



2017

SUNRISE ANNUAL REPORT

## GREETINGS FROM CAMBODIA

*Dear precious people of the Lord,*

*May the blessings of our God be upon all of us and also to the whole world to rejoice in His Love, Mercy and Grace which never cease!*

*We are writing this report as simply as we wrote the beginning report in 2001, because we think that you will most enjoy hearing about the works which God has done through us. And right now, we don't have any requirements for any other format for our reports.*

*One year has passed then another one has come as is normal! We are waiting for our King to come, and we all are working until then as His faithful servants. Through all of you, your love and sharing, prayer and financial support, we are continuing to get blessings more and more. It's hard to see something new with our eyes, but there will be something new happening from the seeds we sowed!*

*This report contains stories of the changed lives of our clients—but first, a special story from an InnerChange intern who had a chance to visit. Subsequent sections are end-of-year statistics, as well as some thinking about if and how our project should change (a SWOT analysis).*

*New blessing for the new year to you!*



*Darany Hang,  
Sunrise program director*



*Susan Smith,  
InnerChange*

## STORIES

### FIRST IMPRESSIONS BY MAGGIE WONG

My colleagues and I followed Sunrise's staff through the prison's facilities. As we entered, prisoners turned their heads and approached the metal wires along the walkway. We proceeded, eventually arriving at an open courtyard. The space along the back was further separated into multiple wired enclosures. Men, women, and children walked, sat, and stood within their confines. In a sea of faces, their uniforms distinguished them by the status of their conviction: while the majority wore royal blue uniforms, meaning that they had been sentenced, a few wore burnt orange uniforms, signifying that they are still waiting to be convicted.

Under a shaded area towards the back sat about ten to fifteen prisoners with pen and paper in a semi-circle, all giving their undivided attention to Sunrise's instructor, Chhorn. This group of men were attending their last lesson of the 6-months Peace Builders curriculum as a part of Sunrise's conflict resolution program. Both Chhorn and prisoners exchanged back-and-forth dialogue as they went on page by page. From where I stood, I could see their handwritten notes as they followed along.

Next, we went to observe Sunrise's food program in the area that had been especially built to provide prisoners seating and shade from the sun while they gathered. Each found their place around the cement table as we passed around food prepared by Sunrise's cooks. Two bananas, a bowl of vegetable and fish soup, a few scoops of white rice, and grilled meat - a comparably more nutritious portion than what is normally offered for these individuals living with various illnesses. As they got situated, a man in a blue uniform among the group stood up to pray over the meal. The prisoners fellowshipped and listened as my team lead gave a short message and introduced us. I stood among them smiling, making a note to communicate that they are seen.

We left that morning after a brief stop at the clinic room where Bottra, Sunrise's staff nurse, had been at work administering medication for prisoners who felt sick that day. The dedication required and given by the Sunrise's staff is found quite admirable. The staff helps take care and monitor the well-being of the prisoners, making way for development in their health and character while they serve their terms. Through the work of Sunrise, I'm reminded that God is mindful of those imprisoned, more specifically these ones here in Kampong Cham.

### FROM SUNRISE HOME-BASED CARE PROGRAM: MS. S

A long-term client of our Home-Based Care program, Ms. S has been living a "normal" life like the others in her community. Even though she looks a bit thin, her health condition is still good. Now, at 47 years old, she is living with her mother in Kampong Cham.

Many years ago, during our beginning years when Diane Moss founded Sunrise, Ms. S stayed in our hospice. We are sure Diane could remember this lady so well.

Ms. S was infected by her first husband before she went into our Hospice. Those years HIV was seriously spreading, and there was no ARV medication available in Cambodia. Ms. S was almost in tears when she was telling me her story and remembering her situation in the Hospice. She said she lost all her hope during that time, but her heart was warmed by Sunrise care and revived her desire to live again.

In the Hospice, she also got good advice and encouragement to live with love and peace of God which help her so much to struggle with her hardship as a poor and HIV people.





Slowly, Ms. S told us about her sad story after leaving the Sunrise Hospice. She lived with her mother and made her living by selling vegetables at Beung Kok market. After a few years, her selling was not running well, so she went to sell beverages and some kinds of fruits at play grounds in Phnom Penh.

