



TEEN CHALLENGE CAMBODIA

Serving the people of Cambodia

Our Vision

- Facilitate life-transformation for people with life-controlling problem, one person at a time, by the power of God.

Our Mission

- Develop qualitative program to help youth, adults and families with life-controlling problems become established in society through faith-based solutions

Our Prayer Concerns

- Let God open the hearts of people who are addicted to receive our help.
- Pray for our staff at our centres and our new director and office staff to all have good relationships.

Praise God

- We are building relationships with many women who working as prostitutes, and they are learning more about our center.
- The Men's Center soccer team has been a source of joy.

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STREET OUTREACH

At Teen Challenge, we believe in bringing hope to people in need.

On Thursday nights, our team goes to meet women who are addicted to drugs and working in prostitution. Addiction and prostitution go together and create a vicious cycle, but there is hope for a better life.

Our team goes to meet the women where they are. On Thursday nights, we go to Wat Phnom, a well-known place for finding women who work in prostitution. We talk with these women, learn their names, build relationships, and hear their stories, and we invite them to a new life. We share about the Teen Challenge Women's Center, and we invite them to join our year-long rehabilitation program.

We often share a small amount of food with these women too, just a taste of a new life they could have if they accept our offer. Reaching these women is challenging because they have been hurt many times, but we are committed to shining the light of hope in the darkness of addiction.



INVITATION

Want more information
or to make a donation?

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Sometimes just hearing about something is not enough. Sometimes it takes seeing in order to believe.

During our Street Outreach, we invite the women to join our center. However, sometimes when they hear about our center, some of the women are skeptical. Some have had negative experiences in other rehabilitation centres and think we might just use them to try to raise money for ourselves.

Therefore, to counter these misconceptions, we want to give the women an experience of the center. We invite the women to come visit and experience our centre for the afternoon.

When they come to visit our center, we have a chance to show them who we really are. They can experience the joy of fellowship with our staff and see that our program could be just the thing that they are hoping for in their lives.

Already one woman who visited the centre has decided to join our program. Without the invitation to visit first, she probably never would have join the center. One has come already, and we believe that she is just the first of many.



NEW DIRECTOR

No stranger to poverty, drugs, broken relationships and gang culture, Bunnavuth became the new director of Teen Challenge in September, 2014. His life has ably equipped for this role.

At the age of 15, Bunnavuth's family went through financial difficulties due to corruption; losing everything they had. In grade 9, he quickly went from being a good student to hanging out with the wrong crowd, drinking, smoking, abusing drugs, and skipping school. He would travel from his hometown in Kandal province to Phnom Penh to wreck havoc in the capital, getting into fights and clubbing. Shortly after, he joined a gang, continuing the drug and violent lifestyle. After the gang went through some restructuring, they spread out throughout the country, where they were instructed to recruit members from their hometowns, hence returning home to Kandal Province where he used his home as a gang base while his parents worked full time. He transported drugs from the capital to his province, went through girl after girl and quickly became infamous in his part of town. During these times he felt depressed, suicidal and hopeless, with no way out.

All this activity came to a screeching halt in 2004, when 3 of his friends got put in jail. He told himself he would do anything to change his life if he got to escape prison.

Not long after, his sister got into a bad accident, and while he and his mom were at the hospital, they met a young Christian man, David, also visiting a friend. His mother invited David to wait with them and David shared a bit about Christ to them, and told them about New Life Fellowship's Dorm ministry, where there were free English and computer classes. No longer wanting to tolerate her son's behavior, Bunnavuth's mother kicked him out of the house and gave him an ultimatum—to either go to live in a pagoda as a monk, or to live in this Dorm ministry that David had told them about. After some deliberation, Bunnavuth decided to go with the dorm option, as there was an opportunity for education, which meant hope for the future.

In this living situation he was introduced to Christ, but the transition to live in the dorms was not at all easy. The dorms were full of young men from all over the country, with various backgrounds and all different walks of life. The Christian environment was very foreign to him and he did not enjoy the classes they offered. He wanted to leave but had nowhere to go so he followed the rules and policies of the dormitory. About 6 months after living at the dorms, on one Mother's Day service at church, there was a skit performed where a mother said, "Son, I have done everything I know to make you into the best person possible," while the son pointed out all the wrongs she had made in her life. This made him so uncomfortable he left and hid in the toilets crying, and it was then he decided to follow Jesus and allow him to change his life.

He quickly found hope and things to look forward to in life with Christ, and stopped drinking and smoking entirely. He discovered a love for studying and excelled in class. Later on, he volunteered in the computer and English classes as a teacher.

When he went back to his province to visit his mother, his mother saw a different son, one who spoke kindly to her and when he told her about this Jesus that he had discovered, she was excited about how God could change her son so drastically, while in her 21 years of upbringing she could not. One after another, his family members turned to Christ as he disassociated himself with his old gang members and past life.

When you look at Bunnavuth's difficult past and his job history, it is obvious God has been preparing him for this role as director of Teen Challenge. In the past 10 years since being saved, he has worked as a volunteer English and Computer teacher, a security guard, a church planter, an outreach officer with Hosea Ministry (working with street children and drug users), at Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia, working in communications/IT, and most recently at World Vision as a communications officer for creative youth.

He is delighted and excited with this role, a little nervous about filling some big shoes, yet with God he is confident that all things are possible. He hopes to learn and grow more, and spread God's love and care to the youths of Cambodia.



SUSTAINABILITY

There's a saying, "One person's trash is another person's treasure." However, at the Men's Center we can say, "One pig's manure is another person's fuel."

