

In His Steps International

Empowering the poor, transforming lives

A Quarterly Newsletter

Spring / Summer 2009



A Walk of Love

Part One



*"As you have heard from the beginning,
His command is that you walk in love."
2 John 1:6*

What is a walk of love? It is a walk that is close to Jesus. The Bible explains this walk in many ways. If we want to be walking a walk of love, we should look at the examples of people who have gone before us.

Enoch, Moses, Abraham, Isaac, and Israel all walked with God. All had great experiences with Him; just think of all the stories where they and their families were walking in step with God. This walk of love is possible for us today! God has not changed, even though the world and its perspectives have.

So how can I walk with God? It's a lifestyle, a 24-7 commitment to obedience to God's Word and it's principles. In the Old Testament, the people of Israel found many

excuses to walk in a different way. These excuses kept them from the fullness and goodness of God in the land of the living (Psalm 27:13). Yet consider Paul, "a prisoner for the Lord", who felt that being imprisoned for Christ was an honor. How could he esteem this position? By walking in love as Christ did.

Jesus said many times in the gospels that he does nothing until he hears from his heavenly Father. These words are our guide if we want to walk in love, not operating by worldly perspectives but rather hearing God's truth and committing to follow Him. In Ephesians 5:1, we see an example of this. "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

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Saang Safehouse Project

Every Child Deserves a Chance...

A place to sleep. Food to eat. Education. A safe home. These are things that many in the Western world take for granted. Surely every child is entitled to these things! Yet in Saang district, home to our Foundation Center and Loaves and Fish ministries, we have seen many cases where orphans are denied adequate food, abused, discouraged from education, and forced into illegal child labor.

The orphans that we sponsor live with relatives such as aunts or grandmothers. Our staff visits each family several times weekly, providing food and other necessities, teaching, and monitoring the progress of the children. But what can be done when there are signs of neglect, domestic violence, or slave labor? How can we best provide safety for “the least of these”?

In His Steps believes that every child deserves a chance to live and grow with

adequate food, shelter, and education. With that in mind, we are prayerfully working towards the construction of a safehouse in Saang, to raise orphans who are not safe with their current caregivers.

This is an important decision that will involve working with the local government and children’s rights organizations to legally and responsibly relocate the children to our new safehouse. For some, our intervention may mean the difference between a hopeful future or one of illiteracy, poverty, and even death.

Safehouse Plans - A Quick Look

We plan to construct a 6-bedroom, 2 bathroom concrete safehouse with Khmer-style cooking area, built on the Saang Foundation Center property and overseen by Khmer staff. After enough funds are raised (approximately \$30,000) and the safehouse is built, at-risk orphans who need a home will be moved to the

safehouse and continue their education at the local government school, being mentored by IHSC staff, given job skills training when they are older, and prepared for secondary education or the occupation of their choice. Most importantly, they will be raised in an environment where they are valued and loved.

Get Involved

Your support of this project is vital to its success! Please remember us in your prayers and consider making a donation to our safehouse building fund. IHSI is an approved 501c(3) non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductible.

Go to In-His-Steps.org and click “Donate” to make an online donation, or mail checks to:

In His Steps International
P0 Box 60146
Colorado Springs CO 80960



Recent Events

Prayer Points

- *Growth and God's protection for the newly baptized believers in Saang*
- *Health and safety for staff, families, and all people in our programs*
- *Continued favor with local government*
- *God's provision and blessing for all ministry programs*
- *Finances for building a children's safehouse in Saang*

● Our first youth retreat took place in February and was a great success. Over 30 Christian youth from Saang district (many of whom accepted Christ through our Foundation Center ministry) came with us to the seaside for three days of teaching, prayer, and fellowship. Our friend Jocelyn from NY was the main speaker, sharing about intimacy with God and our relationship with him. International and Khmer staff also taught and led activities. The testimonies from this time were very encouraging, and we look forward to hosting another retreat next year!

● Aaron, our Loaves and Fish-adoptee, is doing well in his new home with Sak Saum staff. In the past few months he has gone from a quiet child who couldn't walk to a joyful, walking, and eager little boy. However, please keep him in your prayers since he has been exposed to tuberculosis and will have to be on medication for up to a year. We are confident he will be fine, and know that God has great plans for little Aaron.

