

In His Steps International

Empowering the poor, transforming lives

A Quarterly Newsletter

Winter / Spring 2009



Greetings!

"He has shown you O Man what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

Hello everyone and Happy New Year! 2008 was an eventful and fruitful year, and we look forward to more exciting things in 2009. We would like to share with you some of what God has been doing in Cambodia and hope that you will be blessed by these evidences of His faithfulness to those in need. First, though, we want to offer some perspective on why we are here and what God is putting on our hearts as we move into this next year.

Justice, Mercy and Compassion

Out of our passion for God, we are motivated to act justly. Our Christian lives are meant to be a journey into the heart of God. The journey begins with a look at the source of all compassionate action - God's compassionate heart. Our compassion must be a reflection of His.

As we connect to God, His love begins to flow freely to us -- but it doesn't end there. That love



"Learn to do good! Seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow."
Isaiah 1:17

eventually flows not only to us but also through us to others in loving words and compassionate acts. Jesus frequently wept when He saw the needs of the people and was moved to do something about them. He sowed in tears and reaped in joy.

Aligning our hearts with God's heart is the only way to comprehend acting justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with Him. Justice needs to be an action, brought in and through the power of

Christian community, but mercy comes from love. It is a passion, not an action. When, out of our passion for God's heart, we truly learn to love mercy and compassion then we will be motivated to act justly. First one, then the other.

What is Compassion?

According to Webster's dictionary, compassion is "a sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it."

Compassion is more than a feeling; it leads to action. Compassion is always personal, giving insight into another's pain and helping to understand their hurts, heartache, and needs. For [In His Steps](#), our motivation is compassion for the oppressed.

The Need

The oppressed can be found anywhere, in any walk of life. One particular group of people which has captured our hearts are victims of human trafficking. Trafficking is the exploitation of the poor, young, or vulnerable for prostitution, sexual slavery, marriage, removal of organs, illegal adoption, or forced labor. Millions of people are trafficked each year, including at least 1.2 million children annually. These individuals and many others are the ones In His Steps seeks to help through compassion, mercy and justice.



In His Steps International Staff

Meet the Staff: A First-Hand Perspective

Most of the programs at [In His Steps](#) are run by Cambodian citizens. Employing nationals not only provides a quality working environment with an above-average salary, but also empowers and teaches them to lead in their community. From directing to tutoring, the IHSC (In His Steps Cambodia) staff is playing an integral role in ensuring the success of In His Steps.

Sarith, the IHSC National Director makes sure things run smoothly on a day-to-day basis. He is responsible for accounting, administrative tasks, worship, interpretation, etc. He loves to hang out with friends and go for a Sunday stroll on "Big Dog" (Eric's dirt bike), which I (Jacob) also thoroughly enjoy.

Vouen, A.K.A. Mr. Bean, the Loaves & Fish Director, coordinates the activities for this particular program. He works hard to make sure the right families are enrolled and that they take good care of the orphans in their homes. He is a jolly and loving man - full of joy!

Pheaktra, Foundation Center Director, oversees the Foundation Center. His commitment, influence and tender heart are evident when he leads.

Solomon, a Foundation Center teacher, is full of life. Solomon knows how to engage people and let me tell you - he is good. His charismatic personality is contagious.

Sopheak, another Foundation Center teacher, is more on the reserved side. We could tell, though, that once you get to know him, he is loyal. Many kids look up to him as a friend and leader.

Theavy directs the daily activities for Sak Saum. [Sak Saum](#) is dedicated to helping women out of bad situations and speaking dignity into their lives.

Along with Theavy, **Sarai**, and **Serey** help manage different aspects of Sak Saum. Full of life, the Sak Saum ladies are a joy to be around.

The IHSI building is ran by the one and only, **Srey Poa**. We not only experienced her amazing

Cambodian cooking, but we also got to enjoy her warm hospitality. As the IHSI building manager, she is responsible for cooking, cleaning and general household chores. She is an amazing women and brings such life to the ministry house.

Unfortunately, Noelle and I left before meeting the foreign staff coming on board. **Emily** recently arrived at IHSI after visiting 5 times previous. She will be working as Eric's administrative assistant. [Click here to see Emily's blog.](#) **Svetlana** is from Russia and will be teaching with **Jo** from New Zealand. **Daniel** will be interning and is from Singapore. Eric and Ginny will have no problems keeping them occupied - there is an abundance of work to be done.

God has blessed IHSI with vision and opportunity. That's one reason we are joining the efforts of IHSI. We pray to be there in 2009 and look forward to serving in any way. Counseling, short-term teams, and teaching are some possibilities. Learn more about us at blog.jakeandnoelle.com.



Programs

“Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and loving-kindness and truth go before Your face.” Psalm 89:14 (NIV)

Sak Saum

Hosea 2:20 “I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness, And you will acknowledge the Lord.”

[Sak Saum](#) is passionate about helping the abused, the underprivileged, and the desperate: those unseen by humanity but deeply loved by God. Great changes are taking place in the lives of the women of Sak Saum. It is a delight to see them being transformed from dependency to dignity through education, counseling, job skills training, and more. We currently have nine girls in the program, and have moved to a new location to better accommodate the program and facilitate growth.

Due to the economy, Sak Saum is in need of designers to help develop new products. We are also in need of distributors to help sell the product and wholesale buyers to purchase regularly. The more Sak Saum products we sell, the more opportunities are opened up to these incredible girls.

Loaves & Fish

Psalm 82:3 “Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy.”

