



**IN HIS STEPS**  
INTERNATIONAL

## **2013 Ministry Review**

Greetings from In His Steps International!

2013 was a busy and growing year for our ministry, and we are so thankful for the faithfulness of our God. The trials we faced and the victories we claim are all for His glory. We want all our partners to be assured that your prayers, wisdom, and support has benefited greatly the work of the ministry here in Cambodia.

As you read through this year's review ,please keep in mind that your church, your organization/charity, your family or you as an individual are a large part of what was accomplished in Cambodia over the past year. IHSI is excited to put 2013 behind us and look ahead to 2014 as a year for expanding our authority and influence in every sphere we are currently ministering in.

Blessings,

*the IHSI team*

## **2013 – Ministry Activities and Goals**

### **Expansion**

- We are listing our most recent news first even though it happened at the end of the year, simply because this is a big step and such an answer to prayer! We are excited to announce that God has provided funding for the purchase of two adjacent plots of land at our Center, nearly doubling our campus. This is such a great opportunity to increase the size of events we are able to host, expand Sak Saum capacity through the construction of a second on-site facility, hold soccer and volleyball games and sports outreaches in a safe environment, and offer a larger community space for children's games, kite flying, and other activities. In the final few weeks of the year, we negotiated for and purchased the land, and are now working on rezoning and preparing for the year ahead with much joy and thanksgiving!

### **Gospel Community Church Saang**

- We have now been registered as a church with the Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia under the Ministry of Cults and Religions for over a year. We are still learning the ins and outs of being under this new registration, but are confident that as we continue to pursue our goals with integrity and hard-work, that God will carry us forward faithfully.
- Current church programs include: Sunday worship services, Sunday School for elementary students, children's nursery, monthly Pastors Fellowship meetings, men's and women's group meetings, Saturday Children's Program, Saturday evening Youth Development meetings, quarterly ecumenical Youth Fellowship, visitations to the sick/elderly and baptisms/baby dedications/other events as warranted.
- Our Pastors' Fellowship continues to be a vehicle for unity-building and the strengthening of relationships between local pastors. GCCS is becoming a hub for helping smaller rural churches that do not have much support. Bibles, devotionals, books and audio Bibles from Messengers International, and flood relief packages have all been distributed to the Body of Christ in our area. We've also brought visiting teams to do children's outreach to help pastors reach out to their communities in ways they ordinarily do not have the capacity for.
- The Cambodian Bible Society recently told us they keep resources set aside specifically for us because they appreciate how we pass on their

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Bibles and materials to others rather than keeping everything for ourselves. Also, Operation Christmas Child has begun utilizing our facilities as a place to train area pastors and children's teachers in their outreach program, and in 2014 may also use GCCS as a distribution center for OCC Shoeboxes going to churches in the region.

- Our quarterly Youth Fellowship events are ecumenical gatherings of youth from area churches, and attendance averages 150-200. We continue to hear positive feedback from youth who say they feel so encouraged to get know more Christians in their area and be able to bring their unsaved friends to hear the Gospel. Youth from GCCS, Loaves and Fish, and Father's House programs are active in putting on the event with mentoring from our staff, leading worship, performing dramas, dances, and more.
- Fulfilling one of last year's church goals, we have begun holding monthly meetings for married men to fellowship together, pray, and encourage each other.
- GCCS staff and members of Sak Saum did repair work on several homes of elderly church members this year, as well as coordinating visitation to elderly and sick people in the area.
- GCCS routinely offers free Bibles and devotional materials to newcomers in the church, since most villagers cannot afford the cost of Bibles (nor are they available in rural areas). We also have health brochures, O.R.S. anti-dehydration packets, and other types of supplies on hand to be given out as needed.
- During rainy season GCCS collaborated with other churches in the area to find families and individuals in need of emergency relief, and our staff personally delivered and distributed 25 care packages of rice, instant noodles, soy sauce, krama "towels" and sarongs.
- GCCS formed a soccer team early this year, and a girls volleyball team in November. Having our own teams is a great way to disciple youth and draw new people into relationships within the church. It is also a means of providing safe and positive alternatives to the substance abuse, gang activity, and other negative activities which are prevalent.