● We are very pleased to announce that we have received three-year approval by the Ministry of Social Affairs to continue our work here in

Cambodia. Although we are already a legitimate ministry, having this new type of certification give us more freedom to grow and expand. It will also help in processing staff visas and other government-related requirements.

● As our Foundation Center ministry grows, we plan to plant a church in Saang district and are meeting with the EFC (Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia) to prepare for this. Please keep this process in your prayers. We have begun to hold Sunday morning services and believe it is God's will to have a strong Christian church in Saang!

● On Mother's Day we had the privilege of baptizing 41 new believers, young and old. Among them were Foundation Center students, orphans and a widow sponsored by Loaves and Fish, and several of our Sak Saum women. It was a joyful time for all and we look forward to many more baptisms as the communities we reach accept Christ.

● We had a great time with our two-week outreach team from our home church in NY. Nine team members came and pitched in with Foundation

Center repairs, a children's VBS, teaching, a Loaves and Fish field trip, youth programs, and preaching at our new Sunday morning services in Saang. It was great to see old friends and family, and we were blessed by their time here.

● Foreseeing a need for more teaching and living space at our Sak Saum ministry, Ginny prayed for God to provide a second house on the same street as our current building. Within a day, the house directly next door went up for rent! Beginning in June, we have been using this second house to expand Sak Saum and prepare to reach more at-risk women. We are blessed to see God continuing to show himself faithful to the ministry.

● As mentioned on page 2, we are preparing to build a safehouse for at-risk children in Saang. However, some children's situations are too urgent to delay intervention. For Joshua, a 12 year-old orphan in our Loaves and Fish program, it recently became necessary to take legal custody away from his alcoholic and violent uncle. Joshua, a sweet and playful little boy will live with our staff at the Foundation Center until enough funds are raised for the safehouse to be built.

Read ministry updates online by checking out our [new blog!](#)



A Walk of Love (Continued)

We are called to live a life of love everyday. This is not just a calling for people in ministry, but for every Christian. Whether at school, our jobs, or the grocery store, we need to demonstrate to the lost world the love of Jesus Christ.

As we interact with others all over the world, Christians are called to the sweet fragrance of the living Christ. This fragrance can show many attributes of God, but for now we are focusing on his love. We are called to love the unlovable.

Take each day that God has appointed for you to follow **in His steps** of love. Minister the love of God to everyone you meet. Listen for His voice, look for His touch, ask for His blessing, and pray for His power. "As you have heard from the beginning, His command is that you walk in love" (2 John 1:6).

Love and blessings,

Eric and Ginny Hanson

(In His Steps International Directors)



IHSI Programs at a Glance

Loaves and Fish

Our Loaves and Fish program provides food, vitamins, clothing, medical care, and education to almost forty orphans and widows in Kandal province. In Cambodian culture, widows are often neglected and orphaned children are ostracized. Our goal is to not only meet their physical needs, but to integrate them into their communities as equal and valued individuals.

The Foundation Center

The Foundation Center offers free English and Bible classes, youth programs, and a community recreation area in Saang District of Kandal Province. For young Cambodians, speaking English offers hope of better job opportunities and education. Many of the students in attendance are not only learning a new language, but are developing a personal relationship with God as well!

Sak Saum

For women who have been trapped in prostitution or slave labor, there may seem to be no chance for a better future. Sak Saum, the Khmer word for "dignity", is a program designed to help at-risk and trafficked women through counseling, education, and job skills training. By sowing into their lives with the love of Christ, we are seeing them be restored and transformed in beautiful ways!

Board of Directors

Paul Stork, Texas — pauls@storkschoice.com

Dave Shelver, Colorado — dsshelver@yahoo.com

Jocelyn Heneghan, New York — jocelynheneghan@gmail.com

JC Williams, Colorado — jcanddi@msn.com

Ryan Gibbs, Florida — snocrocus@gmail.com

In His Steps International is a certified Non-Profit 501(c)3 organization and is 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
PO Box 60146
Colorado Springs CO 80960
U.S.A.

Cambodia Office

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