She stayed there with a family and one day she was raped by a man of that family, but she didn't dare to do anything because she had nowhere to leave to. After a while, she became pregnant. She did not want anyone in this family to know about this, not even that man, so she decided to come back to Kampong Cham to live with her mother as before.



A few months later, she gave birth to twin babies. One of them died at birth, while the other one is alive and healthy. She is eleven now and studies grade 5<sup>th</sup> primary school. Recently, our home-based care staff visited her family and we enrolled her daughter in our children program. We bought a bicycle and school supplies to help her needs.

Her daughter really needs our service because her situation has changed. In the past, she and her mother were able to grow Khmer herbs on a plot of unused land, but recently the landlord sold it. Since then, Ms. S must take every opportunity to find lots of customers, so she travels widely to sell during festivals. She can stay home only irregularly to care for her daughter, and her mother (grandma) can't contribute as much as before, so Ms. S is the main breadwinner for all three of them. It is important for us to give a hand to this need.

Ms. S used to go to a church near her house when her business allowed. But her daughter regularly attends a children's group of this church and she likes dancing to praise the Lord with other kids there.

Ms. S is sending her thanks to all Sunrise staff and its donors. She wants you to be blessed and to continuing stably supporting the poor in Kampong Cham.

## CHILDREN'S EDUCATION: KICK-OFF PARTY



As every year, October is the month that Sunrise holds an event for the children in our education program to have opportunity to get together to share their education experiences during the year. At this event, we pass out school uniforms and supplies for the new school year.

At the party, I (Darany) shared some scriptures related to caring for each other in the family:

*\*Wives & Husbands: Ephesians: 5: 22, 25, 28;*

*\*Children & parents: Ephesians: 6: 1-4*

It's difficult to share the scriptures in a short time, but God can use even a short message for people to see Jesus and His promise!

Susan used to say that I love to share about God and yes, I do. I always remember when Jesus shared His food and His messages! I prayed in my heart, "Lord! These are your words! The living and powerful words! Even though it's just a few words, please let them hear you calling!! We hope these seeds will grow up one day, because your words always touch everyone heart in different ways and different situations!"



**Students at the school-year kick-off party show off their new uniforms.**

## FROM PEACE BUILDERS STUDENTS IN PRISON

### NO SHORTCUTS TO BETTER CHARACTER

"I'm S, a prisoner in Kampong Cham Prison. I would like to share my real story to encourage everyone who reads it.

In my past life, I was a car driver of Tiger Beer Company. A car accident caused me to be fired from the company. After I lost my job, I tried for many other jobs, but couldn't get any. With losing hope, I decided to fellowship with bad people to do illegal things and use drugs as well. When I had no money to buy the drugs, I was instructed to do a robbery. I expected that I would have some money to start my own business from this, but I was arrested and convicted to 7 years in this prison.

As a newcomer, I was so depressed and suffered. I had aggressive moods daily, and frequently had fights with others. I was punished many times. I was sent from one building to another because of my naughty behavior.

After living in prison for one year, I had an opportunity to be promoted to be a cell manager. Through this role, I again used my power in a wrong way over my cell mates. Not so long after that, I met an older prisoner, like an uncle to me, who had studied Sunrise's Peace Builders class for life skills. He appreciated those lessons so much and told me that after learning the lessons, they really helped his life. He lent me the lesson book and advised me to participate in this class.

When I started this class, some prisoners mocked at me and said, 'What are you studying for? We are living here in prison now, aren't we?' But I thought that if I have nothing to do, I would be useless as before, so I decided to attend this class until completion. My first lesson was "Walking in the way of peace: Shalom". This lesson interested me and changed my thinking. It stopped me from the way I used to be, fighting others, and kept me in patience and forgiveness.

I have applied all the lessons in my daily life and shared them with my cell mates. I'm just realizing about human beings: our real lives and our needs, and how we are almost the same. We cannot take shortcuts if we choose a goal to not to let ourselves stay greedy but to raise up from our fall and walk properly toward our future. I would like to thank Sunrise a lot for providing this class to develop our thinking skills which is very important."

### A NEW LIFE PATH

"I'm B. Before I was sentenced to this prison, I ran a phone repair shop for my living. Usually, I asked my friends almost every evening to go out drinking with me. I did not obey my parent's words. Then one day I was persuaded to use drugs like my friends. I continued using drugs and spending all money I had earned and any other money I already had. I could not withdraw myself from that situation until one day that I was arrested by the police.