### **Loaves and Fish**

- Loaves and Fish program currently provides monthly support to 7 boys in the program, ranging from 10 to 18 years old, and supplemental support to 4 widows on an as-needed basis. We also ended our support for one person who no longer met our criterion for "widow".

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- Children and youth in Loaves and Fish receive monthly food support, vitamins, hygiene supplies, medical expense coverage, and literacy tutoring as-needed. They attend age-appropriate classes and programs at our Center, and several are becoming proficient in English and computer skills. Most actively participate in music, drama, and dance for church services and events. The older boys in the Loaves and Fish program attend Sunday morning discipleship classes along with boys from Father's House.
- Our staff continue to periodically meet with caretakers and school teachers as needed, to monitor each individual's progress, advocating for them when necessary and challenging them to raise the bar for themselves in becoming purposeful, successful, and godly members of society.
- Visitors brought Loaves and Fish/Father's House kids for a fun day at a water park this year! They also went with staff and Father's House children to hear internationally-known inspirational speaker Nick Vujicic, and to a climbing wall activity with our staff. They also had their first movie theater experience!

### **Sak Saum**

- Sak Saum accepted 11 new women into the program, many of who are single mothers. We also welcomed 4 girls from the previous year to be a part of the program for a second year.
- In our Phnom Penh facility, we created an art therapy room and began a painting project which allowed Mary, new to the program and suffering from legal blindness, to develop a new skill: hand-painting fabrics for the Sak Saum product line.
- We added a daily English class in the Phnom Penh facility, and offer English, Khmer, and Bible classes in Saang.
- In Saang, we opened a nursery for facility workers and single mothers in the program. We also hosted four baby showers and added nine infants and children to the nursery program.
- We constructed a second community house on the island, allowing one home to be designated specifically for mothers of young children. We also built two homes for families in the Sak Saum program, also on the island.
- At the end of the year Ginny and Theavy had a reunion with 1<sup>st</sup> generation Sak Saum women, many of whom are now married and starting families!
- Between our two locations (Saang Vocational Training Center and Phnom Penh Sourcing Center), we employed 58 men and women. We also employed, trained, and ministered to 15-18 outside sewers.

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- Sak Saum donated \$10,000+ towards numerous benevolent projects and needy individuals in the Saang community.
- Eighteen men and women from Sak Saum were baptized over the past year!
- Sak Saum welcomed Lisa Bevere, two all-women teams from CO, and several volunteers, as also mentioned in “Teams/Visitors”.
- We held five anti-trafficking seminars in villages in the Saang area.
- At the end of the year we launched our newest program: a vocational training program making wood, coconut, and metal jewelry. This program is designed for young men at-risk for trafficking or recovering from substance abuse.
- Sak Saum business and networking had exciting growth in 2013, including:
  - Increasing our wholesale relationships to over twenty-five contacts in ten different U.S. states.
  - Redesigning our ambassador program and adding thirteen new ambassadors.
  - Unveiling a new website and online store at [www.saksaum.com](http://www.saksaum.com).
  - Participated in the She’s Worth It Campaign.
  - Selling Sak Saum products in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Germany.
  - Had Sak Saum’s first speaking tour as part of the Hanson’s tour of seven states (further detailed in “International Ministry”).
  - Said goodbye to U.S. Sales Director Erika Dickson, and hired new director Jeni Mason.
  - Opened a Sak Saum Freedom Center in Colorado Springs, as a base for U.S. sales, awareness raising, prayer ministry, and more.

