

*2023 In His Steps  
International  
Yearly report*

*Cambodia Ministry*



## *In His Steps International*

We are so thankful for the staff and volunteers that God has placed in the ministry of IHSI. As we grow as a ministry, we continue to see the importance of communication, unity, trust, and leadership in Cambodia. This year we have seen the team in Cambodia rise to the task of making decisions on the field that improve the lives of others as well as the ministry in general. IHSI has a very important role in what God has done and is doing in the country of Cambodia. Raising up leaders from within the country has been our focus for many years and we have come to see the work of planting the Gospel of Jesus become the passion of the Cambodian staff. This is a beautiful sight.

: A note from Eric and Ginny Hanson

## *Gospel Community Church*

In 2023 GCC is seeing and witnessing a steady growth in attendance in all of our programs and Worship Services, Youth Group, and Children's Service. Pastor Pheaktra is doing a beautiful job of teaching the word of God along with leading with a lifestyle of loving Jesus and your neighbor. Pheaktra loves his calling and is blessed with wisdom beyond his years. Pastor Pheaktra was voted to sit on a Board of Pastors in Saang years ago and is still adding godly advice and speaking into decisions that are made by the board.

## *List of Outreaches*

Every year during the Christmas season, we have a few big outreaches on our campus. This year we hosted over 400 children with a Christmas Program. We wrote a drama in 2010 about the birth of Jesus and, to this day, it is still effective in creating a visual of this amazing miracle for the children of Saang. Many church volunteers work for months on this production and host games, songs, and gifts. Everyone had a wonderful time.



GCC has been chosen for the past 3 years to host the Kandal Christian Committee Christmas celebration. This celebration is for the pastors and government leaders in Kandal Province to come together to hear the word of God and fellowship with a meal. This event serves as a step towards connecting pastors and churches with government leaders on how to be more proactive with the Gospel in our province. Our church members served as ushers and worship team as well as serving the meal. Our campus is a great location to hold bigger events!





The annual Shoe box (Samaritans Purse) was hosted by GCC and oversaw the distribution of over 150 shoe boxes from Samaritans Purse to children in our community. In addition, Samaritan’s Purse has a new program, “The Greatest Life Journey”, to help children understand the gospel better. GCC staff attended a clinic to learn the lesson so they could teach the children. All of the children were very thankful and loved their boxes!



Shoebox handout

## *New Roof*

We have added a new roof structure on the campus. This allows the students to have a shelter from sun and rain to study and do homework after school. This also benefits the English classes in the evenings as well as Sunday school classes in Sunday mornings. GCC has many members with children that come early Sunday mornings and bring breakfast to eat before church on the picnic tables that are under the new roof.



As many of you know from your outreaches to Cambodia, it is hot here! We replaced fans in the church sanctuary; we had 8 ceiling fans burn out this year. Maintenance is a high priority on the campus. Keeping the buildings in



good shape is a must. If you feel led to give finances toward the building and grounds maintenance, see how to give on our website: [ihsonline.org](http://ihsonline.org)

## *IHSI Programs*

### English classes

We now have 8 daily classes (Monday -Friday) on our campus. We also added a few new teacher assistants to help with larger classes. We consistently see around 200 students learning the English language each evening. English classes are a perfect opportunity for children and their families to see the other programs offered on the campus as well.

IHSI is going into its 16<sup>th</sup> year of teaching the English language to students for free in Cambodia.



English students





English students



## Computer classes

Joshua was raised in the Fathers House on Campus (IHSI safe house for children). Joshua has graduated high school and has been working in Sak Saum. Joshua found an interest in computers in high school and purchased a laptop to study independently online for the last few years. He started teaching basic computer classes a few years ago. Joshua and 2 others computer teachers are now offering 3 classes for students interested in learning the computer - Basic typing and Microsoft Word, Photoshop, and Graphic Design. This is a very popular class on the campus. We are in need of laptop computers. If you are in a position to donate funds for the purchase of a new laptop, please contact us at [ihsonline.org](http://ihsonline.org)



## Campus classes

IHSI has seen the need for extra help with tutoring students in our community. We have a program on campus for students that need extra help learning Khmer (the Cambodian language) or English, or other subjects. This class is overseen by Pastor Pheaktra's wife, Heng. Heng was a teacher in the local government school. Heng has done a wonderful job creating curriculums to help the students learn the subjects that they struggle with. Heng teaches classes Monday - Friday and attendance ranges from 20-35 students per class. Students are encouraged to visit our on-site library to read our gently used books in English and Khmer. This is a very productive way to help students. Prayer and a Biblical Lessons are woven throughout the day.



Loaves and Fish

The Loaves and Fish program is setup to give assistance to widows and orphans and the elderly in our area. This year we have helped many people with rice and blankets and hygiene items during the flood in January. There were many people in our community who were displaced and who lost everything in the raging river waters. We also gave bags of rice to help supplement some of the local people in our village that were stranded from working in the fields for a few weeks.