In this prison, I have been sad. I only wanted to sit alone, hating and blaming myself. I felt useless, no value. But at the time when the prison staff chose prisoners to study in Sunrise Peace Builders class, I wondered what lessons they would teach? Then I asked for permission to come too.

After completed all the course and knowing the lessons, I learned many good things that help changed my thinking to positive thoughts. I have more self-respect and am more able to think about others. When my parents call me, instead of asking for what I need, I have a good talk with them and encourage them as well. I expect if I had known these important lessons sooner, I would not have gotten into a situation like this.

I'm very thankful to Sunrise, especially my teachers Lok Krou & Neak Krou who have worked hard to explain the material in these lessons and give examples. I decided to apply these lessons in my daily life and to use them with my family. When



I'm free, I will live more comfortably in my community: I'll be easier to get along with. I've decided I won't follow the old path again!"

### INNERCHANGE TEAM VISIT

Susan, with two of new InnerCHANGE members (Olivia and Maggie), visited our Prison feeding program on Dec-28<sup>th</sup>-2017 to see Sunrise activities there. Susan was invited to introduce herself and our guests. She also shared about her life again, as she has visited this program before but most of the prisoners are new now. She told about her faith, her education, and how she left her benefits as an electrical engineer to serve the poor with InnerCHANGE until the present. Finally, she also shared about her mother who lost mobility after a big surgery and had to move to assisted living. In this place, her mother has felt lonely because all her kids work and can only come to see her a few times a week. Susan's mom has a lot of needs like all the people in our feeding service. A Khmer proverb says:

នៅផ្ទះម្តាយទីទៃ នៅក្នុងព្រៃម្តាយជាមួយ  
nov phteah mdai titey, nov prey mdai chea mouy

The English meaning is: we have each have our own mother when we are at home. But when we are in the forest, a scary place far from home, we are as if we have only one mother—as if we are one family. In the assisted living, Susan's mom may feel useless, but God doesn't feel that way—God intends that Susan's mom can always use her love and attention to bless someone else. The prisoners—even the sick ones—are the same. They can lend a listening ear or talk with someone and show love. Love is so important to us, we need to love and care for each other. We need love as we need fresh air to breath as well. Because of Jesus's love, each person can share love to others even if they didn't know each other before, just as Sunrise loves the poor in Cambodia, especially in this prison today. Everyone can choose to live with the love which God has shown us through everything surrounding us everywhere...no matter where we are or who we are, but we still must choose, must decide to love.

### A CHRISTMAS DISPLAY OF UNITY IN KAMPONG CHAM

Most of the Sunrise staff serve as lay leaders in their respective churches as well. In the past, there have been some unfortunate divisions among the pastors in the various churches. This year, new steps are being taken to restore unity. The churches had an opportunity to prepare a Christmas Event at Koh Pich place near the riverside. Government officials were invited to learn about Christianity. Many church members participated to glorifying God as well as promote happiness together, good relationships, and stronger unity among the churches.

The Sunrise Director Hang Darany participated by co-leading the woman's group of the church association this past year and organizing their contribution to the Christmas event. She said, "We used this event to prevent people (unbelievers) from an incorrect conclusion of thinking that Christianity is a foreign religion. We used dances and songs all from Khmer culture. On the other hand, we would like to spread God's glory and blessings to all levels, all kinds of people."

This summer Sunrise must submit paperwork to the local and national government to request permission to operate for another three years. Events like these are important to help smooth relationships and promote the understanding needed for Christian organizations and the church to work together.

Right: Children dance at the Christmas Unity Event, including a Sunrise client.



Left: The Women's Group sings at the Christmas Unity Event.



Bottom: Leadership of the various committees at the Christmas Unity Event with Sunrise Program Director Mrs. Hang Darany standing on the right.





## CARE SUMMARY: 2017

### HOME-BASED CARE

Start	New	Stop	Died	End
M 12, F 22	F 2	M 2, F 2	0	M 10, F 22

- Out of these, there are 5 children, including 2 orphans that are living with their grandmother.
- The new 2 clients in the table are our clients who were in our program before. In the past, we unenrolled them from our program because they were doing well. However, they are sicker now and having problems, so they have rejoined our service.

