



## TEEN CHALLENGE CAMBODIA



# Sambath's Story

"Where are the police?" This was one of the first thoughts that crossed Sambath's mind when he entered the Men's Center on September 8, 2015. How could the staff control all these people without any police?

Sambath's questions sprang from his experience at another drug treatment center. In his previous center, the center had hired police to manage the clients and to prevent clients from running away. The police were also an intimidating presence. Sambath lasted only about 3 months before he left and soon relapsed to his previous habits.

When Sambath was a teenager, he had had an argument with his mom. She had sold the motorcycle he was using without his consent. He was enraged and held a grudge against his mom for this. He soon found comfort with a group of friends who led him to experiment with crystal meth. Sambath quickly moved beyond experi-

mentation and became addicted.

After several years of this, his parents brought him to an independently-run center, the one with all the police. In the first few months, Sambath showed some signs of improving, but it was really only on the outside. When he left the center, his true inner state showed through again.

When he relapsed, some of his parents' friends who lived near the Men's Center suggested that they try Teen Challenge. His parents are not Christians, but they were desperate to find a way to help their son.

As with many of our clients, the first month was the hardest. Seeing that there were no police on guard, Sambath hatched a plan with some other clients to run away from the center. He did not carry through on it though. Instead, he stayed and listened to the careful and caring instruction of the Men's Center staff.

This kind of supportive environment was unlike anything Sambath had expected. He began to open up, and he found true freedom in Jesus Christ. He gave his life to Christ when Pastor Mab was preaching on November 12, 2015.

As Sambath continued to improve, his parents were amazed, and his mother requested that he leave the program a few months early. At age 22, Sambath has not yet finished high school, but he has an opportunity to take the grade 12 national exam in August. His mother hired a private teacher for him to study his high school subjects at home to prepare for the upcoming exam. If he passes this exam, he can go on to university.

Sambath is so grateful for Teen Challenge, "my old home," as he calls it now, and he hopes to become a businessman someday. "If there wasn't Teen Challenge, I don't know when I would have ever changed," he said.

## WAYS TO GIVE

### SMALL

#### BUYING ENTRY SUPPLIES

for new clients and children which may include but is not limited to...

Clothes, Bedding, Mosquito Net and Toiletries.  
\$120 per year

### MEDIUM

#### OUTREACH MINISTRY

\$3,600 per year

#### HOUSING AND EDUCATION

for clients's children  
\$1,500 per year

#### FAITH BASED INTEGRATION

\$1,000 per year

### LARGE

#### FOOD SUPPLIES

Men's Center: \$9,900 per year  
Women's Center: \$4,500 per year

#### TRAINING / REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Men's Center: \$8,000 per year  
Women's Center: \$4,000 per year

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# FAMILY RETREAT

Teen Challenge's work would not be possible without a dedicated group of staff members. These men and women regularly work in challenging and high stress environments and often for long hours. They sacrifice a lot to see change in the lives of those who are addicted to drugs and alcohol.

As a sign of appreciation for all their hard work, our director Vuth organized a family retreat on June 23 and 24 for the staff from both of our centers.\* Staff members and their families traveled together to Kep, a beach town on the southern coast of Cambodia. Some members of local churches filled in to work at the centers for the two days.

The staff really enjoyed the opportunity to spend time together. Going to the beach with their families was a real treat for them, and the staff also enjoyed the chance for their families to get to know each other. Staff members had talked about their families before, but now they had the chance to introduce family members to coworkers.

In addition to relaxing together at the beach and visiting a waterfall, the staff also spent time praying together. They know that they need to remain strong and healthy both physically and spiritually as a staff in order to have the strength and wisdom to carry out their work.





Thanks to GDG for their support of our development activities!

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## OPEN FOR BUSINESS

On June 13, 2016, the Men's Center motorcycle repair shop opened for business. Since most Cambodians use motorcycles for daily transportation, the Men's Center staff see the shop as a great way to cover some of the operating costs of the center. However, the vision is bigger than this.

The motorcycle repair shop is also a way for Teen Challenge clients to learn a new skill and have on-the-job training. Furthermore, some of our clients are illiterate, and while they

attend literacy classes as part of their vocational training, some are more apt at working with their hands.

Currently, all of the Men's Center clients have the opportunity to participate in a weekly class on motorcycle repair and maintenance with our staff member Duch.\* The students learn the basics of fixing flat tires, replacing brake pads, changing the engine oil, and more.

Among his students, Duch identified one student called Mo

who displayed an exceptional interest and aptitude for the work. Duch has selected Mo to work alongside of him as an apprentice in the repair shop. Duch would like to take on even more students as apprentices, but supervising these young men who are handling money and tools and motorcycle parts is a big responsibility. Wisely, Duch is starting with one apprentice and focusing on the quality of the work. He hopes in the future to be able to expand the business.