



Kids International
Development Society

NEWSLETTER

January 19, 2011

Hello Friends

We hope all is well with you and yours. We have moved on to the Burma border to start our work here and will return to Cambodia to complete the projects that are under way there in two or three weeks.

We thought we would catch up with more news from Siem Reap, Cambodia. A couple of weeks ago we connected with our good friends at New Hope, Kerry and Kemsour. New Hope was started by Kemsour, a young Cambodian man of 25 who sold most of his possessions and started a school for the very poor in the slum area of Mundul Bai, just outside Siem Reap. Kerry came from Australia to volunteer and never left, together their program offers: training, education and health care to hundreds of families and their children. The day we arrived there, to discuss plans, we went to see the Doctor who assists the locals with health care. While we were there chatting with the volunteers and others at the clinic a woman arrived with her wee baby and was out of formula, her breast milk had dried up due to lack of nutrition. Kerry told us that they had just run out of formula and were desperate for more as they have 48 infants in their infant feeding program needing formula. We had arrived just in time and it was off to the pharmacy to buy a month's supply for the clinic, the mother waited patiently for our return which was about two hours later.

One of the problems that New Hope faces is that the school is located on rented land and they cannot develop the buildings and training spaces to fit their needs. They were fortunate to receive a donation that allowed them to purchase a piece of land nearby the existing center and are now in the process of building a new building/school that will house all their programs, other than the clinic which will remain at its present location. The new building will have at least 6 classrooms and some multipurpose rooms so all of the hundreds of children that New Hope educates can attend classes. The school teaches academics, English, Khmer, sewing, computers, cooking, tourism and hospitality and will soon have a permanent place for learning. KIDS was able to sponsor the construction of one of the classrooms and everyone was very happy. They have most of the rooms sponsored so it will not be long until the new school is up and running. In a few short years Kemsour, Kerry and the staff have turned a hopeless area into one of possibility, learning and opportunity. We were also able to provide them with a new lap top for their computer lab.

Moat Kla School Update

We have been out to the port checking up on the construction of the school for the village out on the lake. It is coming along extremely well and the builder is very good to work with and is doing a great job. They are now building the steel hulls that will provide the floatation for the school, the floatation will be finished in about a week. Meanwhile he has another crew of woodworkers prefabricating the wooden structural parts of the school, as well as the windows and doors, which are also nearing completion. We will be back in three weeks and look forward to seeing the progress. We have left Sakem, the man who helped us setup the construction of the school, in charge of supervision while we are away. When we return we will pitch in with the painting of the inside and outside of the school.

Sopak Update

We took Sopak into a hearing clinic run by an NGO from the UK. We were very impressed with their knowledge, equipment and spotless clinic, a place like this shows how far Cambodia has come as nothing like this existed just a few short years ago. Upon examination they determined that Sopak had a small hole in the center of her right eardrum and her left ear was infected and had water in it. Along with the ear problems she has an infection in her sinuses and tonsils. It seems that the infection has been there for a long time and she has been lucky that it did not spread to her brain. They then audio tested her hearing and she has around 50% of the hearing that she should have in both right and left ears. They hope that the right ear drum will heal if it is kept dry with an ear plug which we had made for her to use when she bathes. If it does not work they have access to surgeons from France who come to Cambodia periodically to fix such problems or can they may be able to give give her a hearing aid. They have started her on a regime of antibiotics to take care of the infections and we are hoping they can help. We will keep bringing her back and having her checked up and her hearing tested periodically. Once again Sopak was very happy and extends her thanks to everyone.

We have other projects we were working on in Cambodia that we will update you on later.

Thanks so much for your kind and compassionate replies they make our day.

For Now Rick and Adrienne