[Note: The home-based care does not routinely visit ALL people with HIV in our service area. Only those who are facing challenges in health or income are part of our program. Families that are doing well get a visit about every 6 months to make sure they are still OK.]

- The 4 individuals that “stopped” our program were doing well enough that we mutually decided they did not need our routine services. Victory! We will visit every 6 months or so to make sure they are still OK.
- 19 families were given food monthly to supplement what they are able to earn or buy on their own.
- 8 families were given loans to start or improve small businesses.
- 6 families were given assistance repairing their home.
- Client visits: A total of 786 visits were paid to the clients throughout the year, for an average of 24.5 visits per client per year. This meets our goal of twice a month visits.

### HOSPICE

Start	New	Stop	Died	End
M2	F1	M1	0	M1, F1

Stories of our hospice’s clients:

**Paon R** was over 40 and a former schoolteacher. Due to cirrhosis of the liver, he was staying in the provincial hospital, but his wife could not care for him there and care for the couple’s three children at home at the same time, so all of them were living at the hospital, which was not good. To ease the situation, Sunrise provided care for R while his wife cared for the children at home normally. R stayed at the Sunrise hospice until he was near death, then he went home to die. Sunrise was unable to share the gospel with R because he was mentally confused by the time he came to the hospice.

**Bu M** has been a client in our Home-Based Care service. He is in his late 40’s. His lungs have been damaged by something. Doctors have drawn liquid from his chest or performed other surgeries 6 times to keep him alive. He used to be a moto

taxi driver but can no longer work. He moved for a while to live with his relatives in Pailin Province. While he was there, he got his anti-retroviral medication irregularly due to the long distance to his assigned doctor, so he came back to Kampong Cham. (Note: it is very difficult for people with HIV to change the province where they must show up monthly to collect their medication.)

**Ming M** and Bu M became common-law spouses after they stayed together in the hospice, shared similar problems, and began to care for each other. She has had nerve reaction to the ARV medication and also has a problem with her digestive system and high blood pressure; as a result, she is mentally confused or incoherent at times. We were able to find Ming M a job: when she is well enough, she goes to a nearby NGO and works as a cleaner. As the other NGO is also Christian, they do not penalize her when she can't do her job.

Caring for this couple is a puzzle because of their long-term health needs. Sunrise considered asking a church if they could live on the grounds of the building. However, Bu M. makes frequent loud hacking noise, which would be quite unpleasant for the others living or doing activities at the church. And besides, his care needs are significant. Sunrise will continue to explore options for the couple.

Both Bu M and Ming M have become believers. They said, "There is no other person or God we can depend on except the Christian God."

*Our hospice also served as the temporary shelter for 25 people (M19, F6) and their companions as they came from far away to meet the doctor at the Kampong Cham Provincial Hospital but were unable to return home the same day.*

## CHILDREN EDUCATION PROGRAM

2017 January-December			
Start	New	Stop	End
B14, G15	B3, G2	B5, G1	B12, G16

2017-2018 October to July (Exams in August)			
Preschool	Elementary	Junior High	High School
2	16	5	5

Last year, no students were studying 12<sup>th</sup> grade, but four students completed Junior High (grade 9). Three sat for the exam and passed, receiving a certificate called "diplom". One took the exam but failed and was too discouraged to try again this year. He was having a lot of headaches and frequently skipped school. After our staff talked with him, he agreed to go back but didn't want to attend the same school because he was feeling ashamed in front of the teachers and other students. This school year, our staff helped him re-enroll in grade 9 again at a different school. The new teacher suspected poor eyesight, and so we helped that student get glasses. We are happy to report that the student now has much better attendance, and also less headaches! We have one other student that did not advance a grade—he is repeating grade 1 and our staff is working with him closely.

For the six students that left our program this year, three moved out of the service area and one transferred to a NGO school (run by a private charity). Only one dropped out of school completely: this student completed elementary school,

but the Junior High was very far from the family's house and the student's parents insisted the child stay home and help the family, despite our offers of help to keep the child in school. On the other hand, one student left our program because his older siblings are now working, the student himself works occasionally, and the family can afford to keep the student in school by themselves!

