoeurn also help Sokim with transportation to and from church. When the ship was close to Phnom Penh we spent the weekends in the city which allowed us to attend church on Sunday mornings, often giving Sokim a ride to and from worship. Each time I was there I either taught the class or delivered the sermon.

I continued discipling two preaching school graduates who work on the ship. Sovannara and Sopheak now take care of the breakfast devotionals, Sunday worship, and outreach to patients. They both periodically teach a Bible story to children on the ship, using large visual aids and Bible story colouring pages. They share Bible videos with patients who are waiting in the triage area, and give all patients a teaching booklet about Jesus. Sometimes patients ask them questions about Jesus, the Bible or Christianity, and recently this resulted in a family coming back in the evening to have a Bible study with Sovannara and Sopheak. The family also returned the following Sunday to join worship services on the ship.

In April I taught a half-day seminar to the ship's crew on "Teamwork" using Biblical principles. It was the first time many of the new crew members had ever seen or read the Bible. Our theme verse was Ecclesiastes 4: 9-12, and each crew member received a t-shirt with this verse on it in both English and Khmer.

In May we hosted visiting nursing students and faculty from Harding University on the ship. They helped treat patients and also taught a seminar on safe labour and delivery to forty-six local midwives. This greatly increased the profile of the ship as a Christian charity effort with

local officials. As well, we hope this built a desire in the Harding students to serve in mission work someday as part of their medical careers.

In June we hosted visiting nursing students and faculty from Suan Dusit University in Bangkok, Thailand. One of their professors at the school of nursing in Thailand, Pragai Jirojanakul, is a Christian. She was converted a long time ago, as a teenager, by Ken and Jean Fox who were doing mission work in Thailand. (Ken spoke at the SECOC in 2016.) None of the visiting Thai nurses or staff who came to the ship in 2016 were Christians. Pragai sends them to us so we can show them Christian love and outreach through the ship. They all attended worship in Phnom Penh with us and some attended worship on the ship.

In October we arranged to host a doctor from Singapore and a dentist from Thailand on the ship. They volunteered for two weeks, treating patients. Neither are members of the church so Tim and Cheryl Carlin, or temporary ship managers at the time, used the opportunity to share with them about the church.

World English Institute: English - Bible Lessons

In February and March we coordinated World English Institute Bible-English lessons in Siem Reap. Two volunteers came to teach in February and one in March. They studied with an average of 12 different students each day. From mid-April to mid-May we were able to live in Siem Reap and teach World English Institute one-on-one English-Bible lessons as followup with the students who had studied in February and March. We were able to do this because Ken and Jean Fox managed the Ship of Life for us. Then in July Linda Ross and Marion Waugh came to Siem Reap to continue the WEI English-Bible lessons with our students. From August through October we had another couple managing the ship so we returned to Siem Reap to teach WEI. Most days our first students came at 7:30 a.m. and our last students' lessons ended at 7:00 p.m. In September we were joined by two ladies from Texas who came to be volunteer teachers. They had done similar teaching with "Let's Start Talking" in various countries. During this time I also preached and taught periodically at the church in Siem Reap. Catharine taught a weekly ladies' class, and I also taught a week-long Christian Evidences short-course at the Siem Reap Preaching School. In November Steve Bastin and his wife Maryann came to Siem Reap to followup with our WEI students and study with them for another month. This means that in 2016 we conducted WEI lessons in Siem Reap for eight months of the year. Although none of the

students have made the decision to be baptized yet, in October four different students attended Wednesday evening Bible Class as well as Sunday worship at the Siem Reap Church with us and one student attended the annual nationwide church camp in November. In the past, students who have been baptized have studied for an average of nine months before making their decision to become a Christian. In Khmer culture, young people still deeply respect and obey their parents and this is a frequent barrier to conversion.

Water Treatment Raft

The work of the water treatment raft continues to develop in the village of Kompong Kleng. The raft is operated by Sophin and his wife, two new Christians who were just baptized in 2015. Members from the Siem Reap church of Christ make the hour and a half round-trip each Sunday afternoon to join Sophin and his wife on the water raft and to conduct a worship service. This year saw the worst drought in Cambodia in the past 50 years. Therefore, the safe water that was available from PIP's water raft was extremely important to the villagers of Kompong Kleng. In April at the height of the dry season 393 villagers came to the raft and we gave out 21,026 litres of safe water to them. We also continued giving a new mother/ new baby package to each woman who delivered a baby at the Kompong Kleng Health Centre. It is usually the new father who comes to the raft to receive the package. Many of the items in the package were either sewn, bought, or donated by ladies from the SECOC and also from the north-side congregation. From January through September 2016, two hundred and eighty-one new mothers received a package which included a teaching booklet to introduce them to Jesus.

Other Projects

In September Catharine and I travelled to Yangon, Myanmar where I taught a week long seminar on Christian Evidences. It was attended by members from village house-churches in the Delta region of the country as well as non-Christian villagers who were invited by their Christian neighbours. We worshipped with two different house churches in Yangon, and I had the opportunity to preach for one of them. At the conclusion of the seminar, six people were baptized. The local church members are doing a very good job of both outreach and followup.

On a personal note, in October Catharine and I travelled to Hong Kong and spent time with Alex Law who was there visiting his family. We had the opportunity to meet many members

of his family, some of whom have been to Edmonton, and as well to worship with the church in Hong Kong.

Conclusion

Catharine and I are very grateful to the SECOC for your support for our mission work over the past two years. As we are moving back to Edmonton on December 9th, we will no longer require your financial support to be in the mission field. We hope that you find this report to be encouraging. All of the work we were privileged to be a part of was made possible by the support we received from the SECOC and other congregations and individuals. We trust that this report satisfies the reporting requirements of our Intermediary Agreement.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin Carson