

Just In Time

What kind of shopper are you? A browser? An impulse-buyer? Or someone who takes a list and refuses to buy anything extra? If you are in the last category it can be frustrating to scan the supermarket shelf in vain for an item on your list, only to find it is out of stock.

Empty Shelves



By and large, the supermarkets do a good job keeping the shelves filled. Behind the dependability that we rely on are complex stock control, resourcing and transportation systems that operate on a *just-in-time* principle: if stock arrives on the shelves too late the opportunity to sell it is lost and customers are dissatisfied; too soon and there is nowhere to put it, and money is tied up in stock that is not being sold. We in CCC have found that God works on a *just-in-time* principle too.

Cambodian Communities in Crisis

We all know about rising prices and the credit crunch. We are all having to be careful about how we spend our money. Some of us face fuel poverty. Others are concerned about a drop in the value of our houses. In Cambodia things are no different, and in some ways worse. Inflation is running at 18%. The price of rat meat has quadrupled and consumption of dog meat is increasing as inflation puts other meat beyond the reach of poor people.

CCC faced our own financial challenge as 2008 drew to a close:

- We did not have enough money in hand to meet our commitments to students we have agreed to sponsor. In September we could not see how we could pay all the fees that would become due in the last three months of the year.
- We had no idea where the £4,000+ needed for the Dump Kids project next year would come from.
- We had no money for promotion or fundraising; everything that came in had to go to Cambodia.

- The 25% drop in value of the pound against the dollar meant we had to find 25% more income just to stand still.

Were we worried? No! The Lord is our provider. He is responsible for the work He has initiated. Our responsibility is to pray, trust and obey.

The Lord Our Provider

Since September we have seen God provide. Just enough money has come in to pay all the college fees in Cambodia. Now, in 2009, the challenge is to keep trusting that the Lord will provide funds **just in time** for them to be transferred to Cambodia **just in time** to pay the bills.



*Lost in wonder:
a Cambodian visitor to Britain experiences Tesco*

The work of CCC is a partnership: between God, you our supporters, the Council of CCC who direct its affairs, our friends in Cambodia who pray for and advise us, and the students and children whom we sponsor. Please will you consider how to express your involvement in this partnership at this time of continuing need? Could you pray, or fast, or give, so that the education of 45 Cambodians is not interrupted or terminated prematurely, and so that we can help buy food for hungry orphans and extend our support to more young people who cannot afford to go to school or college?

Thank you for caring about Cambodia.

Hungry: for Food and for Knowledge

On a visit to Cambodia in 2008, CCC Director Rev Ross Rennie was made aware of two groups of hungry children. Children in one group are hungry for food to fill their stomachs; those in the other are hungry to learn.

CCC's resources are at full stretch, meeting our sponsorship commitments and helping the Dump Kids. Because we give a tithe (ten percent) of our undesignated income to causes other than our own projects, we have been able to give some money to help meet a small proportion of both these needs, but we also promised to make them known to our friends and other organisations who might be able to help.

Help for the Poor Orphanage



Some of the orphans at Help for the Poor Orphanage

Pastor Lim Vuthy and his wife lead a church in a poor area just across the Bassac River from Phnom Penh. God has led them to care for 27 orphans; five are at secondary school and the rest at primary school. The church is not a rich one and Pastor Vuthy has had to rely on outside donors to provide for the children's needs. One of these donors has withdrawn its support and Pastor Vuthy now faces a serious shortfall in income.

A one-off gift of £200 would buy enough soap, toothpaste and shampoo for all the orphans for a year. £4 a week would pay for the children's school uniforms. Any gift — large or small, one-off or regular — would help make a difference to these needy children's lives.



Pastor Lim Vuthy (left) and orphanage staff

Logos International School



Logos' existing campus

CCC and Logos have been partners for several years. CCC pays the fees for the daughter of a deceased pastor to attend the school and has provided equipment for the kindergarten department. In 2008 we gave part of our tithe to Logos, who used it to provide a bursary for a needy Cambodian student.

Since its foundation in 2002 Logos has rented accommodation for its classrooms and other facilities. Now a purpose-built campus is under construction but Logos needs additional funds for equipment: computers, apparatus for science labs and books for an expanded library.



Logos offers an extensive curriculum with the intent to bring high-quality education and solid Biblical truths to each student. Both Logos and CCC look forward to the day when students who graduate from Logos International School continue their education at CCC's Timothy College.