- Children visits: Across the year we visited children clients 1,086 times. This is about 3 visits per child per month and exceeds our goal of 2 visits per month.
- Parent visits: 25
- Teacher visits: 241
- Extra learning fees given: 20 children
- Tutoring: 17 children. Our focus is on children under Grade 5 whose school performance is weak.
- Memory book created: 2 children. The memory book includes information and pictures about the child's background in case he or she becomes orphaned.



**Children's Education Coordinator, Mr. Chhun, makes periodic home visits to check on student's homework and attendance in their schoolbooks.**

## PRISON ACTIVITIES: CLINIC

Clients from last year	New clients	Total
M418, F90	M520, F41	M938, F131

We are unable to follow up on the health of the clients in the prison clinic, because they are not allowed to return unless they continue to be sick or get sick again. However, we know that they get better care because of our involvement in the clinic, because the government prison system is generally not able to provide for the needs of ill patients.

## FEEDING PROGRAM

Clients from last year	New clients	Stop	End
M30, F0	M37, F4	M39, F2	M28, F2

Gained weight: 26 clients

Stable weight: 3 clients

Lost weight: 1 client                      This client has a digestive problem; we will continue monitoring his weight & health.

## PEACE BUILDER'S LIFE SKILLS TRAINING

<b>First Session: Oct 16-June 17</b>	<b>Second Session: July -Dec 17</b>
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Start	Completed	Started	Completed
21	16	20	16

We consistently have some prisoners start studying that are unable to complete the program. This is due to changes in the prison—prisoners are transferred or released before the course finishes.

The first session last year was more than the normal 6 months because when a new staff of the office of the National Director-General of prisons came to visit in February, he did not allow us to carry on with any of our programs until he learned more about our organization and was comfortable with us. Despite this setback we were able to complete the study with the students.

Through a donation from Mark and Susan Smith (InnerCHANGE Cambodia), we were able to fulfill a request for a computer and printer from prison staff in charge of health and education (supervising all our programs in the prison). This has given us improved relationships at the prison and will benefit our continuous work there.



**Mrs. Hang Darany receiving a thanks certificate on behalf of Sunrise from prison officer, Mr. Phal.**

## SWOT ANALYSIS OF SUNRISE

### OVERALL PROGRAM CHANGES

In 2017:

- We phased out the infant formula program due to a change in government recommendations for best practice: breast feeding is now preferred for all mothers including those with HIV.
- We experimented with growing straw mushrooms to improve the income of some of our home-based care clients.

- We investigated starting work with diabetic people. We are thinking about supporting them in the community with screening, awareness education, and encouragement to modify diet and exercise.

## STRENGTHS

### STAFF TRAINING

Human resource development is very important for success in our work. So, we have been strengthening our staff by training them all with the Peace Bridges lessons that we use for prisoners, including Part A & B during 2018. We expect that all our staff can use these lessons for more effectiveness in their job. These lessons help us to have close and good relationships internally and externally. The training helps us reflect on our own ideas and understand others well. Knowing our common needs fosters empathy as we work together over the long term.

[Note: Some Sunrise staff have studied Peace Bridges lessons from the Peace Bridges organization. We have adapted these lessons for our Peace Builder's life skills training class, held in the prison and sometimes in the community for government officials (below). We are also using the lessons for internal training (above).]

### PEACE BUILDERS LIFE SKILLS TRAINING CLASS

Mr. Dara, the Peace Builder Trainer, returned to his government job in July, at the government's request. Although we aren't sure if this is permanent, we anticipated it and hired Mr. Chhorn as Peace Builders Trainer Assistant last year. Since July, Mr. Chhorn has been working on his own. He works hard and loves from his heart. We all enjoy the Peace Building class so much, because we have time to lead the prisoners to worship God before starting class. Mr. Chhorn likes playing guitar and praising God, and he also has time to tell prisoners about Jesus whom he loves.



**Mark Smith, Country Director for InnerChange Cambodia, presents a thank you gift to Mr. Dara as well as our previous administrator Mr. Hout and a previous caregiver, Mrs. Srei.**

### STAFF ATTITUDE AND COOPERATION

We found our staff humbler and more loving towards poor people as they care for their needs as their own. In addition, our staff are willing to step in and help each other across program lines. For example, our staff worked together to repair a widow family's single-room house. The roof was broken; the room was beyond repair. We built a new small room for her for sleeping and cooking. Our Peace Builder trainer and our Nurse did this work together.



