TEEN CHALLENGE CAMBODIA

FAMILY RECONCILIATION

On Friday, August 21, Teen Challenge hosted our quarterly Parents' Seminar at our Men's Center in Takeo province. This seminar is a key component for the long-term care and healing of our clients.

Clients from both centers eagerly assisted in the preparations of the half-day program and waited for their guests to arrive. Parents, siblings, pastors, and other significant people in our clients' lives came to encourage the clients and to hear a message from both the clients and our staff.

During the morning program, we began with praise and worship and prayer, and we heard words of encouragement from our Executive Director Vuth, our Deputy Director Jim, and from a friend of Teen Challenge Matthew McCullough. They shared with us stories from their personal experiences, some of which included addictions and strained relationships with family members. They shared with us models and advice for healthy family relationships too.

One of the most moving parts of the morning was a skit performed by our clients. The skit represented common elements of many of our clients' stories. A young person grows up in the countryside and works hard until he moves to Phnom Penh and gets caught up in the wrong crowd and begins using drugs. However, the characters in the skit later realized their faults and had deep regrets for the way they had treated their families.

The skit was an enacted apology and a plea for forgiveness and reconciliation, and many parents were moved to tears. The skit urged the parents to forgive and to accept their child back into their family. This acceptance is crucial for the re-entry of our clients into society because they need a supportive community to help them after they leave our one-year residential program.

The parents and other guests stayed for lunch with our clients, and they enjoyed a time of fellowship together. Parents are welcome to visit their children at any time, but the Teen Challenge staff particularly emphasizes the importance of the Parents' Seminar to encourage both the clients and the parents.

The message of forgiveness and reconciliation that Friday morning was powerful, and our clients were reminded that they are not alone in their recoveries. Healing and reconciliation does not happen in just one morning, but that morning was an important step in the lives of many of our clients and their families. We praise God for the healing and the hope that we have seen.

PROGRESS ON THE WOMEN'S CENTER

SeedOne Foundation

The days of renting facilities for the Women's Center are numbered. By the grace of God, we are coming closer every day to building a permanent center on our own land. This center that will serve as a secure and stable place to care for women who are trapped in addiction.

We have already purchased a piece of land on the edge of the city, and we have filled the former rice field with dirt. Our next step is to build a wall around the property, and we have

hope that the wall can be completed within this year, and we are optimistic that building will start not long after that.

In Phnom Penh where rent and land prices are rising rapidly, we are so thankful for this opportunity to have our own center that is designed for our needs. We believe this center will serve as a light to plant hope in the heart of addicts in Cambodia, and it will be a place of refuge and healing.

already raised half of the funds for this. Our director Vuth and our board are working hard to raise the remaining funds, and Vuth is working to ensure that our plans cooperate with all local building requirements.

We are excited and grateful that SeedOne Foundation, a humanitarian organization based in the United States, has pledged to fund the building of the center itself. We

Welcoming our Deputy Director

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

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James Sinopoli, or simply Jim, has joined our team this year as a volunteer Deputy Director. He brings with him a passion for vulnerable people, a natural gift for networking, and a wealth of experience in public service.

Jim moved to Cambodia in May from Chicago, Illinois, where he had spent 27 years as a firefighter. Over the past couple of years, Jim had felt God calling him to take a new step of faith. Through some experiences at his home church, Jim's heart was moved in compassion particularly for victims of human trafficking.

After visiting Cambodia a few times to explore the possibilities here, Jim decided to sell his house in the US and begin serving alongside of Teen Challenge in a volunteer capacity. The Teen Challenge Cambodia board, seeing Jim's skills and his commitment to serve vulnerable people, appointed Jim to be the Deputy Director.

Jim serves alongside the Executive Director Vuth and helps with the street outreach, developing our sustainability programs, hosting visitors, developing a network of partners in ministry, writing proposals, and more.

In the words of our director Vuth, "We praise God that we have Jim in Teen Challenge's ministry. We praise God for his heart and his willingness."