

# W.O.R.D. CAMBODIA

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## CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S HOME

### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Living life as an orphan in Cambodia, my brother and I experienced an extremely difficult life. When we were small children we both saw our father, a violent alcoholic, beat our mother daily. He neglected to provide for the basic needs of everyday life. This resulted in a daily struggle for survival.

After some time, our mother, who was very fearful of our father, ran away to Thailand leaving behind my brother, sister, and me. A few years later our father passed away from excessive drinking. Extended family members took in my sister, but left my brother and me to fend for ourselves.

As a child, struggling to find food and survive on the streets of Cambodia was a very difficult challenge. However, one day I was offered hope. One of my childhood friends invited me to attend a church service that a missionary started; and for the first time, I heard the "good news" of Jesus Christ and all he offered to those who believe in him. That very day I believed and received Christ as my Lord. Soon after, the missionary provided housing, for my brother and me, in the church facility. In return, we cleaned and maintained the church property. Our lives were changed forever.

With God now directing my life, I was ignited with passion to reach out and help children, just as I had been helped, as a child. My desire was to see those who were facing the same struggles I had faced, realize that there is hope in Jesus, and that they could also experience a life filled with peace and joy.

God has given me a wonderful wife and 3 small children. In 2002, I graduated from Cambodia Baptist College. I also received a Bachelor degree from IIC University of Technology located in Phnom Penh.

It is my privilege to be used by God in this outreach ministry that offers tangible help to the desperate; and hope to the hurting children in Cambodia. We are committed to provide love, care, hope and a new family in Jesus Christ.

**Pilot Nhap**



### **W.O.R.D.'s MISSION**

*"To house, clothe, feed, educate, provide vocational support, instruct, and teach the hope found only in Jesus Christ to the victims of brokenness in Cambodia. W.O.R.D. is committed to provide a family environment for the orphans and widows living under suffrage in our community."*

**W.O.R.D. is a ministry!**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to W.O.R.D.: **W**idows, **O**rphans, **R**elief & **D**evelopment. Thank you for taking the time to read this information booklet. The aim of this booklet is to briefly explain W.O.R.D., its programs, and how you can help.

W.O.R.D. is a non-government organization (NGO) working in Cambodia's capital city, Phnom Penh.

W.O.R.D. is a Christian organization, registered in Cambodia, approved to operate non-profit entities. It seeks to engage in private and public partnerships in pursuit of its mission to restore women and children, who have suffered human rights abuse, to fullness of life.



### **ABOUT THE DIRECTOR AND HIS WIFE**

In addition to being housefather to 36 growing children and working part-time, Pilot travels weekly to Takeo province, where he serves as the pastor of New Life Baptist Church of Cambodia. Pilot gets his name from his honourable uncle who was a pilot. His uncle was killed, by the Khmer Rouge, after he re-joined his family in Phnom Penh during the genocide.

Pilot married Siela in 2002. They have been blessed with three children: Visal, Pisey, and Judah.

Pilot's wife, Siela, became a Christian in 1998. After her new birth, she became involved in the ministry and taught Sunday school in the church Pilot pastored. She later completed a one-year Bible course at Cambodia Baptist Bible College. She now is the housemother and director's assistant to 36 children.

## **W.O.R.D.'s CORE VALUES**

Pilot and Siela founded W.O.R.D. on the following core values:

1. **LOVE:** We want to share love of Christ (unconditional, transforming, empowering) with the people of Cambodia
2. **HOME:** We seek the opportunity to grow and develop children who have been marginalized, through family tragedy, in a loving family environment.
3. **DEVELOPMENT:** We seek to raise and release grown adults with self-sustaining lives. This process allows room for new hurting people to enter our home and programs.

## **HOW WE DO W.O.R.D. MINISTRY**

Our intention is to do our best to seek and present a Biblical position on all issues.

We also follow the Biblical exhortation to honour those in leadership regardless of political alignment. We may or may not agree with all their policies, but we still honour them as our leaders.

We recognize the importance of children to continue in their discipleship journey and, at some point, to take up the challenge to serve the church community.