Dump Kids: Into Year 2

CCC's Dump Kids project has been a resounding success in its first year. 15 children who formerly scavenged on Phnom Penh's municipal rubbish dump for recyclable materials now attend school six days a week and receive a nutritious lunch on each school day.



Ready for school: the Dump Kids kitted out with clothing, flip-flops and backpacks supplied by CCC supporters

Pastor Sokunthea, who leads a church located near the dump, has supervised the project, organised the catering and monitored the children's school attendance and reports. He would love to see the project grow and take more children away from the dangers of the dump.

Adults and children who work on the dump are exposed to dangerous medical waste contaminated with such diseases as HIV, tuberculosis and hepatitis.

"Bags of blood, human parts such as hands, legs, lungs, livers, whole babies and heads are found in that medical waste," said one scavenger.

It is little wonder then that several of our 15 children have lost family members to AIDS. Some live with a surviving parent infected with the disease and one is infected himself.



Phin Vithon Thatt Thai

Thai was born on 8 July 2001. His father died from AIDS and both Thai and his mother are infected with the disease. Thai is in grade one of primary school, where his report is 'weak' (level two on a six point scale). Thai has believed in Jesus since August 2008. His ambition is to be a customs officer.

The dump scavengers' future prospects are uncertain. The Phnom Penh municipality plans to close the dump and open a new landfill site further from the city. Newspaper reports suggest that the new dump will be fenced off and scavenging may be banned. If this happens, Pastor Sokunthea thinks that the families will probably stay together as a community but may turn to touring the city streets collecting materials for scrap and recycling.

CCC would like to ensure that all 15 children complete their education. You can help by sponsoring a child. Contact us at the address on the back of the *Cambodian Herald* to request a profile of one or more children. For £6 a week you could ensure that one of the dump kids continues through school and never sets foot on the dump again. If you cannot afford this, please consider a making a one-off donation or setting up a regular gift to help with the expenses of this project.

'Educated' But Jobless

A growing number of eager young Cambodians are finding themselves duped into a higher education system that suffers from weak management and teaching because it is geared more toward profit than learning.

As a result only one in ten recent graduates are finding work, according to the Economic Institute of Cambodia.

CCC is committed to education in Cambodia, and we only sponsor students at reputable schools and colleges, but we are concerned to hear Mak Ngoy, deputy director general of higher education at the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, describe most programmes offered at Cambodia's 70 private and state-run universities as 'dismal'.

In the past CCC has had to dissuade some applicants for sponsorship from attending some of these 'degree factories', instead encouraging them to apply to higher-quality institutions.

So far, the education ministry has ordered the closing of four institutions that called themselves universities, but gave little education to students.

More than 135,000 Cambodians are currently enrolled in some form of higher education, says the education ministry, compared to just 25,000 eight years ago.

Meanwhile, CCC is making it clear to the students whom we sponsor that they are at university to work; if they skip classes or fail to turn in assignments they risk losing our support.

Presenting Cambodia

Grace International



CCC Director Rev Ross Rennie and Chairman Myers Cooper visited Grace International Centre at Bloxwich, West Midlands, to tell the church about Cambodia. The presentation was unusual, in that it was nearly all about Cambodia and very little was said about Cambodian Communities out of Crisis.

"I felt led by God to tell the people about the country, the church and the people," said Ross. "I did not want to push CCC. If the Lord wants people to support us He will tell them. My heart is for Cambodia, not this or that organisation."

Your Church or Group



If you would like Ross to visit your church, cell group, club or association to share his vision for Cambodia, please contact him at the address shown at the bottom of the page or on his mobile, 07968 778990.

He can bring displays, literature, DVDs and books, and if you would like him to talk about the work of Cambodian Communities out of Crisis as well he will be very happy to do so.

Spare Any Change?

Pockets or purse bulging with coins? Here's an idea: send off for a CCC money box and use it to collect your excess change. A few pence now and then may not seem much, but you'll be surprised how quickly the box fills up.



When the box is full, empty it out, count the coins, take them to the bank, pay them into your account and send CCC a cheque for the amount you have collected.

Do You Shop Online? easyfundraising .org.uk

Easyfundraising is a fantastic website where you can raise funds for CCC – just by shopping online!

If you already shop with stores such as Next, Argos, HMV, John Lewis, M&S, Toys'R'Us, DELL, Dixons, Expedia or Debenhams, simply use the links provided on the easyfundraising site when you shop and at no extra cost to you, we'll receive a free cash donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make.

Over 600 well-known retailers are featured so if you already shop online, why not use easyfundraising and raise funds for us at the same time?

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/cambodiancommunities>

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