We have seen much growth and improvement in the forty-plus orphans that In His Steps sponsors and cares for in [Saang](#). By meeting their needs, keeping caretakers accountable, and stepping in when necessary, we are helping these children to overcome their difficult circumstances. Many of the orphans used to be sickly, timid, and completely illiterate but are now growing stronger, more confident, and excelling in their studies. In fact, some are now getting the highest grades in their school and becoming class monitors! We are thrilled to see their progress.

Foundation Center

Philippians 3:10 “...that I may know Him...”

We are excited about our Foundation Center students. They are displaying great academic and personal growth. Attendance continues to grow for our English and Bible classes with over 100 students coming to the Foundation Center daily! They are increasing in fluency, confidence, and personal growth. Many are opening their hearts to God and learning how to show love and compassion to others.

Building Project

To facilitate future growth in our Foundation Center and Loaves and Fish ministries, we purchased some land in the Saang district and constructed a new building for classes. We also built a playground where neighborhood children can come and play safely and installed a well that we hope will be a source of fresh water to the community. These additions have been a great blessing to the community and we look forward to future expansion!

Special Events

IHSC was able to facilitate some great events in 2008. Teams from upstate New York, Long Island, and Colorado helped with a VBS in Saang, a trip to the beach with our Loaves and Fish orphans, and a house building for a disabled family. The year ended with a two-day community Christmas program in Saang. Over 800 children, youth, and adults attended. They were blessed by performances including songs, traditional and modern Khmer dance, and a Christmas skit, as well as teachings and giveaways.



Update: Eric & Ginny...and Family

It's been awhile since we've sent out a newsletter, so we thought it would be appropriate to provide an update on our family.

Jessica and her husband, Ryan, recently sold their house. They are living in Colorado Springs with their precious son, Aidan, who just celebrated his fourth birthday.

Some of you may be surprised to know that our younger daughter, Erika, was married in 2007. She now has an adorable son, Keyati, with her husband, Jarret. They also live in Colorado Springs where Jarret is a contractor for the sports department of the Air Force Academy.

We keep in frequent contact with our daughters and their families and are blessed to be a part of their lives, even though we are far apart.

As far as ourselves - we are extremely busy. However, in the midst of more than can be done in any given day, we love what we've been called to do. Serving our Lord Jesus is simply an honor. Whether it's a trip to the market, sitting down and counseling one of the Sak Saum girls, discipling a family out in the province or handling general duties to keep things running smoothly at IHSI, we are responsive to the calling Jesus has for us and are thrilled to see what He has in store for 2009.

The arrival of new international staff is quite a transition. Our goal is to make sure they have a smooth adjustment to Cambodian living.

We are experiencing continued growth in ministry opportunities which is a blessing. However, it also brings the need for financial resources and the need for additional staff. We are excited to have some recent additions to the IHSI staff that will be able to provide some breathing room so that we can strategize for this coming year.

In April, we will take some time to travel back to the

States for tax season and to spend time with family.

God is doing amazing things at In His Steps and we have faith that He will continue to bless this ministry that we've been entrusted with. That said, please keep IHSI in your prayers.

Blessings,

Eric & Ginny Hanson

P.S. We love and appreciate you! Thanks for playing a role in making God's work in Cambodia possible.

Here are a few requests to note:

- Smooth transition and integration for our new international staff members.
- Health and protection for our staff and family members.
- Sak Saum - new marketing opportunities and sponsorship.
- Continued growth in ministries

About In His Steps International

Our Response to the Calling:

At In His Steps International, we are committed to serving the Body of Christ, globally, with the purpose of setting the captives free. At this time our focus is in Cambodia, but we go out to other nations to teach and raise up leaders.

Vision: to provide opportunities for all people to have their lives renewed, and to see them liberated from affliction, deprivation and oppression. We are passionate about transforming lives spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally, economically and socially.

Here in Cambodia, In His Steps wants to care for vulnerable individuals and cut off the human trafficking supply. We work with over forty orphans in Saang district, a poor rural community where trafficking is known to occur. We are building relationships with the children, meeting their basic needs, providing education, and integrating them with their peers. In His Steps is also working with the local government to raise community awareness about human trafficking. The UN Declaration of Human Rights states that education is a basic right, and we believe that educating and encouraging families in the area is a key to trafficking prevention. Our Foundation Center offers free English classes, Bible studies, and other educational programs.

By getting involved with individual lives, regardless of their social status, we are teaching that all people have value and purpose. In other words, our goal is to follow Micah 6:8, *"doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God!"*

Our commitment is motivated by Jesus' example of love and compassion. Our desire is to follow In His Steps.

Board of Directors

Paul Stork, Beasley, TX — pauls@storkschoice.com
Dave Shelver, Denver, CO — dsshelver@yahoo.com
Jocelyn Heneghan, New York — jocelynheneghan@gmail.com
JC Williams, Colorado — jcanddi@msn.com
Ryan Gibbs, Colorado — snocrocus@comcast.net

In His Steps International is a certified Non-Profit 501(c)3 and committed to financial integrity. You may view our 501(c)3 certificate [here](#): We make every effort to be 100% compliant with all federal, state and international laws.

Contact Us

Email

Eric Hanson: ericp.4@juno.com

Ginny Hanson: eghanson@juno.com

Colorado Office

In His Steps International
3483 Plantation Grove
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80920
U.S.A.

Cambodia Office

#35 D. Street 456
Toul Tom Pung
Phnom Penh, Cambodia