**Mr. Bottra, Sunrise Patient Care Coordinator, and Mr. Chhorn, Sunrise Peace Builder Trainer, work on a new house for a Sunrise client.**

Mrs. Sidon has developed her consulting skills to better do her job. She has been practicing the advanced Peace Builders curriculum and discussing real cases and case studies with our program director to improve her problem-solving skills, which she uses with the home-based care clients. Beyond this, she's the one who loves and prays for the clients when they have health and other problems.

Mrs. Sidon is now our Holistic Client Care Coordinator for Home-Based Care. In the past she taught Peace Builder lessons, so she can participate with Mr. Chhorn doing both internal and external training of Peace Builder Lessons when there is a need.

We have helped the clients to try growing mushrooms to improve their living. Mr. Chhorn is the one who know about mushroom growing skill (knowledge he brought from a former job). He has stepped in to assist our Home-Based care team with this effort. He is willing to do this work after he finishes his teaching in the prison in order to see our clients have a better job that they can do at home. Growing mushrooms successfully needs skills and experience to get good results, so clients usually don't succeed at first without Mr. Chhorn's support. He sacrificially spends much time to follow-up and help them on it.

Another example of this cooperation is how our Hospice caregivers and our guard work together to purchase, cook, transport, and serve food for the prison feeding program in addition to their hospice duties.

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## CHILDREN'S EDUCATION PROGRAM

Our staff have cooperated deeply to help solve the clients' problems right away when it happens.

For example: when a child wants to give up her/his education because of her/his living needs or any other reason in his family or community, Mr. Chhun (Children Program Assistant) and Mrs. Sidon (Holistic Client Care Coordinator) consult



with the child and parent. Through their listening skill, they collect information together to make a good decision about the problem.

Chhun also has good connections with teachers and parents. He made a list of children who have problems so that he could do extra follow-up to help solve their problems on time. Recently, Student N decided to stop secondary school. Chhun encouraged him to start again in another school. His teacher called Chhun to tell that she has found a problem that caused him to hardly study gave him frequent headaches: he needs glasses. Chhun helped him get glasses, which our education paid for, and he is studying better now, with better attendance and less headaches.

Mrs. Darany (Program Director) visited the teachers with Mr. Chhun and met with a Secondary School director Mr. San Sros, for observing the children program service. He reported that 2 Grade 9 girls from our children program are outstanding students. Their teacher praised them in front of the class for their hard work and also reported them to him, the director, as excellent students because of our support. One of these is a student that was in danger of stopping in order to work and support her family; now she is succeeding in school because of our program.

We also got warm thanks and great appreciation from the school director and we were requested to continue to do this charity work for helping the children's needs.

## **WEAKNESSES**

- Sometimes we feel we are lacking in management skills and leadership. For example, we are not familiar with how to lead our group to set a new vision statement or revise the mission statement to respond to changes in our province. Sometimes we are not clear about M&E like larger NGO's and could use more training.
- We feel inadequate to help all our home-based Care clients to live independently. We should seek more training in small business development.
- New activities related to diabetes issues has been delayed.
- Difficult to find Khmer and Expat people to serve on a board (for free), attending meetings regularly and putting effort into improving our program.

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

- We have good relationships with the government including the local Health Department, MOSAVY Department and provincial staff. These relationships have been developed through attending meetings, giving timely reports as requested, and giving gifts during Khmer New Year and Christmas season.
- Prison is the very place that need our helps most among the other places in Kampong Cham and there is no one else doing the same type of work that we are.
- Hospice & Temporary shelter: the number of clients has been decreasing. This has allowed us to divert caregiver hours to the Prison Feeding Program. We are also considering the possibility of doing hospice work in the homes of our clients, as is often done in the west, and possibly for pay for wealthier clients. We can see changing needs (more people want to die at home) but we also don't lose all the skills we built up long-term in care for the dying. There is not really any other hospice program similar to ours in Cambodia, which makes us unique. This is a long-term plan still under discussion.

- If we can succeed with growing mushrooms for one or two clients, we might expand this idea to other clients, as they don't live too close together and would be selling to different markets. Mushrooms as a food are increasing in popularity now. However, the client must have access to a little land to make it work.
- In the past, we successfully diversified from strictly HIV patients to begin prison work. Now we are trying again to diversify and work with diabetics.

