

## Updates from The Operation Hope Foundation Ltd March 2008

### A New Beginning - Hope Training Centre

Hope Training Centre (HTC) is reaching its final phase of completion, estimated to be completed by May 2008. Please pray for our contractor who has to face soaring material prices. According to him, the Koreans have bought up the next six months supply of bricks, causing a shortage and driving up the cost.

Besides bricks and steels, other building materials costs have also increased by a considerable amount. We are thankful to have signed the contract early and hence the cost is fixed. Had we started construction later we may have to pay up to double of the original amount.



As the construction reaches its final stages, we have to start buying equipment such as generator, furniture, pumps and other equipment. Most importantly, we need Khmer translators, driver, admin assistant and supervisors.

We will start with the chicken antibodies project and construct an incinerator as the chickens have to be burnt after producing the antibodies. Please contact us if you know of someone who is an expert on the building of incinerators.

Security is an issue and we intend to install infra red perimeter protection along the factory sides. CCTV and motion detectors will also be installed as well. We need to protect the chicken coop against theft as well as the chicken and fish feed which will be stored.

We intend to start the tilapia fish farming project on our pond (see photo). If you know of anyone who is an expert on tilapia farming and is willing to help us, please contact us at [hope@ohf.org.sg](mailto:hope@ohf.org.sg).

The fish can be used to feed the children at the orphanage as well as being sold in the market if we have excess.

OHF is looking for another Singapore staff to work alongside Afalina in HTC. We intend to have at least two Singapore Managers based in HTC.



Please help us spread the word around that we are looking for someone who is willing to be based in Cambodia for at least 2 years. For more details of the job vacancies at OHF, please visit our website <http://www.ohf.org.sg/>.



As with any new project, we face challenges in recruiting Singapore and Khmer staff, raising the funds and fitting out the entire HTC!

Even more challenging will be the setting up of successful income generating projects at HTC. We have four projects on hand: chicken antibodies, low cost soap, polymer clay products and sewn items such as bags. If we succeed, HTC will be able to provide many jobs for the poor in Prey Veng.

## HAMLET by the children of Hope Village Prey Veng

The children have been practicing the play for several months. They had memorised the script and knew when to come on stage and when to exit. Although the acting needs to be improved, it is an achievement for the children who have never acted in a drama production before.

With proper costumes and wireless microphones to amplify their voices, we should be ready to perform in schools and villages soon. Chayli, who acted as Hamlet, has even composed several music tracks to be used in the play.



It was wonderful to see the gifting of the children. Even without proper lessons, some of them have played reasonably well on the keyboard. Imagine what they can do if they were given proper music lessons!



The backdrop as shown in the photo was drawn by Chayli. This Hamlet play gave the children confidence and increased their self-esteem greatly.

We pray for volunteers who can come and stay a month during the Khmer holidays from July to September to help refine their acting skills. We would like to perform regularly at public schools and villages so that the community in Prey Veng can appreciate the talents of our children.

## Helping the Niaks

The five Niaks have been in Hope Village for over a year. Their grandmother came last week, saying she wanted to take all of them back. Then she started to be hysterical, saying she has fits and that her hand trembles uncontrollably. She moaned about her daughter who was in a serious condition due to ! falling off a five-storey building.

We sent the grandmother to see a doctor and promised to visit her on Sunday. It was obvious she needed help but does not know what to say.

We brought all five children to see the grandmother and saw how poor they were (see photo of house). The daughter has indeed fallen off a building while working as a construction worker. She fractured her wrist but otherwise was in a good condition. She was the one who sent money to her mother regularly. Her husband is also a construction worker with no regular employer as he moves from one construction project to another.



We decided to give them some temporary help by asking the injured sister and her husband to be our security guard during the Khmer New Year. They were delighted to know that we will be paying them US\$50 for those ten days.

We saw that they had some land and offered to help their grandmother restart a vegetable farm. We will construct a well and install a micro drip irrigation system so that less water is needed. Hopefully, this farm will provide her with some income. We will also provide and teach her to use a solar oven for cooking so that she need not search for firewood.

## Hope Church Team Visit

Nineteen young adults from Hope Church signed up for our short-term mission trip program to help the poor through community projects.

The team was there for a week, making and distributing low-cost soap, and drilling a well for several families in a remote village. The team also gave HVPV clinic and upper room a fresh coat of paint.



"Staying with the children in HVPV for 5 nights has taught me to live simply. The children are so joyful despite having much lesser material comfort. I was very touched by the children's thoughtfulness, their servanthood spirit and their maturity.

I remembered that they always serve us the best food and let us shower first so that we would not be bitten by mosquitos while queuing. Their sweet spirit was so different from the culture back home where most people look out only for their own interests, including myself. I'm humbled and encouraged by their generosity and contentment.

After this trip, I hope to grow more in compassion and help the poor in practical ways. One of them is to be a child-sponsor of OHF."

*Neo SuYan, Hope Church Singapore*

## **Mongolia Magic Expedition**

**Period: June 2008 (10 days)**

**Estimated Cost: S\$2200 plus**

Poverty has increased because of the transition to a market economy in the 1990s, after the breakup of the Soviet Union and the collapse of Mongolia's centrally planned economy. Privatization of industry and state farms brought high levels of unemployment. Benefits and assistance dried up. Incomes shrank, inflation devoured purchasing power and people had to bear the cost of health and education services.

Presently, one in three people in Mongolia are poor, and the number of poor people grows as the income gap widens. Poverty is becoming entrenched not only in urban centres but also in rural areas, where about half of the country's poor people live.

Bring joy and hope to the rural poor with Robert Kee and Lutheran Church. The team is planning multiple community projects that are very much needed in the poor provinces of Outer Mongolia.

Some of these projects include:

1. Magic Show
2. Dental Care
3. Introducing the use of OHF low-cost Solar Ovens

If you are interested to join this trip, please call us at 68732955 or email [hope@ohf.org.sg](mailto:hope@ohf.org.sg)

This is a combined project between OHF and the Lutheran Church of Singapore. The basic intention is to bless some remote villages by providing entertainment through magic show, health care through the services of a Singapore dentist volunteer and poverty alleviation through the introduction of low cost solar ovens.

Unfortunately the cost is high as the return airfare alone is around S\$1,800. If we have a stop over for a couple of nights in Seoul, Korea, the cost will be higher as we will incur hotel, meals and transportation costs.

## **Finishing Well (Talk)**

Do you feel bored and unchallenged? Is there a nagging feeling of wanting to do more? Is your work a daily grind devoid of meaning and purpose? Do you want a life of purpose filled with meaningful and exciting challenges? Whether you are a student, a working adult or a retiree? the time is NOW - to listen and to act.

Dr. David Wong, former vice-president of International Training, Haggai Institute will speak from his years of experience in training leaders worldwide. Robert Kee will share practical advice on how you can be a part of God's team to look after the poor. Come and learn how Siew Lee, a young lady who served 2 years as Program Manager in Hope Village Prey Veng be God's difference maker.

**Date: 19 April 2008, Saturday**

**Time: 3 - 6pm**

**Venue: Orchard Road Presbyterian Church Dunman Hall A**

Please call 6873-2955 or email [hope@ohf.org.sg](mailto:hope@ohf.org.sg) to register. Admittance is strictly by registration only.