We recognize the importance of working hard and being faithful in doing God's work. We accept that we each have responsibilities, both personal and public, that requires us to be responsible and sober minded.

We also believe that God has given us a life to live and enjoy - it is God's best to have fun along the way. This comes through friendships, laughter, understanding ourselves, and serving in line with our passions and God-given gifts.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

W.O.R.D.'s finances are annually audited by qualified independent auditors and an Annual Financial Report is presented to board members at our AGM.

The W.O.R.D. board provides advice, acts as a steering committee, exercises governance, and ensures accountability across all levels of the organization.

W.O.R.D. keeps administration costs to a minimum without compromising child safety and opportunity. This ensures that the majority of the funds reach the children.

A once-per-quarter report is authored by Pilot and submitted to the relevant authorities as part of a regular check-up regime required by Government.



## **OUR PROGRAMS**

### **1. "CAMBODIAN COMMUNITY CHILDRENS HOME"**

Cambodia, like many other Third World countries, has more than its fair share of orphaned and abandoned children. Thirty years of war, foreign occupation, and political change has become the norm for this battered country.

Before we accept the children brought to us, we attend the local villages and assess the situation on the ground. If it is not too traumatic for the children, photos of the living conditions are taken to compare later with life at W.O.R.D. Once it is confirmed that the children are in need and vulnerable, we bring them to W.O.R.D. children's home in Phnom Penh. They are then medically examined, vaccinated, and registered with the Ministry of Social Affairs. The programs we instigate have evolved out of the recognition of basic human needs and a strong desire to restore normal lives.

### **Program 1-Education program**

#### **AT PRESENT**

W.O.R.D. provides children in our care with the best possible educational opportunities available in Cambodia. Children attend local private schools which given them a quality learning environment, while still following the national Khmer school curriculum.

We also provide essential life education such as relationships and development, protective behaviour training, career support and guidance, and education on environmental issues.

#### **FUTURE**

WORD also intends to provide a range of vocational educational training opportunities, including computer training, traditional Khmer dancing, modern guitar, drum and piano lessons, and sewing classes. Creative art and craft classes will be taught.

English language training is a priority.

### **Program 2-Center care and protection program**

#### **AT PRESENT**

W.O.R.D. provides care for 36 orphaned, abandoned, trafficked, and other vulnerable children. In our W.O.R.D. children's home, our focus is to provide children with a quality family environment. Regular responsibilities include the children helping with cleaning and cooking, and older children looking after younger "siblings". Other activities replicate normal family life in Cambodia.

Children are given healthy meals, provided by our cooks, and eat with their house parents in the dining areas. Medical treatment is provided through our local entrusted doctors.

## FUTURE

As W.O.R.D. grows in structure and children, we will commence our new Mentor program involving a small group of older children acting as peer support leaders to younger children. This helps to provide protection and support to all children.



### Program 3-Counselling and case management program

#### AT PRESENT

Mental health support is an important part of healing for children who have been traumatized in Cambodia through loss, abandonment, or trafficking. W.O.R.D. is responding to children's emotional problems with our commitment, on a daily basis, to provide emotional support and other counselling initiatives.

#### FUTURE

W.O.R.D. will require full time social workers that will provide care and support planning for all our children through a case management approach. This will help our children establish clear life goals through career counselling, and support children to access vocational training and other career options. Care plans are established and documented in detailed files.

### Program 4-Reintegration and community care program

#### AT PRESENT

Our desire is to rescue children from despair and provide an environment that will recreate hope through spiritual and parental love. Ultimately we would see the children grow and mature to quality, educated, decision making adults that will start and fulfil their life's dreams. This could mean returning to lost families and relatives, not only grown and restored, but equipped to be a significant contributor to their respective communities.

**FUTURE** We would like to expand our community based programs, with more focus on families and relatives of our children.

**First, we see that there is opportunity to provide community support for the families** including material assistance, renovating the family house, if needed, and ongoing educational support. We support relatives to visit W.O.R.D. to maintain close connections with the children. Whenever possible, we ensure that W.O.R.D. children who are returned to local communities can still have access to opportunities through education and other activities offered from our centre.