## THREATS

- There's a new incoming governor of Kampong Cham who doesn't yet know and understand us well like the former one. As a result, this year we could not hold our Christmas event in the prison. The new governor was concerned about security because there are increasingly many prisoners due to a crack-down on drug use. However, Darany met with him when giving out Christmas gifts and took the opportunity to discuss this matter in order to get permission next year.
- The government has become stricter than before. They have new methods we are to use for documenting and controlling our works through reporting to all government system such as communes, city hall, provincial departments, police and others.
- Mopotyo is an organization working on diabetes and high blood pressure issues. We visited their activities in Chamkar Leu district of Kampong Cham province in February and expected that we could partner with them. Our plan was to send one of our staff to their training to learn about diabetes awareness education and community screening. However, recently they informed us that we can't send any member of our staff to get their training because our staff are not diabetic themselves. None the less, Darany has met with the Health Department Director to discuss on our new work for Diabetes issues has received positive feedback from him. We will continue some sort of implementation for this plan in 2018.
- Half of our clients are living in the other side of the river on land which used to be Kampong Cham but was cut off to form Tbong Khmom province. It's hard to report to two provincial governments because our operational location agreement is just for Kampong Cham province. Also, our staff are few to handle the requirements of two provinces. And yet we are requested by those clients not to leave them because there is no other NGO to help them there.

## STEPS CONTINUE FROM THE LAST 6 MONTHS

### STRAW MUSHROOM MAKING PROCESS

We have chosen 2 families who are neighbors to try growing mushrooms and built one mushroom growing structure for them to share. For the first crop, both families achieved success and harvested a good crop from their half of the building. For the second crop, the families did the planting steps on their own, and growth was not as good. Our staff are currently working closely with the families to find the reason for the poor growth. At this writing (2/2018) the families are working on their third crop. We have another family waiting to try mushrooms but we are waiting until we feel more confident in our experience and can help them better.

### DIABETES SCREENING AND EDUCATION

1. We have met with some of the village chiefs to collect some ideas.
2. We have met with the Health Department director to discuss about permission.
3. We could not send our staff to Mopotyo training, but we can watch some lessons from their YouTube channel.

4. We will go to PP to find out on Diabetes testing and education supplies.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Please pray about new government systems. We are having difficulty documenting our work under new requirements, which are not yet clear even to the government officials responsible for implementing them.
2. Pray for our new activities on Diabetes Community Support we plan to begin this year. We have funding for this new initiative. However, we are having trouble getting the training we need because none of our staff happen to be diabetic! Pray as we decide how to move forward.
3. Pray for our staff to have more strength and power from God to serve the poor from their hearts.
4. Pray for ideas and success in helping our HBC clients earn more income.
5. Pray for our clients who are cut off in Tbong Khmom province. In 2014, this province was split off from Kampong Cham province, however, parts of Tbong Khmom are quite close to us and we have served clients there for many years. Now we are not sure how we can continue due to paperwork and government permissions. Pray for ideas on how to help these clients.
6. Pray for the churches to be active in unity. Church leadership in our city have been feuding for a couple years now and there are recent steps to bring unity. The Christmas program described in this letter is one of them, but there are other meetings and associations brewing to increase fellowship and cooperation among the churches. Pray for us.
7. Pray as our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is due for renewal this summer with the Ministry of Social Affairs. We will submit paperwork soon. This document is our permission to exist under the Cambodian governing systems, as well as the means by which our foreign technical advisors (InnerChange staff) get their visas. We expect it to be difficult for several reasons:
  - Elections in late July will cause all government decision makers to want to wait until after the election. After the election, there may not be any movement until a government is formed. Sometimes this takes up to a year.
  - Our project gives social and community support to people that are ill, however, it can look like a medical project. The Ministry of Social Affairs may want us to approach the Ministry of Health instead. However, our project is too small (budget too low) to get approval from the Ministry of Health.
8. Pray for our fundraising efforts to allow our service to continue uninterrupted.
9. Pray for Susan our Program Adviser to be able to find time to do fundraising, as God has allowed the competing demands of her mother's health, her daughter's schooling, and other team leadership needs to come at the same time.