### **Kairos Training Center**

- The KTC had its one-year anniversary in November! In the past year it has been used as a place for daily English classes, literacy training, dance classes, seminars, pastoral training, a children’s library and study area, a day-care for Sak Saum, computer training, a church barbecue, Sunday School and nursery, and a hub of activity for local youth.
- Having multiple indoor classrooms and professional equipment has raised the bar for our classes, church services and events, allowing us to operate more professionally and steward our time and resources more easily.
- Ongoing, nation-wide issues with severe power shortages this year necessitated the purchase of a generator to provide power for the KTC and Father’s House buildings (Sak Saum also purchased one so that their building could be run during day hours). Thankfully, electrical

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power availability is becoming more stable, but having a backup power source has proved invaluable time and time again.

- As noted in the “Gospel Community Church” section, the KTC has become a great asset for gathering local churches for Pastor’s Fellowship, seminars, hosting training events, and many other activities requiring an indoor space.

### **Father’s House**

- The current number of children in Father’s House care is 10: 5 girls and 5 boys ranging from 9 to 19 years old. Each of them are in school except our oldest boy, who wants to pursue a career in cooking and will soon begin doing more vocational training in this area of focus.
- Eight of the children are enrolled in a private school, an exciting opportunity that is the result of IHSI’s new partnership with Mission Community Church in Gilbert, AZ. They are still adjusting to the newer, more challenging learning environment, but we are confident that this will be of great long-term benefit to each of them. Our youngest and newest boy is currently attending public school due to not having entered Father’s House until after private school registration was an option.
- Each Father’s House child receives tutoring and attends daily English classes. The older children have weekly computer classes. Art activities, music lessons, and opportunities to learn traditional dance are also provided.
- Father’s House kids went on some great field trips this year, including a trip to tour Angkor Wat historical site, Toul Sleng Genocide Museum, the Killing Fields, a climbing wall activity and a day-trip to the shore at Kampot province, providing not only a lot of family-building time but a chance to see more of their country and learn Khmer history.
- All Father’s House children are active in the church according to their abilities and personalities: helping with ushering, worship, children’s outreaches, Sunday School, visiting the sick, and being a part of church events. Several of them show great leadership potential and we see good fruit developing in each of them uniquely.

### **Staff**

- This year there were some health issues for Eric and Ginny, necessitating a heart procedure in Thailand for Eric in June. Thankfully, Eric received an excellent progress report from the doctor this December. Ginny has an ongoing health challenge due to strong

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food sensitivities and other issues, requiring much patience and vigilance.

- Our intern from Canada transitioned into full-time volunteer staff in May, however she had a semi-serious head injury due to a drive-by road accident in August, and returned to Canada to recuperate until all health concerns have been fully dealt with. We are thankful that the situation was not as extreme as it could have been, and anticipate Rhiannon's return in early February, when she will be transitioning out of work in Saang and into full-time work in Sak Saum's Phnom Penh facility.
- Ryan and Jessica's family began transitions toward moving back to the U.S. after learning that Ryan's mother has been diagnosed with severe cancer. Ryan returned to his home state of Florida in December, and Jessica and their son Aidan will follow him there at the beginning of the new year.
- Staff attended Global Leadership Training seminar via satellite in Phnom Penh.

### **Teams/Visitors**

- In 2013 we hosted teams from Colorado, Hawaii, Illinois, New Zealand, as well as having other visitors and volunteers from Hawaii, Texas, Colorado, and Canada. Ministry for teams and visitors varied according to length of stay, age range, and skill level. Some of the activities they helped with included:
  - Children's ministry at our Center and at other area churches
  - Dramas/songs/teachings at Gospel Community Church services
  - A YWAM medical outreach at three locations, blessing over 300 people with free health consultations, medications, and treatment
  - Prayer ministry/teaching
  - Construction of a community playground at our Center
  - Physical labor/grounds work at ministry property
  - Visiting the elderly and the sick
  - Human trafficking awareness seminars
  - Sak Saum English practice and relationship-building
  - Helping teach Center English classes
  - Attending women's group and overnight stays with Sak Saum
  - Outings/educational activities with Fathers' House and Loaves and Fish children
  - Teaching and prayer ministry for IHSI staff
- Several volunteers and teams from the U.S. and one from Russia have visited IHSI doing work short-term work separate from normal team



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outreaches, ranging from a few days to three months. Their ministry involvement has ranged from English lessons, art classes, Sak Saum operations help, church visitations, maintenance/grounds help, and service projects, to Sak Saum outreaches and more.