Second, as W.O.R.D. children's home program grows, we see the need for a transition house where a group of teenage girls/boys will live in a group home in the community. W.O.R.D. would provide an **Outreach house for young adults** over 18 years old. This house would provide an ideal environment for young adults to continue their high school or tertiary studies.

## 2. WIDOWS WEAVING PROJECT

W.O.R.D. has seen firsthand the extreme poverty in rural Cambodia. One extremely marginalized group is widows, who are suffering due to family breakdown, difficult living conditions, and lack of income opportunities. These hardships make it impossible to achieve even basic living conditions.

Widows succumb to working 12-hour days to earn \$1 that is then used to house, clothe, feed, and educate their children as well as themselves. This is not possible.

W.O.R.D. has commenced working with a silk weaving village in Takeo province to provide small-scale businesses for local widows. We seek to provide expert assistance (development monies, marketing, and production) via international and local resources to grow silk-weaving businesses and enhance the income levels of the widows.

W.O.R.D. will support the women in this area to develop sustainable businesses with the objective to increase income generation as well as increase training and job opportunities for more local widows and young women.



## **FUNDING/SUPPORT**

### **How you can partner.**

#### **Sponsorships**

There are two sponsors for each child – Education & Training and Health & Living. Other sponsors can support Children's Home running costs (e.g. rent, electricity) or specific children's costs (e.g. social worker) — this can also be in the form of a regular monthly sponsorship.

#### **Donations**

Donations large and small are warmly received and appreciated. We apply these monies to outstanding or emergency needs (e.g. health crisis) as well as new initiatives (e.g. set up costs for new widow start ups).

#### **Partnerships**

W.O.R.D. is very keen to partner with organizations, businesses, and individuals who share our passion for specific projects within W.O.R.D. Growth and expansion of training opportunities and business ideas will assist the development and hope for our young children, youth, and widow's programs. W.O.R.D. would also like to secure partners specifically linked to program services such as the "counselling and case care management" program. Budget information can be provided upon request.

#### **Volunteering**

We know the children need to experience as much love as possible and therefore, we encourage volunteer workers to participate in our programs. We are a young organization and are examining ways to offer short and long term placements to Cambodian and foreign partners. Please feel free to contact us if you are prayerfully considering giving your time in this area.

As a general guide for volunteers seeking to work with children in Cambodia, you will be asked for a CV, references, Police Clearance and Proof of Full Travel Insurance Cover including a Medical Evacuation Clause. We need take all the necessary steps to ensure the complete safety of all our children.

#### **Prayer**

We see that we are all one extended family with God as our Father. We are grateful that you pray for us and with us.

We thank you for your prayer support and ask you to send us emails for encouragement and strengthening. This means a lot to us personally and is vital to our organization.

Please note:

*We do not allow the children to be overexposed to tourists/visitors. Their privacy, self-esteem, and integrity is valued and protected by all at W.O.R.D.*

## **IN SUMMARY**

W.O.R.D. provides the following for the children under our care:

- Family life with house parents and a large group of siblings.
- Quality food and clean drinking water
- Beds with clean linen
- Shelter and amenities
- Clothing (includes school uniforms)
- Medical and Dental Care
- Education at Government School
- English Language lessons
- Christian environment filled with love
- Most importantly, a future filled with hope



W.O.R.D. desires to add the following activities and opportunities to its current programs:

- Sewing, art, and computer lessons
- Music lessons
- Vocational training and regular workshops
- Sporting activities with coaching in soccer, boxing, and tennis
- Field trips to the beach and river boat trips
- Personal counselling when required
- English language training
- Outreach program for students over 18 to enable them to complete the Government School syllabus or attend vocational training courses
- University Scholarships at the Royal University of Phnom Penh for those who graduate from Grade 12
- Secured employment/training opportunities and accommodation for children when they are ready to live independently of the Children's Home



#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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##### **REGISTRATION**

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