This picture is of the houses before they all collapsed into the water and washed down into the river.

This year, one of our widows died in a motorcycle accident just outside of her home. We walked with her children during this difficult time. Srey Kouch, her daughter, is 20 and her brother is 14. Our Loaves and Fish program has taken on Srey Kouch and her brother with monthly help with food, health items and school supplies. Srey Kouch is getting married in January 2024 to a young man in our church and they plan to care for her younger brother until he has finished high school.



## Sports Ministry

IHSI sports ministry outreaches to youth who have no direction, vision, and sometimes education. We focus on building the mind, body and soul of the players in a Biblical setting. The players are asked to attend the youth group and the bible classes that we provide each week before the practices. Life skills training is also huge portion of the training. We have teams of all ages participate in scheduled matches with others church teams in our area as well as local youth teams. This ministry is also growing in popularity as many youths from the community desire to be part of the team training and to practice their skills. The coaches are men and women that have been leaders in the sports program and want to give back.



Girls match in the rain



Boys match in the rain, notice both teams have no shoes, they say they have a better grip in the rain without shoes.



Bible Study



## Youth Group

GCC youth are very involved with volunteering in the church. We focus on a developing a serving mindset. This year the youths helped at the funeral of Srey Kouch's mother, which was a great support for her and her brother. It was also a good testimony to the other family members who attended. The youths help with every event on campus including all Christmas events and celebrations. Our youth have a worship team and they have a rotation for cleaning the church after their worship practices. Pastor Pheaktra, Sokra, Socheata oversee the group and do the lessons each week, including lessons like loving your neighbor, forgiveness, thankfulness, being kind and loving. The youth group meeting are times of teaching and fun and typically end with some kind of snack. Our youth group is leading their generation to know God and His son, Jesus.



Youth group





Youth group



## *Sak Saum Ministry*

Sak Saum is a business as a mission and our focus this year was “steady”. The economy certainly played a part in our mission, but we were able to hold to God’s promises and continue our work at a steady pace. We learned from the challenges we endured throughout the pandemic and incorporated ways to continue to streamline how we work (without any downsizing!). We are so thankful to God for walking us through another year and we look forward to 2024!



## *Eric and Ginny*

Update:

We have had a busy year. In May we traveled to New York to reconnect with churches, friends and family. Ginny and I had such a blessed time seeing the pastors, pastors' wives, and churches that we hadn't seen in many years. We had many opportunities to share meals and stories from our lives and ministry as well as hearing all of the good things that God is doing in churches and lives in Upstate NY. We also visited Eric and Ginny's families, had a BBQ and meals together and special times of talking about old times. This was a blessed time for us. Thank you to the pastors that housed and fed us and gave us an opportunity to speak in your churches. We are so encouraged and blessed by your kindness and attentiveness during our stay.

Eric and Ginny also made a trip to Cambodia in September and October this year. We are thankful for the support that was given by many of you to make this trip possible. We went to Cambodia to teach pastors, church workers, teachers, youths and students on the subject of SEXTORTION. The seminars had full attendance. The teachings reached many that had never heard of this subject, and we connected with others that have seen it first-hand. The discussions that followed were fruitful and encouraging. The seminars laid the platform to begin working together to find solutions to help solve these horrific abuses on the lives of those in the community and beyond.

In addition to the seminars, Ginny had some time to go and look for new fabrics in Phnom Penh. Ginny's heart loves shopping for fabric. I went with her a few times and her face just shines when we see new fabrics for Sak Saum.

Please see: Sak Saum Cambodia Teaching Trip PDF in other email.







## Ginny shopping in Phnom Penh



Eric and Ginny were in both Colorado and Florida selling Sak Saum products at markets and events this year. We continue to travel and sell Sak Saum and bring awareness about human trafficking and how they can help survivors and the importance of educations and preventing trafficking

Eric and Ginny also have been teaching in YWAM in Colorado Springs. They have a pre-recorded teaching on business as a mission that YWAM shows in there SOBE schools internationally. Ginny spoke at a Freedom for Fremont County meeting in Colorado this summer. Freedom for Fremont County is a non-profit organization bringing awareness on human trafficking in Fremont County, Colorado.

Health:

Eric has had another eye surgery in November. This was to remove cataracts from his left eye, installing a new lens in the eye. The surgery is a 15 min out patient. Eric has gotten new lens for his glasses and is now seeing much better. We are thankful for new technology.





# *Prayer points 2024*

More of God less of us

Cambodian leadership team

Volunteers for Sak Saum

Jessica and Dane trip to Cambodia in March

More markets and events

Health

More ideas on raising funding

Teams to return to Cambodia and how this can work logistically

Travel in the USA

Cambodian Government

Gospel Community Church Cambodia

Wisdom

We thank you all for your support for In His Steps International and Sak Saum this past year and look forward to 2024

Wishing you all a Blessed Holiday season and a Happy New Year 2024

Blessings,

Eric and Ginny Hanson