- This past year we hosted several groups to tour our Saang and Phnom Penh bases and strategize about existing and future partnerships, as detailed more in “Networking/Collaboration”.

### **International Ministry**

- The Hansons traveled to Colorado in April to complete IHSI non-profit tax filings and have their yearly meeting with In His Step’s CPA. They also met with donors and international board members, and spoke at several churches and seminars.
- In the fall the Hansons completed a whirlwind tour of seven states, teaching at churches and colleges, meeting ministry partners, sharing the vision of IHSI, and doing fundraising work. This trip was very fruitful in terms of building relationship with new partners, and we believe that there will be more traveling of this nature in the future as God allows.

### **Networking/Collaboration**

- As always, this year was a year of much collaboration with area churches, looking for ways to bless our communities, reach children and youth, and strengthen the local Body of Christ. This was particularly strategic during the flood season when many in Cambodia were hit particularly hard and needed emergency relief supplies. Rather than our staff going into areas where we are not based and try to singlehandedly find the most needy, churches in different villages were able to point us to elderly widows and poor families who were in desperate situations.
- SS networking opportunities this past year were numerous, as described in more detail above in “Sak Saum.”
- Since last year’s registration of Gospel Community Church Saang, we have found some examples of types of ministry which technically require separate MOU’s with other government agencies under new laws and changes in government administration, in addition to our church registration. Although our practices have never been called into question, staff are diligently researching our options to ensure that every aspect of IHSI’s goals and vision are adequately covered.

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- This year we attended an annual meeting for the Evangelical Fellowship of Cambodia, in which new EFC board members were voted in and new bylaws reviewed and passed. Staff also joined in training programs led by Operation Christmas Child and hosted by GCCS.
- An exciting new partnership has developed this year with Mission Community Church of Arizona, involving a three-year MOU where they have agreed to send three teams yearly and are sponsoring several projects of ours, including the new land expansion, the purchase of a van for transportation, and school tuition for Father's House children. We feel very blessed that God is allowing these long-awaited goals to come to pass!
- As the Cambodian government is restructuring some aspects of non-profit law, we have found that it has become necessary to maintain both a church registration and NGO status.

### Goals for 2014

- **Discipling staff and raising up new volunteers through the church**
- **Begin the process of preparing the new plot of land added to the Center with grading, fill, landscaping, and pre-construction.**
- **For IHSI To collaborate with Prison Fellowship Cambodia in preparing a program that cares for children and spouses of the incarcerated in Kendall province.**
- **Expanding our teaching subjects to the youth in Saang. Social acceptance, gender issues, value, relationships.**
- **Enlarge our Pastor fellowship by expanding our territories.**
- **Do more outreach ministry to local slums and the poor in Rokakaphors area**
- **Go deeper in our worship and prayer times, teaching new techniques to empower Cambodians in worship leadership**

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- **Grow and strengthen our English program at our Center**
- **Hold foundation classes for new believers in the church**
- **Grow church attendance through outreach to parents of children in our programs, including a possible Parent's Day**
- **Collaborate with the local government on a community cleanup day for the village of Rokakaphors**
- **Continue building the influence and reach of our Pastors' Fellowship**
- **Begin hosting semi-regular marriage seminars (possibly quarterly)**
- **Strategize and fund-raise for a possible care home for the elderly**
- **Continue to work with the children in our programs to foster growth in their studies, relationship with God, and life skills**
- **Continued growth in Sak Saum individuals and programs/projects**
- **Continue to host teams and visitors for short-term outreaches, with long-term partnerships as the end-goal**
- **Fundraising through relationships with other like-minded partners (individuals, churches, organizations)**
- **Strengthen our existing programs and identify next areas of ministry growth**