

July 2016 CAMBODIA REPORT

July 31, 2016 - Report 7

Kevin & Catharine Carson - Cambodia



Crew loading coolers of frozen meat for the ship.

July saw many changes for The Ship of Life. First, we finished our schedule on the Mekong River in the province of Kandal south of Phnom Penh, and docked in Phnom Penh for the last week of July. During this week we worked with the crew to focus on cleaning, organizing and repairing various parts of the ship as well as stocking up on parts and supplies. This was all in anticipation of the ship leaving Phnom Penh on August 1st to sail up to the Tonle Sap Lake. Because the ship is very isolated on the lake it is important to be as ready as we can be with needed resources already on board. We spent a lot of time shopping in the city, boxing up supplies in the office and then bringing truckloads of boxes to the dock where the ship was located. At this point the crew took over carrying the boxes down to our smaller resupply boat and using it to transfer the boxes out to the ship. We also did a major retro-fit of our "pontoon." Originally it was built with a covered wheelhouse and equipped with an engine so that it could be moved into position between The Ship of Life and the shore by its own power. Over the past few years it has become clear that since we normally tow it and move it into position by pulling on ropes, it would serve the

ship better if everything was removed off of it, giving us a wide-open floating flat dock to use for receiving patients. The pictures on the right show the results of the retrofit as we used the "new" pontoon for the first time on the Tonle Sap Lake. In July we also welcomed Tim and Cheryl Carlin back to serve as managers on the ship for the next three months. Last year they did a wonderful job and enjoyed it so much they have come back for their second "tour of duty." They were in Phnom Penh to help us with the final days of preparation work on the ship before they sailed off out of Phnom Penh on August 1st. If



you might have the skills and the willingness to come and manage the ship and crew for a short

term stay of one to three months please contact us on The Ship of Life's Facebook page.



Pontoon in the foreground "before" picture.



Pontoon "after retrofit" picture.

Last month I reported on a young boy who came to the ship who we helped to refer and transfer to a hospital in Phnom Penh. I am happy to now say that the medication the doctor prescribed, and Partners in Progress funded, is helping to treat his congenital skin condition. If you still have last month's report, go back and look at what the skin on his feet looked like just over one month ago and compare it to the photo, below. The boy's name is Samnang and he will be back in Phnom Penh in August for another follow-up. Two generous Christians have donated \$100, the needed funds for his next two month's worth of medication.



In July we also said goodbye to Socheat, the Deck-hand/Cook's Assistant on the ship. In November 2014, when his parents came on the ship to see the doctor, they asked the crew if we might need any workers as they were trying to help their son to find a job. It just so happened that we did need someone! Socheat was interviewed and hired that day, and when the ship sailed out of port from Kampong Chhnang at the end of the week, Socheat was on it. We've enjoyed seeing him mature and grow in confidence and independence and ability over the past two years. He leaves us to enter into the Naval Academy.

Over the past ten years there have been many fine young people who have got their start on the ship and many of them keep in touch with Partners in Progress and come back to visit when the ship is near their home. They often speak of how life-changing their years on the ship were. We hope that as they continue to practice the work-ethic, teamwork, honesty, integrity and other Christian values they learned on the ship, they will build a brighter future for themselves and for their country. Socheat look great in his Canada t-shirt eh!



***“They should do something good with their hands,
so that they’ll have something to share with those in need.”
Ephesians 4:28.***

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