We have recently constructed a new piggery at the Men's Center. This piggery allows us to raise more pigs than we were able to do before. The piggery can accommodate up to 22 fully grown pigs as well as a number of their piglets.

Furthermore, this piggery is able to capture the biogas that is emitted from the pig's manure. This gas is stored underground, and we have established a system where the biogas can be used for the centre's cooking. This system will save us money as we no longer need to buy fuel to cook for the 30 clients plus staff at our residential center.

The Men's Center is taking a long-term approach in both our ministry and our clients' lives. We want both our centre and our clients to be equipped to succeed for many days to come. For our center, that means that we need to think creatively about ways that we can save money and find solutions that use the resources that we already have on hand.

As we do this, we are also modelling for clients values that we want to foster in their lives. We hope to see the transformation they experience at Teen Challenge last throughout their entire lives, and so we model a perspective that thinks not just about today but also about the future.



WORKING TOGETHER WITH SERVANT HEARTS

Teen Challenge has been blessed by the support of many generous people. Without the support of many partners, our ministry could never succeed.

In particular, we want to acknowledge Linda's Team from Trinity Church. Not only did they donate funds for the building of our piggery, their team of 8 people came and helped us construct the building.

As the team worked hard in Cambodia's tropical heat, they were building more than just a piggery. They were also building relationships with our clients. Many of our clients do not have a lot of exposure to working with foreigners, and this was a fantastic opportunity for our clients to work with a foreign team for a common purpose.

As part of the educational program at the center, our clients study English, and while they were building the piggery with Linda's Team, they had a chance to put into practice some of the things were learning.

Thank you to Linda's Team for supporting our work and making a difference in the lives of young men in Cambodia!



SOCCER TEAM

At the Teen Challenge Men's Center, the clients are finding ways to build relationships and grow together.

The clients were determined to start their own soccer team even though some of the former clients discouraged them from doing it. Some of older clients thought that the younger ones would start the team and then give up.

But they haven't. The team has bonded together through practices and playing with teams from surrounding villages.

Through the soccer team, the men are learning more than just passing and shooting skills. They are learning about sportsmanship, teamwork, health, and the joy of recreation that doesn't involve addiction.

The soccer team is a sign of new life at the Men's Center, a team that was formed by the clients' own initiative and a team that is working together for their own good.



FELLOWSHIP

In January, the soccer team at the Men's Center received a special invitation. They were invited to a two-day soccer tournament 200 kilometres away from the centre at the Highlands Leadership Training Center.

Even though our team is young and has not played together for a long time, they did remarkably well. They won several matches and made it all the way to the championship round.

During the championship game, many of the team members felt like the referees were unfair and were on the side of the other team. Even so, our team members did not respond by getting angry. Instead, they encouraged each other to continue playing and to enjoy the game.

The team went home in second place, but their actions on the field demonstrated that they were truly winners. Even in the difficult circumstances, they chose against anger, and they were examples of what God is doing in their lives through Teen Challenge.

The team really enjoyed this invitation to spend a night together outside of the center and to build relationships with each other during the tournament. They hope they can join more events like this in the future.



PARENTS' SEMINAR

Transformation is not just an issue of one person experiencing change, but it means that an entire community is changed as well.

When our clients join our one-year program, they leave their families behind. However, their families remain an important part of their lives, and when the clients leave our program, many of them will be returning to live with their families.

In order to reach out to the families, Teen Challenge hosts quarterly seminars for parents. During these seminars, we invite our clients' parents to our centre so that they can see firsthand how their sons and daughters are doing. We hosted one of these seminars on November 23, 2014, and on that day, we held workshops for the parents and for our clients as well.

These seminars are a great encouragement to our clients. They have an opportunity to remember that they are not alone and not forgotten. Their families, or in some cases a girlfriend or a friend, come to support and encourage them in their road to recovery.

Many of the families of our clients are not Christian, and we use the seminar as an opportunity to witness to them. They can learn about Christ's love through our concrete example of the love we show to their children. We also want to prepare these families to receive their son or daughter after the program ends, so that even when our clients' leave our centres, they continue to have a supporting community to encourage them.



GROWING OPPORTUNITIES

The Men's Center in Takeo is a place of growth in more ways than one. The centre encompasses nearly 4 hectares, and the clients are involved in growing a number of fruits and vegetables including morning glory, radish, papaya, banana, and of course, rice too.

This project provides a number of benefits for our center. First, we have a ready source of food for our clients, and the extras that we do not use ourselves, we can sell locally to buy other items we need such as oil and seasonings.

Furthermore, our clients gain valuable experience as they tend the fields. They learn how to cultivate the land and grow their own food, and for some who come from the cities, this is a new experience. The work also provides a good source of exercise for our clients as they work towards physical health.

Even more, tending the fields gives our clients a sense of satisfaction and agency as they take pride in their work and actively participate in providing the food for their meals.



ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

In addition to a number of vegetables and other plants, the Men's Center is also home to 5 cows, 3 fully grown pigs, 18 piglets, and a brood of chickens.

Just like with the vegetables, our clients are active in learning how to raise and care for these animals. Our staff take the lead role in caring for the animals as the staff have greater expertise, but our most most senior clients who have proven to be responsible get a chance to gain these valuable skills in animal husbandry.

The animals provide a number of benefits for the centre. We are able to sell the calves, piglets, and chickens for a profit in the local markets. Since these animals have been well-cared for, they bring a good price.

We also use the manure of the pigs and some of from the cows for our biogas system, and we can also use it as fertiliser. Additionally, we use the cows for plowing the fields.